

## A G E N D A

### THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 15, 2022 at 7:00 p.m.

Thomaston High School Auditorium Entrance - Door #2

*This meeting can be attended in person by the public ([see requirements](#)) or viewed live/recorded on the [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#).  
([Bylaws of the Board 9322 - Public and Executive Sessions](#) and [Bylaws of the Board 9326.1 - Taping/Recording Board Meetings](#))*

#### Mission Statement:

In a partnership of family, school and community, our mission is to **educate**, **challenge** and **inspire** each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society.

#### 2022-2023 Board of Education Goals:

1. Board Members shall respond to invitations within 24 hours.
2. Board Members will attend district events.

#### Members:

Roxy Fainer, Chairperson  
Heather Patchell, Secretary  
Beth Campbell  
Frank Treglia

Francine Coss, Superintendent  
Marie Eldridge  
Delaney Jose, Student Representative  
Nathan Marsh, Student Representative

David Colavecchio, Vice Chairperson  
Steven Carr, Treasurer  
Sarah Ethier  
Matthew VanOrmer

#### 1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

*(Bylaws of the Board 9325.1 – Quorum)*

#### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

#### 3. Approval of Agenda ▲

*(Bylaws of the Board 9325.2 – Order of Business and Policy 1205 Community Relations – Participation by the Public – Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination)*

**Vote to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education Meeting dated August 15, 2022 as presented.**

#### 4. Public Participation ▲▲▲

*(Bylaws of the Board 9325 – Meeting Conduct)*

*The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with the rules of common courtesy and the Bylaws of the Board 9325 – Meeting Conduct:*

- Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter.
- No boisterous conduct shall be permitted; persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for termination of that person's privilege to address the Board. The Chairperson may clear the room so that Board members may continue the meeting.
- No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any employee of the Board of Education, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified in the presentation by name.

#### 5. Approval of Minutes ▲

*(Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes)*

5.1. Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes - June 13, 2022

**Vote to accept/approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated June 13, 2022 as presented.**

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## 6. Recognitions ▲

*(Policy 1170 – Community Relations/Recognitions of Students, Citizens, Staff Members, and Members of the Board of Education and Bylaws of the Board 9420 – Recognition of Accomplishments by Citizens, Students, Staff Members or Member of the Board)*

- 6.1. Sherry Hoag, Terminal Manager, All Star Transportation
- 6.2. Douglas Craig, Reimagining Connecticut Classrooms for Continuous Learning Coordinator, Thomaston Public Schools

## 7. Presentations ▲▲▲

*(Bylaws of the Board 9410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments)*

- 7.1. Marzano Academies at Thomaston Public Schools: Competency Based Learning, Bill Zima, Director of Implementation
- 7.2. School Safety Report, Gianni Perugini, District Safety Coordinator, Thomaston Public Schools

## 8. Student Representatives Report ▲▲▲ - No report due to summer recess.

*(Bylaws of the Board 9160 – Student Representation on the Board of Education)*

## 9. Chairperson's Report ▲▲▲

*(Bylaws of the Board 9121 – Office of the Chairperson)*

- 9.1. Fourth Quarter Honor Roll - Thomaston High School
- 9.2. Letter in Response to Public Comment from Kara Frohloff (letter attached)
- 9.3. Letter in Response Letter Public Comment from Kate Williams (letter attached)
- 9.4. Progress Report on 2022-2023 Goals for the Thomaston Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools
- 9.5. Ratification of the Professional Agreement between the Thomaston School Administrators Association and the Thomaston Board of Education (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2027)

**Vote to accept/approve the Professional Agreement between the Thomaston School Administrators Association and the Thomaston Board of Education (July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2027).**

## 10. Superintendent's Report ▲▲▲

*(Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)*

- 10.1. Correspondence
  - 10.1.1. Superintendent
    - 10.1.1.1. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - June 15, 2022
    - 10.1.1.2. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - Summer Issue
    - 10.1.1.3. Letter from Superintendent Coss to Thomaston Board of Education Chairperson Roxy Fainer, Vacation Day Balance Notice and Payment Request
    - 10.1.1.4. Letter from Superintendent Coss to Thomaston Board of Education Business Manager Todd Bendtsen, Vacation Day Balance Notice and Payment Request
    - 10.1.1.5. Thank You Card from Cindy Sabolcik and the Blethen Family to Superintendent Coss, District, Administrators, and Board of Education

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- 10.1.1.6. Thank You Card from Holly Hernandez and Susan Heiland, Black Rock School Intervention Teachers, to Superintendent Coss for her Participation in the Annual Read Aloud Day
  - 10.1.1.7. Thank You Card from Miss Clark's First Grade Class to Superintendent Coss for her Participation in the Annual Read Aloud Day
  - 10.1.1.8. Acknowledgement of Notice of Intent to Homeschool - Student A
  - 10.1.1.9. Acknowledgement of Notice of Intent to Homeschool - Student B
  - 10.1.1.10. Acknowledgement of Notice of Intent to Homeschool - Student C
  - 10.1.1.11. Letter from Superintendent Coss to San Dow Construction, Request for Proposal for the Thomaston Center School Ceiling Project
  - 10.1.1.12. Letter from Superintendent Coss to San Dow Construction, Awarded Bid Timeline and Cost for the Thomaston Center School Ceiling Project
  - 10.1.1.13. Letter from Superintendent Coss to San Dow Construction Regarding the Approval of Change Order for the Thomaston Center School Ceiling Project
  - 10.1.1.14. Letter from Charles Rowland, Director of Agricultural Education, Wamogo Regional High School, 2022-2023 Enrollment of Thomaston Students
  - 10.1.1.15. Letter from Superintendent Coss to Gianni Perugini, Assistant Principal, Thomaston High School, Superintendent Designee
  - 10.1.1.16. Letter from Superintendent Coss to Thomaston Board of Education Chairperson Roxy Fainer, Superintendent Designee
  - 10.1.1.17. Thank You Card from Jennifer Samela, Paraprofessional. Thomaston High School to Superintendent Coss
  - 10.1.1.18. Thank You Letter from Superintendent Coss to Michelle Caulfield (Stevens Company), Careers in Manufacturing Presentation - June 13, 2022
  - 10.1.1.19. Thank You Letter from Superintendent Coss to Dave Mieczkowski (Platt Bros.), Careers in Manufacturing Presentation - June 13, 2022
  - 10.1.1.20. Thank You Letter from Superintendent Coss to Richard Dupont (CT State Community Colleges), Careers in Manufacturing Presentation - June 13, 2022
  - 10.1.1.21. Thank You Letter from Superintendent Coss to George LaCapra, Jr. (Unimetal), Careers in Manufacturing Presentation - June 13, 2022
  - 10.1.1.22. Thank You Letter from Superintendent Coss to Anthony DiFederico (Naugatuck Valley Community College), Careers in Manufacturing Presentation - June 13, 2022
  - 10.1.1.23. Thank You Letter from Superintendent Coss to Richard Bouffard (Truelove & McLean), Careers in Manufacturing Presentation - June 13, 2022
  - 10.1.1.24. Notice of Unemployment Insurance Benefits - CT Department of Labor
  - 10.1.1.25. Letter from Superintendent Coss to State Coordinator Connecticut Teacher of the Year Program Cynthia Cassada, Recommendation of Cheyenne Clark for Connecticut Teacher of the Year
  - 10.1.1.26. Residency Determination Letter - Student A
  - 10.1.1.27. Notice of Residency Hearing - Student A

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- 10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
    - 10.1.2.1. CABE Liaison Newsletter - July 2022
    - 10.1.2.2. CABE Journal - July/August 2022
    - 10.1.2.3. CABE Liaison NewsLetter - August 2022
    - 10.1.2.4. CABE Policy Highlights - August 5, 2022
  - 10.1.3. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS) - None
  - 10.1.4. United States Department of Education (USDE) - None
  - 10.1.5. Department of Public Health (DPH) - None
  - 10.1.6. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
    - 10.1.6.1. Performance Matters NewsLetter - June 2022
    - 10.1.6.2. Thomaston's Adoption of the Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2022-2023 School Year
    - 10.1.6.3. Summary of Education-Related Legislation Enacted in 2022 Regular Session
    - 10.1.6.4. End of Year Message to Superintendents from CT Commissioner of Education
    - 10.1.6.5. 2022-2023 Launching into Healthy Learning Guidance
  - 10.2. Reports
    - 10.2.1. 2022-2023 Thomaston Public Schools COVID-19 Positivity and Vaccination Rate Report
    - 10.2.2. 2021-2022 Reading Recovery Report
    - 10.2.3. Class of 2022 List of Scholarships Received
    - 10.2.4. Administrator Reports
      - 10.2.4.1. July 2022
      - 10.2.4.2. August 2022
    - 10.2.5. 2022-2023 Enrollment Report (*NOTE: Registrations/transfers occurring after June 1st will be included in the September report*)
    - 10.2.6. Thomaston Center School Ceiling Project Update
    - 10.2.7. Thomaston Center School Tennis Court Project Update
  - 10.3. Contracts
    - 10.3.1. 2022-2023 School Medical Advisor
    - 10.3.2. 2022-2023 Dime Oil
    - 10.3.3. 2022-2023 Snow Removal Henry M. Osowiecki & Sons
    - 10.3.4. 2022-2023 EdAdvance Co-Teaching
    - 10.3.5. 2022-2023 EdAdvance Human Resources Service and Support
    - 10.3.6. 2022-2024 Memorandum of Agreement EdAdvance Head Start Prenatal to Five
    - 10.3.7. 2022-2024 Amendment to Memorandum of Agreement EdAdvance Head Start Prenatal to Five for Reauthorization Act
    - 10.3.8. July 1, 2023-June 30, 2026 Memorandum of Agreement Thomaston School Administrators Association District Emergency Management Coordinator
    - 10.3.9. July 1, 2022-June 30, 2026 Memorandum of Agreement Thomaston Education Association Interact Club Advisor
  - 10.4. Grants - None
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## 10.5. General Information

### 10.5.1. Fundraisers

10.5.1.1. Fundraising Follow Up - None

10.5.1.2. Gifts/Donations - None

10.5.1.3. Approved Fund-Raisers

10.5.1.3.1. Mr. THS Annual Pageant - Student Council - Thomaston High School

10.5.1.3.2. Spirit Week - Student Council - Thomaston High School

10.5.1.3.3. Valentine's Dance - Student Council - Thomaston High School

10.5.1.3.4. Lock-In for Paige Batten Memorial Scholarship - Student Council -  
Thomaston High School

10.5.1.3.5. Badminton Tournament - Student Council - Thomaston High School

10.5.1.3.6. Car Wash - Student Council - Thomaston High School

10.5.1.4. Denied Fundraisers - None

## 10.6. Personnel (\*Denotes Effective Date)

*(Policy 4112/4212 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment)*

### 10.6.1. New Hires

10.6.1.1. Michael Watson, Mathematics Teacher, Thomaston High School \*August 26, 2022

10.6.1.2. Kieran Glynn, Mathematics Teacher, Thomaston High School \*August 26, 2022

10.6.1.3. Clifford Saccoccio, ELA Teacher, Thomaston High School \*August 26, 2022

10.6.1.4. Dante Coviello, Elementary Teacher, Black Rock School \*August 26, 2022

10.6.1.5. Eileen Stowe, Science Teacher, Thomaston High School \*August 26, 2022

10.6.1.6. Elizabeth Dean, Science Teacher, Thomaston High School \*August 26, 2022

10.6.1.7. Jennifer DePalma, Elementary Teacher, Black Rock School \*August 26, 2022

10.6.1.8. Scott Freitag, Building Substitute (temporary/per diem), Black Rock School  
\*August 26, 2022

10.6.1.9. Nicholas Osowski, Summer Custodian (temporary/part-time) \*July 5, 2022

10.6.1.10. (Revised) Nicholas Osowski, Summer Custodian (temporary/part-time) \*July 5, 2022

10.6.1.11. Mason Gowell, Summer Custodian (temporary/part-time) \*July 5, 2022

10.6.1.12. (Revised) Mason Gowell, Summer Custodian (temporary/part-time) \*July 5, 2022

10.6.1.13. Connor Foss, Summer Custodian (temporary/part-time) \*July 5, 2022

10.6.1.14. Melissa Campo, Extended School Year, Paraprofessional (temporary/part-time)  
\*June 20, 2022

### 10.6.2. Transfer/New Assignments

10.6.2.1. (Revised) Kelsey Murzak, Special Education Teacher (temporary/part time)  
Extended School Year \*June 20, 2022

10.6.2.2. (Revised) Megan Fitzgerald, Special Education Teacher (temporary/part-time)  
Extended School Year \*June 20, 2022

10.6.2.3. (Revised) Stephanie Catucci, Special Education Teacher (temporary/part-time)  
Extended School Year \*June 20, 2022

10.6.2.4. Michelle Pope, Special Education Teacher (temporary/part-time) Extended  
School Year \*July 11, 2022

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- 10.6.2.5. (Revised) Marisa Mendoza, Paraprofessional (temporary/part-time) Extended School Year \*June 20, 2022
  - 10.6.2.6. Laura Miller, Summer School Teacher (temporary/part-time) \*June 20, 2022
  - 10.6.2.7. Casey Carangelo, Paraprofessional (temporary/part-time) Extended School Year \*June 20, 2022
  - 10.6.2.8. Heidi Laus, Summer School History Teacher (temporary/part-time) \*June 20, 2022
  - 10.6.2.9. Mark Olsen, Summer School Mathematics Teacher (temporary/part-time) \*June 20, 2022
  - 10.6.2.10. Christine Thomas, Clerical Assistant (temporary/part-time), Central Office \*June 20, 2022

#### 10.6.3. Reassignment

##### 10.6.3.1. Acceptance of Academic Reassurance of Employment

- 10.6.3.1.1. Jessica Fedorich, Building Substitute (temporary/per diem), Thomaston High School \*August 29, 2022
- 10.6.3.1.2. Samantha Bradshaw, Building Substitute (temporary/per diem), Thomaston Center School \*August 29, 2022
- 10.6.3.1.3. (Revised) Samantha Bradshaw, Building Substitute (temporary/per diem), Thomaston Center School \*August 29, 2022
- 10.6.3.1.4. Francis Embardo, Building Substitute (temporary/per diem), Thomaston High School \*August 29, 2022

#### 10.6.4. Resignations

- 10.6.4.1. Kayla Policarpio, Science Teacher, Thomaston High School \*June 16, 2022
- 10.6.4.2. Amy Woodard, Paraprofessional, Thomaston Center School \*June 16, 2022
- 10.6.4.3. Christopher McMullen, Science Teacher, Thomaston High School \*August 19, 2022
- 10.6.4.4. Chase Guerrero, Speech Language Pathologist, Pupil Personnel Services \*August 23, 2022
- 10.6.4.5. Preston Soeprasetyo, Business Teacher, Thomaston High School \*August 22, 2022
- 10.6.4.6. Preston Soeprasetyo, Athletics Coordinator , Thomaston High School
- 10.6.4.7. Preston Soeprasetyo, Web Page Coordinator, Thomaston High School
- 10.6.4.8. Refusal of Academic Reassurance Employment - 2022-2023
  - 10.6.4.8.1. Casey Carangelo, Building Substitute (temporary/per diem), Thomaston Center School
  - 10.6.4.8.2. Sarah Martinik, Lunch Monitor, Thomaston Center School

#### 10.6.5. Retirement

- 10.6.5.1. Jennifer Samela, Paraprofessional, Thomaston High School \*September 1, 2022
- 10.6.5.2. Barbara Lee, Paraprofessional, Thomaston High School \*September 2, 2022

#### 10.6.6. Termination - None

#### 10.6.7. Non-Renewals - None

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#### 10.6.8. Stipends - 2022-2023

- 10.6.8.1. Stephen Malo - Advanced Placement Coordinator
- 10.6.8.2. Alex Sconziano - Co-Diretor of Athletics
- 10.6.8.3. Aaron Bunel - Co-Director of Athletics
- 10.6.8.4. Aaron Bunel - Advisory Coordinator
- 10.6.8.5. Breanna Riollano - Experiential Learning Program Coordinator
- 10.6.8.6. Gianni Perugini - District Emergency Management Coordinator
- 10.6.8.7. Breanna Riollano - Experiential Learning Program Coordinator
- 10.6.8.8. Stephen Malo - Social Media Coordinator
- 10.6.8.9. Tammy Dumas - Special Education Program Coordinator
- 10.6.8.10. Michelle Dayton - Vocational Coordinator
- 10.6.8.11. Paul Biron - Web Page Coordinator - Black Rock School
- 10.6.8.12. Keri Rozzi - Web Page Coordinator - Thomaston Center School
- 10.6.8.13. Aaron Bunel - Band Director - Thomaston High School
- 10.6.8.14. Kate Zitnay - Band Director - Thomaston Center School
- 10.6.8.15. Kate Zitnay - Choral Director - Thomaston Center School
- 10.6.8.16. Alex Sconziano - Teacher in Charge - Thomaston High School
- 10.6.8.17. Susan Heiland - Teacher in Charge - Black Rock School
- 10.6.8.18. Jaimee Hustek - Teacher in Charge - Thomaston Center School
- 10.6.8.19. (Revised) Susan Heiland - Teacher in Charge - Black Rock School
- 10.6.8.20. Christina Chase - Grade 9 Class Advisor
- 10.6.8.21. Susan Abbott - Grade 10 Class Advisor
- 10.6.8.22. Michelle Dayton - Grade 12 Class Advisor
- 10.6.8.23. Susan Santovasi - G.S.A. Advisor
- 10.6.8.24. Terri Franzi - High School Student Council Advisor
- 10.6.8.25. Jennifer Ewart - Hiking Club Advisor
- 10.6.8.26. Raymond Rabuska - Interact Club Advisor
- 10.6.8.27. Breanna Riollano - Link Crew Advisor
- 10.6.8.28. Erica Flanagan - School Newspaper Advisor - Thomaston High School
- 10.6.8.29. Susan Larson - School Newspaper Advisor - Thomaston Center School
- 10.6.8.30. Michelle Dayton - Yearbook Advisor
- 10.6.8.31. Breanna Riollano - Drama Coach
- 10.6.8.32. Shana Marques - Assistant Drama Coach
- 10.6.8.33. Terri Franzi - Mock Trial
- 10.6.8.34. Susan Abbott - National Honor Society
- 10.6.8.35. Beverly Johnson - Kindergarten Team Leader
- 10.6.8.36. Cheyenne Clark - Grade 1 Team Leader
- 10.6.8.37. Jessica Freeman - Grade 2 Team Leader
- 10.6.8.38. Cindy Sabolcik - Grade 3 Team Leader
- 10.6.8.39. Jessica Fistola - Grade 4 - Team Leader

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- 10.6.8.40. Keri Rozzi - Grade 5 - Team Leader
  - 10.6.8.41. Laura Miller - Grade 6 - Team Leader
  - 10.6.8.42. Jennifer Ewart - Grade 9 Team Leader
  - 10.6.8.43. Susan Abbott - Grade 10 Team Leader
  - 10.6.8.44. Breanna Riollano - Naviance School Site Manager
  - 10.6.8.45. Raymond Rabuska - Chemical Hygiene Officer
  - 10.6.8.46. D John Long - Field Hockey - Varsity Coach
  - 10.6.8.47. Bob Stack - Field Hockey - Middle School Coach
  - 10.6.8.48. Suzanne Kowalski - Field Hockey - Junior Varsity Coach
  - 10.6.8.49. Martin Giroux - Soccer - Boys Varsity Coach
  - 10.6.8.50. Jennifer Ewart - Soccer - Girls Varsity Coach
  - 10.6.8.51. Agim Pupriqi - Soccer - Junior Varsity Boys Coach
  - 10.6.8.52. Ernie LeClair - Soccer - Junior Varsity Girls Coach
  - 10.6.8.53. Laura Miller - Soccer - Girls Middle School Co-Coach
  - 10.6.8.54. Sarah DeMatteis - Soccer - Girls Middle School Co-Coach
  - 10.6.8.55. Eric Kociszewski - Cross Country Junior Varsity Coach
  - 10.6.8.56. Mark Olsen - Cross Country - Varsity Coach
  - 10.6.8.57. Kayla Marble - Cross Country - Middle School Co-Coach

**Vote to acknowledge the Superintendent's notification of Personnel, specifically, New Hires/Transfers/Retirements/ Resignations/Renewals/Stipends per Policy 4112/4212 Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment as presented.**

10.6.9. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

*(Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act)*

10.6.9.1. Employee A

10.6.10. Interns and Student Teachers - None

*(Policy 1212–Community Relations–School Volunteers)*

10.7. Field Trips - None

*(Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools)*

10.8. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies

*(Policy 3260 Business/Non-Instructional Operations Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies)*

10.8.1. Disposal of Books - Thomaston Center School

10.8.1.1. Response Letter from Superintendent Coss to Jessica Bedosky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment

10.8.2. Disposal of Steamer - Thomaston High School

**Vote per Policy 3260 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies to acknowledge the Superintendent's authorization of the disposal of a steamer at Thomaston High School as presented.**

**11. Committee Reports ▲**

*(Bylaws of the Board 9132 – Standing Committees and Bylaws of the Board 9133 - Special Committees/Advisory Committees)*

11.1. Budget Audit Committee

11.1.1. June 2022 Business Manager's Report



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- 11.1.1.1. 2021-2022 Budget Table Without Encumbrances
  - 11.1.1.2. 2021-2022 Budget Table With Encumbrances
  - 11.1.1.3. 2021-2023 Grant Report
  - 11.1.1.4. 2021-2022 Projection
  - 11.1.1.5. 2021-2022 Transfer
  - 11.1.1.6. Expenditures
    - 11.1.1.6.1. \$1,437,759.03
  - 11.1.2. July 2022 Business Manager's Report
    - 11.1.2.1. 2021-2022 Budget Table Without Encumbrances
    - 11.1.2.2. 2021-2022 Budget Table With Encumbrances
    - 11.1.2.3. 2021-2023 Grant Report
    - 11.1.2.4. 2021-2022 Transfer
    - 11.1.2.5. Expenditures
      - 11.1.2.5.1. \$516,691.58

**Vote to accept / approve Business and Finance Report and Expenditures per Policy 3432/3433 Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement as presented for June 2022 and July 2022.**

## 11.2. Policy Committee

*(Policy 2231–Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)*

- 11.2.1. Presentations- None
- 11.2.2. Discussion Items - None
- 11.2.3. First Read - None
- 11.2.4. Second Read
  - 11.2.4.1. Policy 3281 - School Fundraisers
    - 11.2.4.1.1. Current Policy
    - 11.2.4.1.2. Marked Up Copy
    - 11.2.4.1.3. Clean Copy
  - 11.2.4.2. Policy 3542.43 - Food Service - Charging Policy
    - 11.2.4.2.1. Current Policy
    - 11.2.4.2.2. Marked Up Copy
    - 11.2.4.2.3. Clean Copy
- 11.2.5. Action Items
  - 11.2.5.1. Policy 6111 - School Calendar
  - 11.2.5.2. Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements

**Vote to accept/approve Policy 6111 and Policy 6146 as presented.**

## 12. Adjournment

**Vote to adjourn.**



THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
185 BRANCH ROAD  
THOMASTON, CT 06787  
860-283-3053  
860-283-3096

FRANCINE COSS, SUPERINTENDENT

Kara Frohloff  
254 Clay Street  
Thomaston, CT 06787  
[k.kolavagern@gmail.com](mailto:k.kolavagern@gmail.com)

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Dear Ms. Frohloff,

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Thank you for your contacting the Thomaston Board of Education on June 1, 2022. Even though your comment was acknowledged by email on June 6, 2022, that acknowledgement came before your comments were delivered in public at the June 13, 2022 Board of Education meeting. This letter is a public acknowledgement of your comment and will be included in the minutes of the June 13, 2022 Board of Education meeting. Your comment to the Thomaston Board of Education (shown below) was about school security:

*"I hope this email finds you well. I am a mother of two children at Black Rock Elementary School and first off I just want to thank you for all you do every day to keep my kids as safe as possible as well as give them the best education possible. With that being said, I wanted to discuss possibilities of increased security at our schools. I did see Thomaston PD at BRS when I visited last week for our 2nd graders picnic and it was very relieving to see them present. However, I want to talk about the possibility of having guards; whether current or retired police, or even retired military at our schools during school hours for protection. I can't speak for others, but I know how scary these school shootings have been and I think our teachers, school staff or our kids deserve as much protection as possible. I have seen New Milford PD and New Milford Board of Ed working together towards this goal and I think we should as well. If not for this school year, then at least the years to come. I know this may seem extreme but unfortunately it's our reality and I wouldn't feel like I did everything possible if I didn't start by reaching out on ways I could help. Please let me know your thoughts, what I can do to further escalate this and be of any help whatsoever. Thank you for your time."*

The Thomaston Board of Education updates the [All Hazards School Security and Safety Plan](#) each school year and submits that plan to the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for approval. Security guards are not included in the district's approved Plan. However, like your example of another school district, the Thomaston Police Department consistently works with Thomaston Public Schools on matters of security and safety.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide public comment to the Board of Education about your concerns.

Sincerely,

Francine Coss  
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Thomaston Board of Education



THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
185 BRANCH ROAD  
THOMASTON, CT 06787  
860-283-3053  
860-283-3096

FRANCINE COSS, SUPERINTENDENT

Kate Williams  
329 High Street Extension  
Thomaston, CT 06787  
[daws0nr@aol.com](mailto:daws0nr@aol.com)

Delivered via Electronic Mail

Dear Ms. Williams,

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

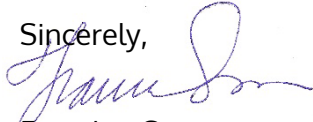
Thank you for your contacting the Thomaston Board of Education on June 13, 2022. Even though your comment was acknowledged by email the same day, that acknowledgement came before your comments were delivered in public at the June 13, 2022 Board of Education meeting. Therefore, this letter is a public acknowledgement of your comment and will be included in the June 13, 2022 Board of Education meeting minutes. Your comment was about school security, specifically:

*"A few weeks back various folks had posted on our local town Facebook page bringing up their concerns about security at our local schools. There was quite a bit of discussion, and you could see that this was an important topic to many people in town. I am hoping we can come together and develop a solution to improve security and safety at the three schools in Thomaston. I'm not sure what the procedure is to get more security equipment and measures in place at each of our schools, but hopefully this meeting is a good place to start. I think it would be great to get a full time armed student resource officer (trained retired police officers etc) in each of our three schools. There are towns in Connecticut that already have armed security guards in all of their schools, and if you look in the news there are more Connecticut schools that are starting new programs of their own with armed security guards. Just from searching online, I believe these are some towns that either currently have armed guards in their schools, or are in the process of adding them (New Milford, Newtown, Easton and Redding/Region 9, Derby, Burlington and Harwinton/Region 10, Glastonbury, North Branford, Lyme/Old Lyme, etc). I am sure there are many more towns that will be increasing their building security and adding guards in light of recent events as well. I feel like our town should also be following this trend, for the safety of our children and staff. In addition to the possibility of guards, I was also hoping to see what we can do about improving building safety/security. Currently I believe Thomaston schools have locking double door style vestibules and cameras which are a great start, but more could be done to secure outside of school to deter unauthorized entries as well. These Nightlock door locks are a simple cost effective away to do this, and every classroom door should have one of these locks installed to prevent unauthorized access : <https://nightlock.com/.../door-barricade/nightlock-lockdown/> . The schools should bring in consultants to train every teacher and staff member on how to secure their room in the event of an active shooter situation. Improved exterior doors could be installed at the schools as well. These are just some thoughts of my own, and I know many other parents and folks in town also have additional ideas. Let's get this conversation started, and see what we can do to improve the safety in our schools. Thank you for your consideration and I look forward to hearing what plans the Board of Education has to address these concerns."*

Each school year, the Thomaston Board of Education updates the [All Hazards School Security and Safety Plan](#) and submits it to the Connecticut Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security for approval. Armed security guards and the NightLock devices you described are not included in the district's approved Plan. Nonetheless, the NightLock device information has been shared with the Thomaston Police Department and the District Emergency Management Coordinator for review. Please know that all schools utilize programmable locks and keyfobs which allow for controlled and documented access to school buildings from the outside (and even on the inside of in some areas) and that classroom doors are locked in accordance with the district's Plan.

Thank you again for taking the time to provide public comment to the Board of Education about your concerns and for providing information about the NightLock devices.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Francine Coss', written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Francine Coss  
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Thomaston Board of Education