



MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Monday, April 19, 2021
7:00 p.m.

Public May Attend In-Person ([see requirements](#)) or Virtually
This meeting can be viewed live on [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#)

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

Nicole Rinaldi
Jennifer Nolan
Matthew VanOrmer
Sarah Ethier
Steven Carr

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 7:01pm.
 - 1.2. Board Members in Attendance In-person: **Chairperson Beth Campbell, Vice Chairperson David Colavecchio, Secretary Heather Patchell, Treasurer Roxy Fainer, Steven Carr, Nicole Rinaldi, Matthew VanOrmer, Sarah Ethier, Superintendent Francine Coss**
 - 1.3. Board Members in Attendance Virtually: **Jennifer Nolan**
 - 1.4. Student Representatives in Attendance Virtually: **Isabella Guerrero, McKenna O'Sullivan, Cesar Velez**
 - 1.5. Others in Attendance: Sue Santovasi (web host), Nathan Scarola

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)

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education dated April 19, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carries: 9-0-0

4. Public Participation ▲▲▲ (*Bylaws of the Board 9325 – Meeting Conduct*) - None

The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with Thomaston Board of Education Policy 9325 – Bylaws of the Board Meeting Conduct. Specifically, provision for permitting any individual/group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction shall be as follows:

- Those who wish to make public comments related to this meeting shall:
 - Submit public comments at least one (1) hour before the scheduled start of the virtual meeting via the Thomaston Board of Education Public Comment Google Form at <https://forms.gle/WtQ7LkbUdpWrsCwJ6>.

NOTE: Written public comments that meet the criteria above shall be read aloud by a Board member during the Board of Education meeting.

5. Approval of Minutes ▲ (*Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes*)

- 5.1. Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated March 8, 2021
 - 5.1.1. Response to March 8, 2021 Public Comment - Nicole Rinaldi
 - 5.1.2. Response to March 8, 2021 Public Comment - Nicole Maloid
 - 5.1.3. Response to March 8, 2021 Public Comment - Marissa McGee
 - 5.1.4. Response to March 8, 2021 Public Comment - Rebecca Shypinka

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education dated March 8, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

- 5.2. Emergency Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated March 23, 2021

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Emergency Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education dated March 23, 2021 as presented

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

- 5.3. Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated March 29, 2021

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Special Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education dated March 29, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

- 5.4. Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated April 12, 2021

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Special Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education dated April 12, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: **Jennifer Nolan**

Motion Carried: 8-0-1

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. March Rotary Student of the Month - Nathan Scarola
- 6.2. March Students of the Month - Thomaston Public Schools
 - 6.2.1. Grade K - Scotland King
 - 6.2.2. Grade 1 - Piper Chasse
 - 6.2.3. Grade 2 - Kate Mazarrella

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- 6.2.4. Grade 3 - Zoey Catterton
 - 6.2.5. Grade 4 - Tyler Callahan
 - 6.2.6. Grade 5 - Kelvin Diaz
 - 6.2.7. Grade 6 - Skylar Mills
 - 6.2.8. Grade 7 - Brianna Ronalter
 - 6.2.9. Grade 8 - Sophia Coer
 - 6.2.10. Grade 9 - Alba Puprriqi
 - 6.2.11. Grade 10 - Marissa VanOrmer
 - 6.2.12. Grade 11 - Mel Shkrepi
 - 6.2.13. Grade 12 - Nathan Scarola
 - 6.3. Connecticut Association of Schools Arts Award
 - 6.3.1. Kaylee Boulanger
 - 6.3.2. Kaiden Phelps
 - 6.3.3. Matthew Johnson
 - 6.3.4. Skylar Wain

7. Presentations ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments)

- 7.1. Peru Trip 2021 - Susan Abbott, Spanish Teacher, Thomaston High School
- 7.2. Reducing Disproportionality in Suspensions and Expulsions - Gianni Perugini, Assistant Principal, Thomaston High School

8. Student Representatives Report ▲▲▲ (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. CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) Virtual Day on the Hill - March 17, 2021
- 9.2. Committee Sign Up - New Members - Thomaston Board of Education - Bylaw 9132
- 9.3. New Board of Education Member Virtual Training - April 5, 2021 - Sponsored by CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education)
- 9.4. USPS Mail to Thomaston Board of Education Members
- 9.5. Repeat Motion from April 12, 2021 Special Meeting due to technology issues

Heather Patchell motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to authorize Attorney Levine to proceed with his recommendation course of action as set in his attorney-client privileged communication.

Discussion: [Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion carried: 9-0-0

10. Superintendent’s Report ▲▲▲ (Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)

- 10.1. Correspondence
 - 10.1.1. Superintendent
 - 10.1.1.1. Letters of Quarantine and Isolation from Superintendent Francine Coss to Parents for COVID-related childcare work absences
 - 10.1.1.2. Thomaston Public Schools Educator and Child Care Provider COVID-19 Vaccine Eligibility Letters from Superintendent Coss
 - 10.1.1.3. Reimagining Education for Tomorrow’s Workforce - College and Career Readiness for Life
 - 10.1.1.4. Pullman & Comley - February 2021
 - 10.1.1.5. Residency Determination Letter Follow Up from Superintendent Coss to Parent of Student B - Follow up From the February & March 2021 agenda
 - 10.1.1.6. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - March 3, 2021
 - 10.1.1.7. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - March 10, 2021
 - 10.1.1.8. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - March 17, 2021
 - 10.1.1.9. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - March 24, 2021
 - 10.1.1.10. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - March 31, 2021

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- 10.1.1.11. Effective School Solutions - Insights & Solutions - March 2021
 - 10.1.1.12. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - April 7, 2021
 - 10.1.1.13. Effective School Solutions - Insights & Solutions - April 2021
 - 10.1.1.14. 2020 Cohort Graduation Results for Final Review
 - 10.1.1.15. Governor Ned Lamont Announces Appointment of Charlene Russll-Tucker as Acting State Education Commissioner
 - 10.1.1.16. Student Assessment News March 4, 2021
 - 10.1.1.17. Response Letter from Superintendent Coss to Ms. Maxson - Parent of Thomaston Public Schools - March 20, 2021
 - 10.1.1.18. Thank you letter from Superintendent Francine Coss to Marissa VanOrmer tenth grade student of Thomaston High School, for her presentation at the March 8th Regular Board of Education Meeting regarding the Pints to Pound Fundraiser for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society
 - 10.1.1.19. Thank you letter from Superintendent Francine Coss to Andrea Peters, Director of Pupil Services, for her presentation at the March 8th Regular Board of Education Meeting regarding the PreSchool Lottery at Black Rock School
 - 10.1.1.20. Thomaston Public Schools News for Staff - Winter/Spring 2021
 - 10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
 - 10.1.2.1. CABE Liaison Newsletter - March 2021
 - 10.1.2.2. CABE Policy Highlights - March 5, 2021
 - 10.1.2.3. CABE Policy Highlights - March 19, 2021
 - 10.1.2.4. CABE Liaison Newsletter - April 2021
 - 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)
 - 10.1.5.1. Vaccination Update - March 8, 2021
 - 10.1.6. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
 - 10.1.6.1. School-Based Vaccine Update
 - 10.1.6.2. Addendum 7 - COVID-19 Reopening Considerations for Connecticut K-12 Music Programs - Revised March 1, 2021 from the original addendum dated August 14, 2020
 - 10.1.6.3. Challenge to Educational Citizenship Award Program
 - 10.1.6.4. Completion of Teacher Negotiations Act Submissions (formerly the ED003)
 - 10.1.6.5. Student Assessment News - April 8, 2021
 - 10.2. Reports, Contracts and General Information
 - 10.2.1. Reports
 - 10.2.1.1. Administrator Reports - April 2021
 - 10.2.1.1.1. Town Safety Committee Minutes - March 24, 2021 - Francine Coss, Superintendent
 - 10.2.1.1.2. Curriculum Guides - Jessica Bedosky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Assessment
 - 10.2.1.1.2.1. Grade 4 - Math
 - 10.2.1.1.2.2. Grade 6 - Math
 - 10.2.1.1.2.3. Grades 4 - 6 Physical Education
 - 10.2.1.1.2.4. Grades 7 & 8 Physical Education
 - 10.2.1.1.2.5. Grades 9 & 10 Physical Education
 - 10.2.1.1.2.6. Grades 11 & 12 Precalculus
 - 10.2.1.2. Enrollment - April 1, 2021
 - 10.2.1.2.1. Distance Learning Enrollment - April 1, 2021
 - 10.2.1.3. Distance Learning Report - Superintendent Francine Coss
 - 10.2.2. Contracts
 - 10.2.2.1. Thomaston Public Schools and May Institute School Consultation Service Contract - 2020-2021

Sarah Ethier motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve Curriculum Guides as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion carried: 9-0-0

10.2.3. Grants

10.2.4. General Information

10.2.4.1. Fund-Raisers

10.2.4.1.1. Thomaston High School - Faculty & Staff Dress Down Day - Saint Jude

10.2.4.1.2. Thomaston High School - Rubber Band Bracelet Sale - The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

10.2.5. Personnel ([Policy 4112/4212](#) - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment)

10.2.5.1. New Hires

10.2.5.1.1. Patrick Hyres Custodian, Class III , full time, night shift - Thomaston Center School - Effective April 12, 2021

10.2.5.2. Transfers/New Assignment

10.2.5.2.1. Timothy Ferris - From Custodian, Class II, Second Shift - Thomaston Center School to Custodian, Class II, Second Shift - Thomaston High School - Effective March 8, 2021

10.2.5.2.2. Michael Duggan - From Custodian, Class III, 2nd Shift, temporary/per diem - Thomaston High School to Custodian, Class III, 2nd Shift, temporary/per diem - Thomaston Center School - Effective March 8, 2021

10.2.5.2.3. Megan Fainer - From Tutor/Math/Physics (part-time, temporary) to Building Substitute, temporary, per diem - Grades 7-12, - Thomaston High School - Effective March 8, 2021

10.2.5.2.4. Susan Fuller - From Remote Teacher - Thomaston Center School to Remote Teacher - Grades K-1 - Black Rock School - Effective March 15, 2021

10.2.5.2.5. Margaret Protzmann - From Remote Teacher - Thomaston Center School to Remote Teacher - Grades 2-3 - Black Rock School - Effective March 15, 2021

10.2.5.2.6. Melissa Saramanidis - From Remote Co-Teacher - Thomaston Center School to Remote Library Media Specialist, Grades 4-6 - Thomaston Center School - Effective March 15, 2021

10.2.5.2.7. Ashlee Lajoie - From Remote Long-Term Substitute , Grades 2-3 - Black Rock School to In-Person Building Substitute Grades 4-6 - Thomaston Center School - Effective March 15, 2021

10.2.5.3. Resignations

10.2.5.3.1. Hanane Boumghait - Paraprofessional - Thomaston High School - Effective date April 16, 2021

10.2.5.4. Retirement

10.2.5.4.1. Penelope Fox - Paraprofessional - Thomaston High School - Effective March 8, 2021

10.2.5.5. Renewals - None

10.2.5.6. Stipends - 2020 - 2021

10.2.5.6.1. Craig Prasauckas - Baseball Varsity Coach - Thomaston High School

10.2.5.6.2. Richard Revere - Baseball Junior Varsity Coach - Thomaston High School

10.2.5.6.3. Kelly Finlay - Softball Varsity Coach- Thomaston High School

10.2.5.6.4. Megan Fitzgerald - Tennis Girls Varsity Coach - Thomaston High School

10.2.5.6.5. Mark Olsen - Track & Field Varsity Coach - Thomaston High School

10.2.5.6.6. Raymond Rabuska - Baseball Coach - Thomaston Middle School

10.2.5.6.7. Kayla Marble - Track & Field Coach - Thomaston Middle School

10.2.5.6.8. Robert Stack - Softball Coach - Thomaston Middle School

10.2.5.6.9. Seth Murphy - Tennis Boys Varsity Coach - Thomaston High School

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded 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.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: **Roxy Fainer**

Motion Carried: 8-0-1

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- 10.2.5.7. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) (Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personnel-- Certified/Non-Certified Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act)
 - 10.2.5.7.1. Employee A
 - 10.2.5.7.2. Employee B
 - 10.2.5.7.3. Employee C - FMLA Extension (listed on February 8, 2021 BOE agenda)
 - 10.2.5.7.4. Employee D
 - 10.2.5.8. Interns and Student Teachers (Policy 1212 – Community Relations – School Volunteers)- None
 - 10.2.5.9. Field Trips (out of state) (Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools) - None
 - 10.2.5.10. Policy 3260 Business/Non-Instructional Operations Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies - None

11. Committee Reports ▲ ([Bylaws of the Board 9132](#) – Standing Committees and [Bylaws of the Board 9133](#) - Special Committees/Advisory Committees)

11.1. Business Manager Report - March 2021

- 11.1.1. 2021-2022 Budget Changes: Revise town allocated budget to \$15,428,514 (revised increase of \$171,388 or 1.12% over the 2020-2021 town allocated budget)

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to adjust the 2021-2022 Operating Budget as presented.

Discussion: [Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion carried: 9-0-0

- 11.1.2. Healthy Food Certification
- 11.1.3. FY2022 Adult Education Cooperating District Information
- 11.1.4. FY2021 Consolidated Title III English Learner Grant
- 11.1.5. 2020-2021 COVID Related Expenses
- 11.1.6. 2020-2021 Budget Table Without Encumbrances
- 11.1.7. 2020-2021 Budget Table With Encumbrances
- 11.1.8. 2020-2022 Grant Report
- 11.1.9. 2020-2021 Transfers
- 11.1.10. 2020-2021 Projection
- 11.1.11. Expenditures
 - 11.1.11.1. March - 2020-2021 Fiscal Year

Roxy Fainer motioned and David Colavecchio seconded 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.

Discussion: [Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

11.2. Policy Committee ([Policy 2231](#) – Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)

- 11.2.1. Presentations - None
- 11.2.2. Discussion Items
 - 11.2.2.1. Education Related Bills as of April 9, 2021
 - 11.2.2.2. Policy 5132 - Students - Dress and Grooming
 - 11.2.2.2.1. Current Policy
 - 11.2.2.2.2. Proposed Changes (post-pandemic)
- 11.2.3. First Read Items
 - 11.2.3.1. Policy 6154 - Homework - Thomaston Public Schools
 - 11.2.3.1.1. Current Policy
 - 11.2.3.1.2. Proposed Changes
- 11.2.4. Second Read Items - None
- 11.2.5. Action Item - None

12. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of self-assessment of individual members of the Leadership Team including discussion regarding goal attainment and handling of unanticipated challenges ([Bylaws of the Board 9322](#) - Public and

Executive Sessions)

12.1. Policy 2400 Administration - Evaluation of the Superintendent

12.1.1. Form 1 - Board of Education Self-Evaluation

David Colavecchio motioned and Steven Carr seconded to enter into Executive Session at 8:05pm. for the purpose of self-assessment of individual members of the Leadership Team including discussion regarding goal attainment and handling of unanticipated challenges.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

2020-2021 Board of Education Self-Evaluation		
<i>Scale of 5-1 (5 representing the highest rating, 1 the lowest)</i>		
Vision		Average
1	The Board has a vision and /or mission based on core values and beliefs of the district and community.	4.6
2	The Board demonstrates a belief that high quality instruction in every classroom is the foundation for high achievement for all students.	5.0
3	The Board communicates clearly the goals and expectations for the district, staff, and students with an emphasis on high achievement for all students in the district.	4.4
4	The Board works to promote the accomplishments of the district within the district and community at large and elicits community discourse and support for district goals.	4.1
5	The Board adopts policies that create a culture that supports the vision and goals of the district and ensures the manual is up-to-date and comprehensive.	4.7
Board Operation		Average
6	The Board conducts meetings that are efficient, effective and focus primarily on student achievement and other district priorities.	4.7
7	The Board sets goals related to the Board's work and focuses on them on an annual basis.	4.7
8	The Board adopts a fiscally responsible budget based on the district's priorities and regularly monitors the fiscal health of the district.	5.0
9	The Board conducts a comprehensive orientation process to familiarize new Board members with their roles on the team.	4.1
10	The Board conducts district business in accordance with established ethical standards.	5.0
11	The Board participates in leadership development activities on a regular basis.	4.1
Board Ethics		Average
12	The Board members maintain confidentiality regarding sensitive communications.	5.0
13	The Board members honor Board decisions even when the vote is not unanimous.	4.6
14	The Board does not let party politics interfere with district business.	4.6
15	The Board makes decisions based on analysis of relevant research and data.	4.0
16	The Board deals with conflicts openly, honestly and respectfully.	4.3
Board Superintendent Team		Average
17	The Board works effectively with the Superintendent as a collaborative leadership team to focus priorities around high achievement for all students in the district.	5.0
18	The Board evaluates the Superintendent based on progress toward attainment of predetermined goals and the effectiveness of his/her leadership m implementation and achievement of the district goals.	5.0
19	The Board demonstrates support and respect for the Superintendent's role as the chief executive officer of the district.	4.4
20	The Board provides direction to the Superintendent as a whole, not from individual Board members.	4.1

13. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session - Exit Executive Session at 9:31pm.

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded for the goals for next year:

- 1) To provide relevant research and data prior to the meeting to the board.
- 2) Spotlight staff members.
- 3) Conduct meetings that are efficient using hybrid meeting technologies.

14. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of Superintendent Francine Coss' presentation of "year in review" self-assessment to the Board of Education regarding his/her performance (*Bylaws of the Board 9322 - Public and Executive Sessions*)

14.1. Policy 2400 Administration - Evaluation of the Superintendent

14.1.1. *Appendix B - Superintendent's Leadership Performance Areas and Specific Areas of Responsibility*

14.1.2. *Form 2 - Superintendent's Performance Evaluation Worksheets*

14.1.3. *Form #1 - Thomaston Public Schools Superintendent Evaluation*

14.1.4. *Form #2 - Thomaston Public Schools Superintendent Competency Standards*

Roxy Fainer motioned and David Colavecchio seconded to enter into Executive Session at 9:34pm. for the purpose of Superintendent Francine Coss' presentation of "year in review" self-assessment to the Board of Education regarding his/her performance.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstentions: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

15. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session - Exit Executive Session at 9:41pm.

No action taken at this time.

16. Adjournment

David Colavecchio motioned Matthew VanOrmer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Chairperson Beth Campbell adjourned the meeting at 9:42pm.



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

FRANCINE COSS, SUPERINTENDENT

Nicole Rinaldi
65 Edgewood Avenue
Thomaston, CT 06787

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Dear Ms. Rinaldi,

Thank you for participating in the public comment portion of the March 8, 2021 Thomaston Board of Education meeting. The Thomaston Board of Education read your comment aloud during the meeting and your comment was placed on the meeting minutes from March 8th. This response letter will be included and attached to the April 19, 2021 minutes. Your comment was:

Good evening. My name is Nicole Rinaldi and I am writing tonight to be considered for the vacancy position on the Board of Education. I have lived in town for over 15 years and have two children who attend school in district. I am an elementary school teacher with 19 years of experience. I would like to do my part to support the education system in Thomaston.

The vacancy was filled by another nominee. I hope you continue to have an interest in serving on the Thomaston Board of Education.

Thank you again for participating in the public comment portion of this month's meeting.

Sincerely,

Beth Campbell
Chairperson

Cc: Thomaston Board of Education



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

FRANCINE COSS, SUPERINTENDENT

Nicole Maloid
158 Atwood Road
Thomaston, CT 06787

Dear Ms. Maloid,

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Thank you for participating in the public comment portion of the March 8, 2021 Thomaston Board of Education meeting. Your comment was read aloud during the meeting and your comment was placed on the meeting minutes from March 8th. This response letter will be included and attached to the April 19, 2021 minutes. Your comment was:

"I would like to be simple and straight to the point. Our children must return back to the classroom 5 days a week. The first excuse used was that cases may climb and we may need to revert back. After that excuse failed, the next was that we don't have the funds to employ our staff and clean the school within budget. What has happened to the money that was not used for bussing back in 2020? From what you quoted to the Republican American back in April 2020 Francine, you stated that in those SHORT 2 months, the town would save approximately \$400,000.00. Regardless, our children's education shouldn't come as a "cost" at the end of the school year when this town has had AMPLE time to attribute all efforts to this crisis. All the surrounding towns have gone back 5 days a week and we continue to have no cases this month along with a downward trend to 2.37% according to the data chart you recently sent out. I should not feel like we are begging people for our children to go back to school and that's what this has come to. In addition to this, I'm aware there are children who have required the Wednesday in person day for their special requirements. There are ways we can accommodate these children along with our children going back 5 days as well. I am a mother of a special needs child who hasn't gotten the extra day in person and that's affecting my son just as much. Again, enough time has passed in order for you to figure this out. Working as a pediatric nurse in a world renown facility, I have watched the devastating effects this pandemic has left upon these children. It's time for me to advocate for my son so he is not another "percentage"."

You asked the question: *"What has happened to the money that was not used for bussing back in 2020?"* The answer to your question was presented in the July 2020 Business Manager Report offered in public session during the August 17, 2020 Board of Education meeting. You can read the July 2020 Business Manager Report online at the Thomaston Board of Education Business and Financial Reports webpage (www.thomastonschools.org/BusinessandFinancialReports). You can listen to the meeting discussion about the July 2020 Business Manager Report by going to the Town of Thomaston YouTube page. For your convenience, I am including the link to the exact point in the meeting when this discussion occurs is: youtu.be/2SnUgrkTaXc?t=1420

Please know that your comment was heard by the members of the Board of Education. Thank you again for participating in the public comment portion of this month's meeting.

Sincerely,

Beth Campbell
Chairperson

Cc: Thomaston Board of Education



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

FRANCINE COSS, SUPERINTENDENT

Marissa McGee
45 Woodbridge Lane
Thomaston, CT 06787

Thursday, March 25, 2021

Dear Ms. McGee,

Thank you for participating in the public comment portion of the March 8, 2021 Thomaston Board of Education meeting. The Thomaston Board of Education read your comment aloud during the meeting and your comment was placed on the meeting minutes from March 8th. This response letter will be included and attached to the April 19, 2021 minutes. Your comment was:

"As a parent of a first grade student at BRS, I am writing to implore the Board to re-visit the decision to keep Wednesdays remote. At this point in time, we have seen the state-wide positivity rate at or below 2% for several consecutive weeks, per the Governor's weekly COVID update. The low positivity rate coupled with school staff being eligible for the vaccination support a full 5 day per week return to the physical classroom. Although improvements were made to extend the instructional period of Wednesdays, the remote structure - especially for elementary aged students, like my son - is NOT a replacement for a full day of in-person instruction. My son, like many, is at daycare on Wednesdays, and working independently to participate in the remote schedule. He is not getting a full days worth of instruction equal to a full day of in-person instruction; and I am sure many of the younger students are in the same situation. At this point, there is no justification to keep Wednesdays remote, as the the COVID rates do not support anything other then a full in-person model that includes all 5 days. With teachers and support staff eligible for the vaccine, this just further supports a return to normalcy and likely will cause the positivity rate in the state to decline further. The Governor has recently announced lifting many occupancy restrictions state-wide - including changing his travel restrictions to a recommendation - a further indication that we need to re-visit the current restricted in-person model as COVID numbers are declining. Students, especially younger ones, need in-person instruction and depriving them of that for even one day a week needs to be strongly justified and warranted. Thank you for your consideration."

Please know that your comment was heard by the members of the Board of Education. Thank you again for participating in the public comment portion of this month's meeting.

Sincerely,

Beth Campbell
Chairperson

Cc: Thomaston Board of Education



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185 BRANCH ROAD
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860-283-3053
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FRANCINE COSS, SUPERINTENDENT

Rebecca Shypinka
663 Walnut Hill Road
Thomaston, CT 06787

Thursday March 25, 2021

Dear Mrs. Shypinka,

Thank you for participating in the public comment portion of the March 8, 2021 Thomaston Board of Education meeting. The Thomaston Board of Education read your comment aloud during the meeting and your comment was placed on the meeting minutes from March 8th. This response letter will be included and attached to the April 19, 2021 minutes. Your comment was:

"Good Evening Supt Coss, Chairperson Campbell, and other members of the Board of Education. Most of you know I am Becky Shypinka and I am one of the candidates seeking to fill the seat vacancy on the Board of Education. This vacancy is for a short period of time (approx. 8 months). I believe in this period of uncertainty we are in now, it is important to have someone who is familiar with the board of education policies, budget and processes. You know coming in as a new member, it takes some time as well as training to become familiar and comfortable with the material. In addition to attending the recent virtual meetings, I also have 6 years of experience on the board. I have been a resident of Thomaston for over 27 years. I have entered each of our school buildings as a parent, board of ed member, and a member of the community for various functions or events. All 3 of my children have attended and graduated from Thomaston schools. As you can see from my letter of endorsement, I am still very much an active member of our community volunteering as well as for the schools serving on the Education Enrichment Fund and the Booster Club. As elected members of the community and the voice of local residents, I am asking for you to fill this vacancy with myself; a candidate with experience - who would be ready on day one to serve the students, staff and community as an effective member of the board of education. Thank you for your time."

The vacancy was filled by another nominee. I hope you continue to have an interest in serving on the Thomaston Board of Education.

Thank you again for participating in the public comment portion of this month's meeting.

Sincerely,

Beth Campbell
Chairperson

Cc: Thomaston Board of Education