

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One
Monday, December 8, 2014
7:00 p.m.

Members:

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| • Roxy Fainer, Chairperson | • Carol Cervellino |
| • Kathleen Freimuth, Vice Chairperson | • Rebecca Guay |
| • Anne Petrucci, Secretary | • Jennifer McDonald |
| • Alexander Lee, Treasurer | • Maureen McMahon |
| • Beth Campbell | • Justin Gallo, Student Representative |
| • Megan Foell, Student Representative | • Francine Coss, Superintendent |

Minutes

Members Present: Roxy Fainer, Kathleen Freimuth, Alexander Lee, Beth Campbell, Carol Cervellino, Rebecca Guay, Maureen McMahon, Anne Petrucci and Francine Coss.

Members Absent: Jennifer McDonald, Megan Foell.

Staff Present: Jonathan Kozlak, Black Rock School Principal.

Public Present: Ken Benoit, George Kawaleski, Pete Worhunsky, John Dufour, Lori Foley and others who did not sign in.

I. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order:

Roxy Fainer established a quorum and called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Roxy Fainer led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda:

Anne Petrucci **MOVED** and Kathleen Freimuth **SECONDED** to accept/approve the agenda as presented.

Anne Petrucci **MOVED** and Kathleen Freimuth **SECONDED** to amend the agenda under Section VIII.B.1 to move Policy 5131.6 from a FIRST READ to a SECOND READ and also to recognize that Policy 5131.6 and Policy 5131.61 refer to the same Policy; Alexander Lee **MOVED** and Rebecca Guay **SECONDED** to move the duplicate action item reading "Vote to accept/approve the business and Finance Report, Expenditures, Transfers and ED-099 Agreement as presented."

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-0

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Kathleen Freimuth **MOVED** and Anne Petrucci **SECONDED** to accept/approve the Regular Board of Education meeting minutes dated November 10, 2014 and Policy & Budget Committee meeting minutes dated November 10, 2014 as presented.

Kathleen Freimuth **asked** to have herself removed from the Policy Committee Meeting Minutes dated November 10, 2014 and to add Anne Petrucci and also reflect Anne Petrucci as Chairperson.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-2

V. Student Representatives:

Student Representative **Justin Gallo** reported on the following topics:

- Academics
 - Students are working as hard as ever to maintain their grades during the holiday season, and keeping themselves on track.
 - Many students have finished applying to college, with the assistance of the Guidance Department.
 - Digital Media and Culinary students are excited for their field trip to the Museum of Moving Image and Eataly on December 3, 2014.
- Clubs
 - The Interact Club will be baking, packing and sending cookies to the Thomaston Food Pantry.
 - Interact and National Honor Society students will be ringing bells for the Salvation Army outside of Adam's through the holiday season.
- Athletics
 - The winter season is about to kick off; many students are involved in either basketball or indoor track.
 - The indoor track team is looking to have another successful season.
- Special Events
 - PTA Holiday Vendor Fair was on December 5, 2014 from 6:00 – 8:00 P.M.
 - The High School Band concert will be on December 11, 2014 from 7:00 – 8:00 P.M.
 - The Senior Pancho's fundraiser raised \$500.00 for the Class of 2015
 - Homecoming Weekend went off without a hitch.

Kathleen Freimuth **MOVED** and Anne Petrucci **SECONDED** to accept/approve the Student Representatives Report as presented.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-0

VI. Recognitions:

Roxy Fainer recognized both student's for their accomplishments and recent recognition as the Rotary Student of the Month in November and December. **Roxy Fainer** presented Samuel Everett with a token of appreciation. Jensyn Cleveland was not present.

VII. Superintendent's Report:

2014 – 2015 Professional Development and Evaluation Plan:

Francine Coss explained that the letter dated November 18, 2014 from the Department of Education describes the final approval status from the Department of Education. Although, Board of Education approval of the Professional Development and Evaluation Plan is not required by law, she asked the Board of Education consider approving the plan formally later in the meeting.

2015-2016 School Calendar Update:

Francine Coss explained that Wolcott has not approved their school year calendar for next year, but once the Wolcott calendar is approved, Thomaston will use the Wolcott calendar as a

foundation for building Thomaston's school year calendar. The expectation is that the final calendar will be a two-year calendar (2014-2015 and 2015-2016).

District Performance Index and School Performance Index Results:

Francine Coss explained that the Administrator's would be presenting the data from the District Performance and School Performance Index to the Board of Education next month. She encouraged Board Members to present questions to her about the materials they received and that she would share those questions with the Administrators prior to the presentation.

Thomaston High School First Quarter Honor Roll:

Francine Coss explained that the Honor Roll results would be published in the newspaper.

Enrollment Report:

Francine Coss summarized the Enrollment Report.

Administrator's Reports:

Francine Coss commented that these were the reports that were shared with Board Members a week ago to review.

A. Personnel:

a. New Hires/Transfers:

- *Carol Hanson, Paraprofessional, voluntary transfer effective December 3, 2013*
- *Diana Martinik, Paraprofessional, voluntary transfer effective December 3, 2014*
- *Erica Ostern-Archibald, Paraprofessional involuntary transfer effective December 1, 2014*

b. Resignations/Retirements:

- *Martin Giroux, English Teacher, Thomaston High School, resignation effective December 1, 2014*

Anne Petrucci **MOVED** and Kathleen Freimuth **SECONDED** to accept/approve Resignations, and Transfers as presented.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-0

VIII. Committee Reports:

A. Budget/Audit Committee

Alexander Lee **MOVED** and Kathleen Freimuth **SECONDED** to vote to acknowledge the All Star Transportation, LLC purchase of 100% of the stock of Worhunsy Corporation, the Board of Education's student transportation Contractor; and, further, to accept the written and signed statement from John R. Dufour, President of All Star Transportation, LLC declaring that All Star Transportation, LLC shall continue to provide transportation services to Thomaston Public Schools for the term of the existing transportation contract with the Worhunsy Corporation, specifically school year 2013-2014 through school year 2017-2018, in accordance with the conditions and guarantees set forth in said contract document.

Discussion:

Francine Coss explained that she received a letter earlier in the day stating that Worhunsy Corporation had been sold to Peter Worhunsy Holdings, LLC and therefore would like to amend the motion, replacing the Worhunsy Corporation with Peter Worhunsy Holdings, LLC.

Francine Coss explained that in the current Worhunsky Corporation contract it states “Contractor may not assign, transfer, or subcontract this contract, or any part thereof, without written approval of the Board.”

Additionally she explained that the Worhunsky Corporation as known by the Board did not inform the Board of the sale to Peter Worhunsky Holdings, LLC. Francine Coss also informed the Board that she has received a notarized statement indicating that Peter Worhunsky Holdings, LLC intends to sell its contract to All Star Transportation, LLC.

Additionally, she mentioned that the Owner of All Star Transportation, LLC was in attendance and invited Board Members to ask any questions they may have.

Maureen McMahon asked if there would be an obvious change and service. **Francine Coss** commented that the letter from All-Star stated the service would meet or exceed the current contract’s services.

Alexander Lee **MOVED** and Kathleen Freimuth **SECONDED** to amend the motion to reflect the change in corporation, specifically, to vote to acknowledge the All Star Transportation, LLC purchase of 100% of the stock of Peter Worhunsky Holding, LLC, the Board of Education’s student transportation Contractor; and, further, to accept the written and signed statement from John R. Dufour, President of All Star Transportation, LLC declaring that All Star Transportation, LLC shall continue to provide transportation services to Thomaston Public Schools for the term of the existing transportation contract with the Peter Worhunsky Holding, LLC, specifically school year 2013-2014 through school year 2017-2018, in accordance with the conditions and guarantees set forth in said contract document.

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Anne Petrucci **MOVED** and Kathleen Freimuth **SECONDED** to accept/approved Monthly Business and Financial Report, Expenditures, Transfers and ED-099 Agreement as presented.

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

B. Policy Committee:

Kathleen Freimuth MOVED and **Anne Petrucci SECONDED** to accept/approve Policy 2151 – Recruitment and Selection of Administration, Policy Audit Series 0000, Policy Audit Series 9000, and 2014 – 2015 Professional Development and Evaluation Plan as presented.

Discussion:

Anne Petrucci noted that Policy 2151 has grammatical error in Step 2; the word they needed to be changed to he/she.

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

Alexander Lee **MOVED** that the approval of the 2014 - 2015 Professional Development and Evaluation Plan be contingent on the Boards vote to waive Policy 4115 – Personnel – Certified Evaluation, for the duration of the Educator Evaluation Plan.

Discussion:

Francine Coss explained that the reason for waiving Policy 4115 – Personnel – Certified Evaluation is that it is in direct conflict with the Professional Development Evaluation Plan.

Roxy Fainer asked for a Vote to approve waiving Policy 4115 – Personnel - Certified Evaluation for the duration of the 2014-2015 Educator Evaluation Plan.

MOTION CARRIED: 8-0-0

IX. Public Participation:

Peter Worchunsky of Terryville, CT commented on the transfer of ownership between Peter Worchunsky Holdings, LLC and All Star Transportation, LLC.

George Kowaleski of Thomaston, CT commented that he would hate to see the Board make a hasty decision regarding the bus company contract in the middle of the school year.

Adjournment:

Alexander Lee **MOVED** and Kathleen Freimuth **SECONDED** to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of Discussion Concerning Strategy and Negotiations with Respect of Pending Claim at 7:28 P.M.

Kathleen Freimuth MOVED and **Alexander Lee SECONDED** to invite Superintendent Francine Coss into Executive Session.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-0

Kathleen Freimuth MOVED and **Rebecca Guay SECONDED** to exit Executive Session and adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:01 P.M.

MOTION CARRIED 8-0-0

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