

**Minutes**  
**THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**

Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One

Date: Monday, September 12, 2011

7:00 p.m.



**Members:** Laurie Barrett, Chair; Beth Keutzer, Vice Chair; Lucy Santopietro, Secretary; Laura Fitch, Treasurer; Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, Roxy Fainer, and George Counter Members (and a position vacated by Steve Catania effective July 15, 2011)

Minutes

**Present:** Laurie Barrett, George Counter, Lucy Santopietro, Roxy Fainer, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert and Laura Fitch

**Absent:** Beth Keutzer

**Also Present:** Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Sue Laone; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Black Rock School/Thomaston Center School Administrator, Alisha DiCorpo; High School Administrators, John Perrucci and Jonathan Kozlak; Board Clerk, Patricia George; Special Guests, Karen DePalma and Stephen Lewis; and Nicholas Grello, Attorney for the Board

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

Board Chair 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:**

Laurie Barrett led the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Approval of Agenda:**

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendment:

Under XI., Standing Committee Reports, Subsection E. Personnel (which was moved to the beginning of the agenda) add Executive Session,

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

**IV. Approval of Minutes:**

**Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated August 3, 2011:**

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated August 3, 2011; no further discussion, Roxy Fainer and Joanne Gilland abstained; motion carried unanimously.

**Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated August 8, 2011:**

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated August 8, 2011; no

further discussion; Lucy Santopietro and Laurie Barrett abstained; motion carried unanimously.

**V. Student Presentations:** n/a

**VI. Award Presentations:**

A. Teacher of the Year

Superintendent Mitchell and the Board of Education recognized Karen DePalma as the district's Teacher of the Year. Both Superintendent Mitchell and Chair Laurie Barrett shared a few kind words on Karen's behalf.

B. Education Enrichment Fund:

Superintendent Mitchell and the Board of Education recognized the Thomaston Savings Bank as this year's EEF (Education Enrichment Fund) recipient. Mr. Stephen Lewis, President, was on hand to accept the award.

**\*XI. Standing Committee Reports:** Subsection E. Personnel (moved to the beginning of the agenda)

A. Mr. John Perrucci

A motion was made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Roxy Fainer to move into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter. The following entered into Executive Session:

Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell  
Principal, John Perrucci  
Attorney for the Board, Nicholas Grello  
Board Chair, Laurie Barrett  
Secretary, Lucy Santopietro  
Member, George Counter  
Member, Roxy Fainer  
Member, Joanne Gilland  
Member, Holly Herbert  
Treasurer, Laura Fitch

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Roxy Fainer to return to Public Session at 7:53 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

**Board Motion from Executive Session:**

**No Board Motion was made from Executive Session**

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Holly Herbert to amend the agenda as follows:

Under VII. Communications, Subsection A. New Hires, item #2, Note the correct spelling of Dante Coviello as opposed to Danta;

Under XI. Standing Committee Reports, Subsection B. Curriculum and Instruction, item #1, change presentation from Anne Uberti to John Perrucci CMT and CAPT presentation

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Communications:**

A & B: On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept elections and resignations of personnel as listed in items A and B as presented;

Further Discussion:

Superintendent Mitchell noted that she had attempted to call Brooke Holway to schedule an exit interview and was unsuccessful at her attempts;

Motion carried unanimously.

G. District Calendar: Informational, as presented

**VIII. Superintendent's Report:**

A. District Goals

Superintendent Mitchell provided the Board with a copy of the district goals. She reminded the Board that the goals were established by convening a meeting which included members of CABE, several parents, and staff members. She noted, "the implementation of these goals does not happen immediately, but the district has made progress." The goals include Teacher Evaluation, Professional Development, and Community Involvement to name a few.

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

A. Quarterly Report – September 2011

As presented.

**X. Administrators' Reports:**

A. BRS/TCS: "Two Schools...One Mission"

Assistant Principal Alisha DiCorpo spoke to the Board regarding professional development that was covered the first few days of school. She stated that both schools received professional development in the area of reading, a major concentration for the school year. The first day the focus was on guided reading to help improve the reading scores and CMTs and to help students read systemically from kindergarten on up.

She indicated that there are plans to implement a program called "Words Their Way" to P-k to grade 6 students. The design is to teach vocabulary instruction at the student's level.

Ms. DiCorpo also noted that Paraprofessionals received professional development in the area of playground safety, basic first aid, and playground/emergency protocol.

Concluding her report, she discussed the change in arrival & dismissal procedure at Center School, buses pick up in front of the building, walkers are picked up in the back. Thus far, it seems to be working.

- B. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer  
Ms. Schnyer indicated that there are scheduling issues across the district that she is currently addressing, insuring that they are in compliance with I.E.P.s.

She was happy to report that the preschool autism program is going very well.

She noted that the district was down to one English Language Learner (ELL), the others had passed their last link testing and had graduated. However, there is a new influx of ELL students new to the district that she is currently trying to find tutors for.

- C. High School Principal, John Perrucci  
Mr. Perrucci reported that the music program is growing with over 24 students in chorus and over 30 in the band. He attributes the increased numbers in part, from the program at the Elementary Schools, along with good teaching at both the high school and elementary levels.

**XI. Standing Committee Reports:**

- A. Budget:  
On a motion made by Laura Fitch and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the budget expenditures and transfers as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
- B. Curriculum and Instruction:  
1. Amended to High School CMT/CAPT Presentation  
High School Principal John Perrucci utilized a PowerPoint presentation to highlight the CMT and CAPT scores.
- C. Maintenance/Facilities: n/a
- D. Technology:  
1. Power School  
It was noted that all schools have made the switch over to PowerSchool. Student data work will be addressed as soon as state reporting has been completed.  
2. Phone System  
The major installation work has been completed. Currently addressing some misconfigured extensions.
- E. Personnel: (moved to beginning of agenda)
- F. Transportation: n/a
- G. Athletics: n/a
- H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee: n/a

- I. Policy:
1. Green Cleaning Program  
On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the Green Cleaning Policy as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
  2. Training for District  
Plans are to review policies that are currently in place and to address policies relating to Title IX, Bullying and School Climate and all other policies that may need to be updated or added.

J. Government Relations: n/a

K. Affiliations: CABA Convention  
Board members were reminded to review the registration information for the November 18-19 CABA/CAPSS Convention at the Mystic Marriott in Groton Connecticut.

Note: The Board members present did not indicate a desire to attend.

L. Legislation: n/a

**XII. Public Participation: n/a**

**XIII. Old Business: n/a**

**XIV. New Business: n/a**

**XV. Items for Future Agendas: n/a**

**XVI. Executive Session:**

**XVII. Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Roxy Fainer to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:55 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.