

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Lena Morton Gallery

Date: Monday, May 9, 2011

7:00 p.m.



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

Minutes

Present: Laurie Barrett, Lucy Santopietro, Roxy Fainer, Steve Catania, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, Laura (Rieley) Fitch

Absent: George Counter, Beth Keutzer, and Student Representative Curtis Dunn

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Sue Laone; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Black Rock School/Thomaston Center School Administrators, Anne Uberti and Alisha Lyons; High School Administrators, John Perrucci and Jonathan Kozlak; Board Clerk, Patricia George; and Student Representative Alexander Lee

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 7:01 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

No Flag Present

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Steve Catania to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendment;

Under X. Standing Committee Reports; Subsection D. Technology; add an Item 1.; Reconvene Technology Committee;

no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Roxy Fainer to approve/accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated Monday, April 11, 2011; no further discussion; Lucy Santopietro abstained; motion carried.

V. Student Representatives' Reports:

Student Representative Alexander Lee indicated that May is a very busy month at the high school. He highlighted the upcoming fundraising event, Mr. THS which is scheduled for June 1st. The proceeds will be used for scholarships. Alex also noted that school elections will be held with a new Board representative being selected.

VI. Communications:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Steve Catania to approve/accept all Communications as presented;

Further discussion

Superintendent Mitchell commented on the upcoming retirements of two 10-month secretaries in the district, Joyce DiPietro (Black Rock School) and Cindy Hax (Center School). Ms. Mitchell gave a brief overview of their career history and concluded by stating “we say goodbye but will remember them”.

Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Superintendent’s Report:

A. Two Schools...One Mission

Ms. Mitchell deferred to the “Two Schools, Once Mission” administrators Anne Uberti and Alisha Lyons. The administrators provided an overview of what was achieved during their first year under this assignment:

1. Implementation of consistent assessment plan in reading, writing and math K-6 to monitor student achievement.
2. Movement towards implementation of common instructional practices in reading, writing and math.
3. Shared vision around important school initiatives such as instructional practice, discipline and behavior, and school culture.
4. Implementation of a common schedule that is balanced in terms of instructional time, planning time and specials time for students.
5. Shared understanding between two administrators as to the work that needs to be done to move the schools forward.
6. Professional development that has been planned and implemented based on student achievement data and that bridges both schools.
7. Common student placement process developed and implemented.
8. Joint representation for both schools at PAC meetings thereby increasing parent participation, at both schools.
9. Decrease in number of students leaving districts in the transition from BRS to Center.
10. Streamlined a Kindergarten registration process that will be used as a basis for entrance registration for all grades.

B. CABE Student Leadership Awards Presentation

The CABE Student Leadership Award program is designed to honor Connecticut High School students who exhibit leadership skills. This year the recipients are Danielle Brasche, Tyler Donofrio, Hannah Martin and Alexander Lee. The Superintendent presented each student with a certificate.

C. SSP Narratives

Superintendent Mitchell noted that she was in receipt of the Strategic School Profiles (SSP) and is currently reviewing the information. She noted that the report will be made available to Board members in June.

VIII. Business Manager’s Report: no report

IX. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
The Connecticut State Department of Education, Bureau of Special Education, had conducted a special education focused monitoring site visit in February of 2011. Ms. Schnyer's report to the Board provided concluding information from that visit including a written report by Perri Murdica, Education Consultant.
- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
Principal Perrucci highlighted some points of interest from his written report. He noted that several top 7th and 8th grade students competed in a nation-wide competition, "American Scholastic Achievement League Challenge". He was pleased to inform the Board that Jonathan Yatco, a grade eight student, earned the highest score in the state of Connecticut. Jonathan's parents were in attendance and were congratulated by the Board.

A committee to review the current grading system has been established. The committee will be comprised of board members, parents, faculty members and administration.

Principal Perrucci expressed his interest in the use of tablets and provided a quote in his board report. He expressed his interest in this technology as opposed to the use of electronic readers. Mr. Perrucci also let it be known that he is well aware of the budget challenges he would have to face in order to acquire them.

- C. BRS/TCS: "Two Schools...One Mission", Anne Uberti
Principal Uberti publicly thanked the PTA and an anonymous donor for providing the funds to secure Rob Surette, an amazing speed painter. Ms. Uberti also thanked Assistant Principal Alisha Lyons for her part in acquiring Mr. Surette and the Worhunsky bus company for transporting the students.

On June 1st, teachers from area preschool and our own preschool and Kindergarten and first grade teachers will attend an on-site seminar by Matt Glover entitled "Engaging Young Writers." Ms. Uberti wrote in her report to the Board, "the goal of the seminar is to provide teachers with the skills to get children to write creatively and purposefully by guiding them to share their passions and interests through a variety of entry points." There will also be a presentation for parents that will address how they can help their children develop these skills at home.

Once again, Ms. Uberti thanked the PTA for their generosity. The proceeds from the recent book fair will be donated back to the Center School library. Ms. Uberti said that the school has had many parent volunteers helping Ms. Shannon Betts, the new library media specialist with organizing and cataloging books.

X. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Budget:
1. Summary by Budget Line Y-T-D expenditures
 2. Budget Line Transfers

On a motion made by Laura Rieley and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the \$11,020.987.10 budget line expenditures and May monthly transfers as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

B. Curriculum and Instruction:

1. Summer Work

Superintendent Mitchell deferred to Principal Perrucci to discuss what curriculum work would be accomplished during the upcoming summer months. Mr. Perrucci stated that history is scheduled for review this summer with an annual review of curriculum for grades 7-12 scheduled for following.

C. Maintenance/Facilities:

1. Boilers/Thomaston High School/Update

Both boilers at the high school are currently defunct. Conversations with David Colavecchio, the Chair of the town's Finance Board have transpired. The Board of Education is in the process of obtaining three bids for the repair work which will be in the area of \$30,000.

D. Technology:

1. Technology Committee Reconvene

Superintendent Mitchell plans to reconvene the Technology Committee that was once in place in the district.

E. Personnel: n/a

F. Transportation: n/a

G. Athletics: n/a

H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee: n/a

I. Policy: n/a

J. Government Relations: n/a

K. Affiliations: n/a

L. Legislation: n/a

XI. Public Participation:

Kim Foss
45 Blue Trail Drive

Regarding the boilers, Ms. Foss asked if there was an insurance rider.

XII. Old Business: n/a

XIII. New Business: n/a

XIV. Items for Future Agendas:

No items were brought forward for Future Agendas.

XV. Executive Session:

A motion was made by Steve Catania and seconded by Roxy Fainer to move into Executive Session to discuss strategy or negotiations with respect to collective bargaining; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

The Board members presented invited the following parties into Executive Session at 7:40 p.m.:

Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell
Business Manager, Sue Laone

Public Session:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Holly Herbert to move to Public Session at 8:42 p.m., no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Board Motion:

No Motion

XVI. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Holly Herbert to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:43 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.