



Thomaston Board of Education
Special Meeting
Monday, March 2, 2009
Thomaston Town Hall
Meeting Room One
7:30 p.m.

Board Members Present:

Laurie Barrett, Deborah April, Beth Yaffe, Lucy Santopietro, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert and Laura Rieley

Board Members Absent:

Steve Catania and Cheryl Roberts

Also Present:

Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Susan Laone; Board Clerk, Patricia George; Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio; and Thomaston High School Vice Principal, John Perrucci

I. Call to Order:

Board Chair, Laurie Barrett, called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:34 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept the agenda as presented. No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

III. Proposed 2009/2010 Budget:

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the proposed budget reduction figure as presented.

Further Discussion:

Board Chair, Laurie Barrett, told the Board they would be looking at the bottom line figure and would meet again to discuss the specifics once the Board hears from the teachers with regards to concessions, if any.

Based on the known facts of today, Business Manager Sue Laone noted that she and Superintendent Mitchell met with administrators last Thursday and reduced the staff by 9.4 certified positions totaling approximately \$463,000. (Without teacher concessions) During a prior meeting, 11 positions were noted as having to be cut. Sue Laone explained the reason for the higher figure was due to

using an “average” salary but when she began looking more specifically, she was then able to reduce that number.

Sue Laone continued by stating that the DCF Regular Education outplacement is due to return mid March and will save the district additional dollars.

The Board also discussed the Superintendent’s salary adjustment. Mrs. Mitchell took a salary freeze last year and with the new budget, her salary would be less than what the school administrators would be earning in the new year. It was also suggested that specific language be incorporated into her contract to eliminate the likelihood of this occurring again.

Athletic cuts were also discussed. Sue Laone and Mrs. Mitchell indicated that they had a conversation with Athletic Director, Bill Ryan, earlier in the day. It was his suggestion to eliminate Middle School Sports as well as Freshman Boys and Girls Basketball teams and one practice bus. Board Member, Deborah April inquired about low participant sports. The pay-to-play fee would be \$100 per sport/per season.

A brief discussion on the implementation of the tiered busing proposal was had.

In conclusion, the consensus of the Board was that the members were in agreement with the budget figure but questions on where the cuts will eventually be made remain. Once they hear back from the teachers one way or the other, a final decision could be made. This piece is expected to be incorporated into the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education scheduled for Monday, March 9, 2009.

VOTE: In favor of proposed budget bottom line

Six (6) YES

Zero (0) NO

Motion carries unanimously.

IV. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Deborah April to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

