



Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One
Date: Monday, June 14, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Members: Laurie Barrett, Chair; Beth Yaffe, Vice Chair; Lucy Santopietro, Secretary; Laura Rieley, Treasurer; Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, Roxy Fainer, George Counter and Steve Catania, Members

Minutes

Present: Laurie Barrett, George Counter, Beth Yaffe, Lucy Santopietro, Roxy Fainer, Laura Rieley

Absent: Steve Catania, Holly Herbert, Joanne Gilland

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Board Clerk, Patricia George; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio; High School Principal, John Perrucci; Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson; Business Manager, Sue Laone; and School Board Representatives, Alexander Lee and Leah Miller

- 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 7:04 p.m.

- II. Pledge of Allegiance:**
Student Representative Leah Miller led the pledge of allegiance.

- III. Approval of Agenda:**
On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendments:
 - Under Item XII., Old Business, add an item A. with a vote to accept/approve Thomaston High School Grading Policy: Numeric conversion, a minimum of 50 for a passing grade, and loss of credit if assessments are not completed.

 - Under Item XIII., New Business, add an item A. Legislation impact on the school district.

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

- IV. Approval of Minutes:**
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting dated May 10,

2010; no further discussion; George Counter abstained; motion carried unanimously.

V. Student Representatives' Reports:

Student representatives reported that the high school is currently preparing for graduation; Student Representative Leah Miller will be graduating and Alex Lee stated that he, "will be back."

Leah reported the fundraiser, Mr. THS, raised \$500 and was put toward scholarships.

The Board thanked the representatives for their participation on the Board.

VI. Communications:

A. On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept new hire, Anne Uberti, principal of Black Rock School and Thomaston Center School commencing July 1, 2010; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

B. On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the resignation of Kristin Schwarz effective with the conclusion of the 2009/2010 school year; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

G. Correspondence: as presented

VII. Superintendent's Report:

A. Student of the month for May – Rachel Fairchild: Rachel is an artist and has already received recognition in that arena. Additionally, she illustrated a novel, "Picking up the Pieces". She has received several awards during her tenure at the high school and was a member on several committees.

B. Student of the month for June – Adam Scheppard: Adam was president of his class all four years, a CAPT Scholar and a Board Representative. He received congressional nominations from Chris Murphy and Senator Christopher Dodd for appointment to the United States Merchant Academy. He plans to major in marine operations and technology and obtain a commission as an officer in the U.S. Coast Guard upon graduation. Superintendent Mitchell stated that she was "extremely proud of this very outstanding young man".

C. Update Assistant Principal Interview Process: The district received approximately 38-40 applications for the Assistant Principal position. Both Superintendent Lynda Mitchell and Anne Uberti reviewed the applications concentrating on

certifications, focus in certain areas such as reading, as well as elementary education experience. Interviews are scheduled for the next two weeks.

- D. Summer Skills: The district continues to generate summer skills packets for students.

VIII. Business Manager's Report:

- A. 2010-2011 Budget (informational, as presented)
B. Report: Actual Expenditures as of June 9, 2010 with June 30th Projections (informational, as presented)

IX. Administrators' Reports:

Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer:

Ms. Schnyer read from her written report and highlighted some of the information including the district's good standing with the state with regards to meeting IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act) reporting requirements, the Title III grant and the Collaborative Learning Program.

High School Principal, John Perrucci

Principal Perrucci was pleased to announce that his recent parent meetings relating to the grading policy went very well. Subsequent to the meetings he received several e-mails and phone calls supporting the changes. He indicated that teachers are slowly moving forward with the change as well as are the students. The meetings helped to clarify some of the misconceptions circulating in the community.

He added the Powerschool training is on schedule and the Math Curriculum is on course for review this summer.

Principal Perrucci noted that the recent bullying survey yielded results that were concerning. Most feedback to actual bullying incidents were favorable; however, areas of concerns related to other issues including smoking in the bathrooms and behavior of that nature. He met with Superintendent Mitchell and plans are to meet several more times to discuss a plan of action. The Bullying committee is currently reviewing the survey in its entirety.

Center School Principal, James Diorio

Principal Diorio wanted to publicly thank the Board of Education and Superintendent Mitchell for their support over the years. Mr. Diorio also wanted to welcome incoming Principal, Anne Uberti.

Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson

Principal Johnson publicly thanked Renee Wojtzak on another successful field day. He also echoed Mr. Diorio's sentiments to the Board.

X. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Budget:
On a motion made by Laura Rieley and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the budget expenditures as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
- B. Curriculum and Instruction:
1. District Goals: (included in packet) - The Superintendent would like to move forward with the next piece, which would be to implement the district goals. She asked that it be included on the agenda for August.
2. Math Curriculum: Scheduled for review during the summer
- C. Maintenance/Facilities:
1. Walkthrough: A walkthrough has been scheduled for Friday, June 18th at 9:00 a.m. Board members were invited to attend as well.
- D. Technology: n/a
- E. Personnel:
1. On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to empower the Superintendent to act and contract with district personnel, including appropriate non-renewed teachers, over the summer; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
2. Exit interviews: Board member Beth Yaffe felt it was important to interview departing teachers. She suspected their departure was financially related, noting that we recently lost two excellent teachers to West Hartford.
- F. Transportation:
1. Review of a.m. Magnet transportation (Rotella/Maloney): Over the summer, the magnet transportation will be reviewed. Superintendent Mitchell noted that she received several phone calls, one from the church and others from several parents addressing the library parking lot as the pick up location.
- G. Athletics:
1. Cable Television Board Liaison: George Counter reported that there will be a meeting held on June 24th.
- H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee: n/a
- I. Policy: n/a
- J. Government Relations: n/a

K. Affiliations: n/a

XI. Public Participation: n/a

XII. Old Business:

- A. High School Grading Policy
On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the new high school grading policy.

Further Discussion:

Principal Perrucci asked to make an amendment to include the honor roll.

Grading Policy:

- Numeric conversion;
- A minimum of 50 for a passing grade; and
- Loss of credit if assessments are not completed

in conjunction with

Honor Roll:

Revert back to old system where students can earn a “C” and still be eligible for the lowest level of honors. However, with that, increase the grade point average that would be required from 81.7 to 83.

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

XIII. New Business:

- A. Legislative impact on the school district:
Superintendent Mitchell noted that she plans to add a legislative category to future board agendas starting with August. The Public Act in Education reform is an enormous undertaking and it has many impacts on the school district. She would like to begin laying out a plan to address the reforms in the fall.

XIV. Items for Future Agendas:

XV. Executive Session: n/a

XVI. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:58 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

