

**Thomaston Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Thomaston Town Hall  
Meeting Room One  
September 14, 2009  
7:00 p.m.**



**Minutes**

**Present:** Laurie Barrett, Deborah April, Beth Yaffe, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, and Laura Rieley

**Absent:** Cheryl Roberts, Lucy Santopietro, Steve Catania

**Also Present:** Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Susan Laone; Board Clerk,  
Patricia George; Interim High School Principal, John Perrucci;  
Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson; Thomaston Center  
School Principal, James Diorio; and Pupil Services Director,  
Nancy Schnyer

**I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:**

Chairperson, Laurie Barrett established a quorum and called to order the Regular Meeting of the Thomaston Board of Education at 7:05 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance:**

Board Chair, Laurie Barrett, led the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendment:

- Under Item XIII. Old Business, add Subsection A, Student Representatives to the Board of Education

No further discussion, motion carried unanimously

**IV. Approval of Minutes:**

Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated August 18, 2009

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the minutes as presented, no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated August 10, 2009

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes as presented, no further discussion, Laura Rieley abstains, motion carried unanimously.

**V. Presentations:**

Presentations were provided to the Board on the following:

- A. Corrine Wong: Reading Progress  
Ms. Wong reviewed the steps taken to improve reading at Center School. She provided the Board and members of the audience with a handout that highlighted how the process was carried through.
- B. John Perrucci: New Bullying Forms  
Interim Principal, John Perrucci, reviewed the new form with the Board noting several new reporting items. He also discussed how the bullying process is investigated and the need for it to relate to the state's definition of bullying.
- C. John Perrucci: CMT & CAPT Scores
- D. Paula Banas: CMT Scores

**VI. Public Participation:**

Mr. Tim Scatena  
67 Patricia Lane  
Thomaston, CT 06787

Mr. Scatena stated that both parties provided great presentations. His comment was to insure, through the data analysis process, that the concentration would be on all students, including those at the top.

**VII. Communications:**

A. New Hires:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept new hires as presented, no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

B. Newly Tenured Staff:

Informational only, no motion required

C. Resignations:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept resignations as presented.

Further Discussion:

Chair, Laurie Barrett, stated that she spoke with Town Clerk, Cathy Dupont regarding Ms. Roberts' resignation. It was noted that Ms. Roberts' resignation came in prior to September 1, 2009, and therefore, her seat would not be filled until the November election is held.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Transfers: n/a

E. Leaves of Absence: n/a

F. Field Trips: n/a

G. Correspondence: n/a

### **VIII. Superintendent's Report**

A. Employee of the Month: n/a

B. Student of the Month: n/a

C. Goals – 2009/2010 – Draft – Our Process

Superintendent Mitchell indicated that the Administrative team had met earlier in the day under a new format. The meetings will now commence on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the Thomaston High School conference room. An agenda item for the meeting addressed goals for the next two years. Ms. Mitchell continued by stating that the Board would be a part of the goal setting process. The goals are expected to be ready for the October Board Meeting.

D. H1N1 Plan

Superintendent Mitchell said there would most likely be two emergency plans for H1N1; a Plan A and a Plan B. Close monitoring of attendance will be implemented. Further discussions are planned for the near future.

E. Positive Progress – Good News from Thomaston Schools

Superintendent Mitchell was excited to say that the district's consultants, administrators, and teachers are moving ahead. She added that great things are happening such as growth and improvement, specifically citing that Center School is now "off the list" temporarily as it relates to AYP.

F. Two Schools Mission

Ms. Mitchell would like to keep the mission in the forefront because it involves changes in the district. She deferred to Principal Diorio and Principal Johnson to share some of the changes that have taken place to date. Mr. Diorio said that he and Mr. Johnson met on a regular basis over the summer. Some initiatives planned included, effective teaching strategies; allowing Ms. Heiland, a teacher from Black Rock School, to work with grade 4 students at Center School; and an After School Academy for students in grades 2 through 6 which will begin in October. In conclusion, Mr. Diorio felt the coordination of shared staff in music and art is going well. The music and art schedule allows these teachers to be at Black Rock School three days and Center School two days.

### **IX. Business Manager's Report:**

A. The high school is currently looking to purchase new interior fire door closures. The expected expenditure would require the project to utilize the bid process. Simplex/Grinnell, who currently provides the full service contract, will not test, inspect, or service any new devices not installed by them. More importantly, the new fire panel will not be covered under the current contract should another vendor open the panel and add devices, and any warranty will be voided on the Simplex fire

panel. Preventing the conflicts noted above could be accomplished by waiving the bid process with the Board's approval. It was noted that the dollars spent would still fall within the amount the town has allotted for the project. On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept the bid waiver, motion carried unanimously.

**X. Administrators' Reports:**

- A. Thomaston Center School, James Diorio
  - Principal Diorio stated that the opening of Center School was uneventful. He was pleased to include that the school made AYP. Additionally, he added that the new bus schedule worked out for both a.m. and p.m. sessions. In conclusion, he noted that further building renovations will commence in October.
- B. Thomaston High School Interim Principal, John Perrucci:  
written only
- C. Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson: written only
- D. Nancy Schnyer, Director of Pupil Services
  - Ms. Schnyer highlighted the success of the recent behavior management training for Special Education paraprofessionals.

**XI. Student Representatives' Reports:**

No Report

**XII. Standing Committee Reports:**

- A. Budget:  
Expenditures:  
On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept the budget expenditures of \$1,277,092.70; no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.
- B. Curriculum/Instruction:  
No Report
- C. Maintenance/Facilities:  
No Report
- D. Technology:  
No Report
- E. Personnel:  
No Report
- F. Transportation:  
Business Manager, Sue Laone, stated that the two-tiered bussing seems to be working with a few minor issues.

There are several concerns with regards to out-of-district bussing, particularly with the magnet schools. A meeting has been scheduled for Wednesday with the bus company to address those issues.

G. Athletics:  
No report

H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee:  
No report

I. Policy:  
No report

J. Government Relations:  
No report

K. Affiliations:  
No report

**XIII. Old Business:**

Agenda amended to include subsection A.

A: Student Board Representatives  
Ms. Mitchell feels that it is worthwhile and valuable to continue with the representatives and the Board agreed. Several students have shown interest. Interim Principal John Perrucci will provide their names.

**XIV. New Business:**  
None

**XV. Items for Future Agendas:**  
None

**XVI. Executive Session:**

**XVII. Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Deborah April to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 9:35 p.m.; no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.