



MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Thomaston High School Auditorium, Entrance Door #3

Monday, November 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Public May Attend In-Person ([see requirements](#))

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.

Board of Education Goals:

- 1) Spotlight on one staff member each Regular meeting (September - June)
 - 2) Conduct meetings that are efficient using hybrid meeting technology
 - 3) Provide relevant research and data prior to the formal presentation of that information to the Board.
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Members:

Beth Campbell, Chairperson
David Colavecchio, Vice Chairperson
Heather Patchell, Secretary

Roxy Fainer, Treasurer
Francine Coss, Superintendent
Nicole Rinaldi
Jennifer Nolan

Sarah Ethier
Steven Carr
Matthew VanOrmer

Student Representatives 2021 - 2022

Cesar Velez Delaney Jose

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 7:03pm.
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Beth Campbell, Treasurer Roxy Fainer, Secretary Heather Patchell, Nicole Rinaldi, Matthew VanOrmer, Steven Carr, Sarah Ethier, Superintendent Francine Coss**
- 1.3. Board Members Absent: **Vice Chairperson David Colavecchio and Jennifer Nolan**
- 1.4. Student Representative in Attendance: **Delaney Jose (arrived at 7:57pm.)**
- 1.5. Student Representative Absent: **Cesar Velez**
- 1.6. Others in Attendance: **Kristin Bernier, Jessica Bedosky, Attorney Christine Chinni, Attorney Nicholas Grello, Gianni Perugini, Madeline Pappas, Deysi Pappas, Damon Pappas, Ashley Guerin, Jennifer Guerin, Krystal Thornton, Jonathan Thornton, Erin Thornton, Karen St.Jean, John St.Jean, Brook St.Jean, Jeanine Volpe, Alexander Hurn, Nick Hurn, Autumn Hurn, Christine Newsome, George Newsome, Maryann Newsome, Will Wester, Karen Newsome, David Seabourne, Zoe Kociszewski, Beau Kociszewski, Diana Brandt, Timothy Brandt, Liliana VanOrmer, Marissa VanOrmer**

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)

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education Meeting dated November 8, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: **Steven Carr** made a motion and **Matthew VanOrmer** seconded to amend the agenda to add the Screen and Stay presentation as the 7.2 option and make another motion to add to the agenda the recognition of outgoing board member, **Nicole Rinaldi** as agenda item 6.6.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

4. Public Participation ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9325 – Meeting Conduct) - No Public Participation

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 or group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction shall be as follows:

- Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter.
- No boisterous conduct shall be permitted at any Board of Education meeting. Persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the chair, of that person's privilege of address. If necessary, 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 or by another reference that tends to identify an individual. All charges or complaints against employees shall be submitted to the Board of Education under provision of Board of Education policy.

The Thomaston Board of Education is confident you will observe the rules of common courtesy. Thank you.

5. Approval of Minutes ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes)

5.1. Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated October 18, 2021

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated October 18, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

5.2. Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated October 29, 2021

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Special Meeting Board of Education Minutes dated October 29, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

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

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated October 29, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

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. Zachary Stevenson - Rotary Student of the Month - October 2021

6.2. Ashley Guerin - Rotary Student of the Month - November 2021

6.3. Students of the Month - October 2021

6.3.1. Kindergarten - Alexander Hurn

6.3.2. Grade 1 - Madeline Pappas

6.3.3. Grade 2 - Evan Dyke

6.3.4. Grade 3 - Ben Nguyen

6.3.5. Grade 4 - Brook St. Jean

6.3.6. Grade 5 - Logan Lewis

6.3.7. Grade 6 - Juliana Johnson

6.3.8. Grade 7 - Erin Thornton

6.3.9. Grade 8 - Addison Patchell

6.3.10. Grade 9 - Liliana VanOrmer

6.3.11. Grade 10 - Velia Russman

6.3.12. Grade 11 - Marissa VanOrmer

6.3.13. Grade 12 - Mel Shkrepi - September Rotary Student

6.3.14. Grade 12 - Zachary Stevenson - October Rotary Student

6.4. November Staff Spotlight - Diana Brandt, Music Teacher, Black Rock School

6.5. George Newsome, Head Custodian - Thomaston Center School - 53 Years of Service - December 1, 1968 - December 2, 2021

6.6. (added agenda item) Nicole Rinaldi, Outgoing Thomaston Board of Education Member - March 30, 2021 - November 16, 2021

7. Presentations ▲▲▲

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

7.1. Biennial Appointment of Board Attorney

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to appoint Christine Chinni of Chinni and Associates as the Special Education attorney for Thomaston Board of Education and to appoint Attorney Nicholas Grello of Zangari Cohn Cuthbertson Duhl and Grello as the Board of Education Attorney for the next biennial period.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

7.2. (amended agenda item) - Screen and Stay for Unvaccinated or Partially Vaccinated Close Contacts

[Discussion on Presentation](#)

Steven Carr made a motion to table this motion for further discussion at a later time. This motion was not

recognized with a seconded motion.

Roxy Fainer motioned and Heather Patchell seconded to opt out of Stay and Screen Protocol through December 31, 2021

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: 5

Abstain: 1

Motion Failed: 1-5-1

Sarah Ethier made a motion and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to opt in for Screen and Stay Protocol through December 31, 2021.

Discussion: None

Opposed: 1

Abstain: 1

Motion Carried: 5-1-1

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. Response Letter to Katie Pelletier in regards to the public comment at the October 18, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

9.2. Approval Given to Thomaston Recreation for Use of Black Rock School, Thomaston Center School, and Thomaston High School Gymnasiums

10. Superintendent’s Report ▲▲▲

(Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)

10.1. Correspondence

10.1.1. Superintendent Correspondences

10.1.1.1. Letters of quarantine and isolation from Superintendent Francine Coss to parents for COVID-related childcare work absence

10.1.1.2. Invitation to Attorney Christine Chinni to present at the Board of Education Meeting on November 8, 2021

10.1.1.3. Invitation to Attorney Nicholas Grello to present at the Board of Education Meeting on November 8, 2021

10.1.1.4. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - October 20, 2021

10.1.1.5. Follow up letter to non resident approval letter sent from Superintendent Coss on September 21, 2021 regarding the enrollment of child as non-resident of Thomaston and the cost of tuition when residency is unable to be provided per Policy 5118

10.1.1.6. Letter from Superintendent Coss to parent of Student A and student B to notify the cancelation of the residency hearing until further notice

10.1.1.7. CABE Legal Issues Workshop - October 27, 2021 - Attended by Superintendent Coss

10.1.1.8. Thomaston Education Enrichment Fund Mini-Grant Approval Letter to Douglas Craig, Reimagining Connecticut Classrooms for Continuous Learning Coordinator - Thomaston High School and Spencer Luthy, Head Custodian - Thomaston High School

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- 10.1.1.9. Thomaston Education Enrichment Fund Mini-Grant Approval Letter to Kathleen Zitney, Music Teacher, Thomaston Center School
 - 10.1.1.10. Thomaston Education Enrichment Fund Mini-Grant Approval Letter to Laura Johnston, Art Teacher - Thomaston High School
 - 10.1.1.11. Thank you letter to Jessica Bedosky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment for her presentation at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on October 18, 2021
 - 10.1.1.12. Response Letter to Katie Pelletier in regards to the public comment at the October 16, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education
 - 10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
 - 10.1.2.1. CABE Legal Issues Workshop
 - 10.1.2.2. Registration Form for the CABE Delegate Assembly
 - 10.1.2.3. Report of the 2021 CABE Government Relations - 2022 Proposed Assembly
 - 10.1.2.4. CABE Liaison Newsletter - November 2021
 - 10.1.2.5. CABE Journal - November 2021
 - 10.1.3. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS) - None
 - 10.1.4. United States Department of Education (USDE)
 - 10.1.4.1. Education, Justice Department Issues Fact Sheet on Supporting Students at Risk of Self Harm During COVID-19 Era
 - 10.1.4.2. Office for Civil Rights Releases Fact Sheet on Supporting Intersex Students
 - 10.1.5. Department of Public Health (DPH) - None
 - 10.1.6. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
 - 10.1.6.1. New Maintenance of Equity Requirement Under APR
 - 10.1.6.2. Nominations for the 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholar Program
 - 10.1.6.3. Hispanic Heritage Month
 - 10.1.6.4. Updated Addendum 7: COVID-19 Considerations for Connecticut PreK-12 Arts Programs
 - 10.1.6.5. Student Assessment Newsletter - October 28, 2021
 - 10.1.6.6. Certification of 2020-21 Compliance of the Mandated Reporter Training Requirements
 - 10.1.6.7. 2020 CT Fire Academy's Fire Service College Fair
 - 10.1.6.8. Performance Matters - News from the CSDE Performance Office
 - 10.1.6.9. EducateCT Newsletter - November 2, 2021
 - 10.2. Reports, Contracts and General Information
 - 10.2.1. Reports
 - 10.2.1.1. Thomaston Public Schools Consolidated COVID-19 Data and Vaccination Rate Report - Superintendent Coss
 - 10.2.1.2. Administrator Reports
 - 10.2.1.2.1. November 2021
 - 10.2.1.2.1.1. Grade 7 Geography Curriculum Guide
 - 10.2.1.2.1.2. Grade 9 Global Studies Curriculum Guide
 - 10.2.1.2.1.3. Grade 12 Criminal Law Curriculum Guide
 - 10.2.1.2.1.4. Grades K-3 Library and Technology Curriculum Pacing Guide
 - 10.2.1.2.1.5. Kindergarten General Music
 - 10.2.1.2.1.6. Grade 1 General Music
 - 10.2.1.2.1.7. Grade 2 General Music
 - 10.2.1.2.1.8. Grade 3 General Music

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the listed curriculum guides as

presented.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

10.2.1.3. Enrollment Report

10.2.1.3.1. November 1, 2021

10.2.2. Contracts

10.2.2.1. Memorandum of Agreement - District STEM Coordinator Stipend Position - 2021-2022

10.2.2.2. Memorandum of Agreement - COVID-19 Health and Safety Compliance Liaison - July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

10.2.2.3. Dr. Ephraim Bartfeld, School Medical Advisor and Thomaston Public Schools - July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

10.2.2.4. Capitol Region Education Council (CREC) and Thomaston Public Schools - July 1, 2021 and June 2022

10.2.3. Grants - None

10.2.4. General Information

10.2.4.1. Fund-Raisers

10.2.4.1.1. St. Jude Math-a-thon - Black Rock School

10.2.4.1.2. Raffle Baskets for Light Up the Town - Thomaston Public Schools

10.2.4.1.3. Haunted Trail (Nature Center) - Interact Club - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.1.3.1. Event canceled due to weather forecast

10.2.4.1.4. Badminton Tournament - Student Council - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.2. Gift/Donation

10.2.4.2.1. Donation of 16 Thomastonopoly board games for grades 1 -5 from Ken Santopietro, Cub Scout Pack 364

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. Nicole Thornton, Long-Term Substitute - Paraprofessional (Temp/Per Diem) - Thomaston High School - Effective October 5, 2021

10.2.5.1.2. Amanda Behuniak - Building Substitute Teacher - (Temporary/Per Diem) - Thomaston High School - Effective October 22, 2021

10.2.5.1.3. Joseph Aniki, Building Substitute Teacher (Temporary/Per Diem) - Thomaston Center School - Effective October 25, 2021

10.2.5.1.4. Justin Naylor, Custodian - Regular Part-Time (temporary position) - Black Rock School - Effective October 29, 2021

10.2.5.2. Transfers/New Assignment

10.2.5.2.1. Resignations

10.2.5.2.1.1. Aleta Dubecky, Art Teacher - Black Rock School and Thomaston Center School - Effective December 13, 2021

10.2.5.2.2. Retirement

10.2.5.2.2.1. Robert Newsome, Custodian II - Thomaston High School - Effective - February 1, 2022

10.2.5.3. Renewals - None

10.2.5.4. Stipends - 2021 - 2021

Roxy Fainer 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

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

10.2.5.5. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) - None

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

10.2.5.6. Interns and Student Teachers - None

(Policy 1212–Community Relations–School Volunteer)

10.2.5.7. Field Trips (out of state) - None

(Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools)

Superintendent Coss notified the board that due to the Washington DC Mega trip in April of 2021, the Parent Teacher conferences have been rescheduled from April 5th and 6th 2021 to April 14th and 15th 2021.

10.2.5.8. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies

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

10.2.5.8.1. Thomaston High School Textbooks

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

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. Business Manager Report

11.1.1.1. October Business Report

11.1.1.1.1. 2021-2022 Budget Table Without Encumbrances

11.1.1.1.2. 2021-2022 Budget Table With Encumbrances

11.1.1.1.3. 2021-2023 Grant Report

11.1.1.1.4. 2021-2022 Transfers

11.1.1.1.5. Expenditures

11.1.1.1.5.1. October 2021: \$877,860.91

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer 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: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

11.2. Achievement Committee

11.2.1. Review iReady Diagnostic Results

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- 11.2.2. Math Goals - Thomaston Center School - 2021-2022 School Year
 - 11.3. Policy Committee
 - (Policy 2231–Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)
 - 11.3.1. Presentations - None
 - 11.3.2. Discussion Items
 - 11.3.2.1. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 3541.44 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Transporting Students in Privately Owned Vehicles
 - 11.3.2.1.1. Current Policy
 - 11.3.2.1.2. CIRMA Marked Up Copy
 - 11.3.2.1.3. CIRMA Statement on Parent Transportation
 - 11.3.2.2. CAFE Legal Issues - Speak No Evil: The Legal Contours of Board Member Speech
 - 11.3.2.3. P.A. 21-1 (June Spec. Session) An Act Concerning Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use
 - 11.3.2.3.1. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 4118.235 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified - Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace, Medical Marijuana Standards
 - 11.3.2.3.1.1. Current Policy
 - 11.3.2.3.1.2. Attorney Marked Up Copy
 - 11.3.2.3.1.3. Clean Copy
 - 11.3.2.3.2. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 4119 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified - Staff Conduct
 - 11.3.2.3.2.1. Current Policy
 - 11.3.2.3.2.2. Attorney Marked Up Copy
 - 11.3.2.3.2.3. Clean Copy
 - 11.3.2.3.3. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 4212.42 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers
 - 11.3.2.3.3.1. Current Policy
 - 11.3.2.3.3.2. Attorney Marked Up Copy
 - 11.3.2.3.3.3. Clean Copy
 - 11.3.2.3.4. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 4218.231 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified - Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco
 - 11.3.2.3.4.1. Current Policy
 - 11.3.2.3.4.2. Attorney Marked Up Copy
 - 11.3.2.3.4.3. Clean Copy
 - 11.3.2.4. Thomaston Board of Education Policies Related to Non-Resident Student Attendance and Student Tuition
 - 11.3.2.4.1. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 5111 - Students - Admission/Placement
 - 11.3.2.4.2. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 5112 - Students - Ages of Attendance
 - 11.3.2.4.3. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 5112.4 - Students - Disenrollment
 - 11.3.2.4.4. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 3240 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Tuition Fees
 - 11.3.2.4.5. Policies and Documents from CAFE and Area School Districts Related to Non-Resident Student Attendance and Student Tuition
 - 11.3.2.4.5.1. CAFE Sample: Policy 5118 - Students - Non-Resident Attendance
 - 11.3.2.4.5.2. CAFE Sample: Policy 5118 - Non-Resident Students - Form 4

-
- 11.3.2.4.5.3. Region 6: Policy 5118 - Non-Resident Attendance
 - 11.3.2.4.5.4. Region 6/Litchfield Schools: Memorandum of Agreement - Pilot Non-Resident Tuition Free Students of Employees
 - 11.3.2.4.5.5. Region 12: Policy 5118.2 Enrollment of the Children of Non-Resident Certified and Non-Certified Staff
 - 11.3.2.4.5.6. Region 12: Policy 5118.3 - Non-Resident Attendance

11.3.3. First Read Items

- 11.3.3.1. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 6172.3 - Home Schooling - Equivalent Education Under Parental Direction

- 11.3.3.1.1. Current Policy

- 11.3.3.1.2. Marked Up Copy

- 11.3.3.1.3. Clean Copy

11.3.4. Second Read Items

- 11.3.4.1. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 5132 - Students - Dress and Grooming

- 11.3.4.1.1. Current Policy

- 11.3.4.1.2. Marked Up Copy (for post-pandemic circumstances)

- 11.3.4.1.3. Clean Copy (for post-pandemic circumstances)

11.3.5. Action Items - None

12. Adjournment

Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Chairperson Beth Campbell adjourned the meeting at 8:47pm.