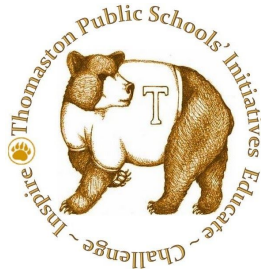


DRAFT UNTIL BOARD APPROVED



MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Held Virtually
[Thomaston Board of Education YouTube Channel](#)
Friday, January 8, 2021
6:00 p.m.

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.

Members:

Beth Campbell, Chairperson
David Colavecchio, Vice Chairperson
Heather Patchell, Secretary
Roxy Fainer, Treasurer
Francine Coss, Superintendent

Salvatore SantaMaria
Frank Treglia
Jennifer Nolan
Matthew VanOrmer
Sarah Ethier

Student Representatives 2020-2021

Isabella Guerrero
McKenna O'Sullivan
Cesar Velez

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order (*Bylaws of the Board 9325.1 – Quorum*)

- 1.1. **Chairperson Beth Campbell** called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.
- 1.2. Attendance by Roll Call: **Chairperson Beth Campbell, Vice Chairperson David Colavecchio, Secretary Heather Patchell, Treasurer Roxy Fainer, Salvatore SantaMaria, Frank Treglia, Jennifer Nolan, Matthew VanOrmer, Sarah Ethier, Superintendent Francine Coss**
- 1.3. Student Representatives Present: **McKenna O'Sullivan and Cesar Velez**
- 1.4. Student Representative Absent: **Isabella Guerrero**
- 1.5. Others in Attendance: Sue Santovasi (web host)
- 1.6. The meeting was streamed live on the Board of Education YouTube Channel. The youtube link was made available on the Special Meeting agenda.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Discussion on the Reopening of Schools - January 19, 2021

Prior to **Superintendent Francine Coss** providing the Board with information for their discussion on the reopening of schools, she graciously thanked the Board officers for permitting her request to have this meeting. She stressed that the Board made a very difficult decision at the January 4th Special meeting to come back in-person. **Superintendent Francine Coss'** recommendation is to return to school in-person with modifying the 5 day a week school decision so that the staff can best accommodate the health and educational needs of the students. She continued by stating she was not looking to have students learn remotely.

[Superintendent Coss' Presentation Link](#)

- 3.1. **Roxy Fainer** motioned that we move to a restricted four day in-person with the remote learning on Wednesdays beginning January 19, 2020 through February 11, 2021 with the 14 day quarantine as recommended and **David Colavecchio** seconded.

Discussion: Questions Posed by Board Members

- [Sarah Ethier](#)
- [Matthew VanOrmer](#)
- [Heather Patchell](#)
- [Jennifer Nolan](#)
- [Beth Campbell](#)
- [Roxy Fainer](#)
- [Matthew VanOrmer](#)
- [David Colavecchio](#)
- [Jennifer Nolan](#)
- [Salvatore SantaMaria](#)
- [Heather Patchell](#)
- [Beth Campbell](#)

Prior to taking a vote and throughout the discussion, **Superintendent Francine Coss** thanked the staff of Thomaston Public Schools for their strong support of the students' health, well-being and educational needs. Board members thanked the staff, administration and **Superintendent Francine Coss'** support and hard work. Board members stressed to the public that public comments have been read and they are being heard. **Beth Campbell** stated to the public that the Board wants to do what is best for the children. The board members would like the kids to return to school but the intentions of the board is to be for the best interest of the children, community, and staff.

[Chairperson Beth Campbell's Closing Remarks](#)

Vote by Roll Call

- David Colavecchio** - aye
- Roxy Fainer** - aye
- Heather Patchell** - aye
- Sarah Ethier** - aye
- Matthew VanOrmer** - aye
- Frank Treglia** - aye
- Salvatore SantaMaria** - aye
- Jennifer Nolan** - aye
- Beth Campbell** - aye

Opposed: None
Abstentions: None
Motion Carries: 9-0-0

4. Adjournment

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to adjourn the meeting.
Chairperson Beth Campbell adjourned the meeting at 6:58pm.