
**MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thomaston High School
Auditorium
Monday, February 12, 2018
7:00 p.m.**

Members:

**Rebecca Guay, Chairperson
Beth Campbell, Vice Chairperson
Heather Patchell, Secretary
David Colavecchio, Treasurer
Francine Coss, Superintendent**

**Roxy Fainer
Maureen McMahon
Jennifer Nolan
Scott Theriault
Frank Treglia**

Student Representatives:

Erin Fainer

Naime Gilani

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

1.1. **Chairperson Rebecca Guay** called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1.2. Board members in attendance: **Chairperson Rebecca Guay, Beth Campbell, Heather Patchell, Superintendent Francine Coss, Roxy Fainer, Maureen McMahon, Jennifer Nolan, Scott Theriault, and Frank Treglia**

1.3. Board members absent: **David Colavecchio**

1.4. Others in attendance: John Perrucci, Kristin Raymond, Kristin Bernier, Aimee Turner, Eric Martin, Melissa Hamel, Roberta Challman, David LaManna, Amanda Wiles, Chris Johnpiere, Linda Gomes, Kelly Quinn, Jaimee Hustek, Jennifer Chasse, Deborah DeGennaro, Rachel Walker, Joyce Knowlton, and Brenda Adams

2. Pledge of Allegiance

2.1. **Chairperson Rebecca Guay** led the pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Vote to accept/approve, Regular Meeting Agenda of the Board of Education, February 12, 2018 as presented

Beth Campbell motioned and Jennifer Nolan seconded to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of the Board of Education, February 12, 2017 as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motioned carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

4. Public Participation

The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with Thomaston Board of Education Policy 9325(a) - Bylaws of the Board Meeting Conduct. Specifically, provision for permitting any individual or group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction shall be as follows:

- Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter.*
- No boisterous conduct shall be permitted at any Board of Education meeting. Persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the chair, of that person's privilege of address. If necessary, the Chairperson may clear the room so that Board members may continue the meeting.*
- No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any employee of the Board of Education, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified in the presentation by name or by another reference that tends to identify an individual. All charges or complaints against employees shall be submitted to the Board of Education under provision of Board of Education policy.*

The Thomaston Board of Education is confident you will observe the rules of common courtesy. Thank you.

Melissa Hamel, 265 South Main Street, informed the Board that her daughter has been bullied and racially discriminated against throughout her educational career in Thomaston. Ms. Hamel requests that the Board transfer her student out of district in addition to implementing significant education for all grades, at all schools in Thomaston to educate the children properly regarding bullying, harassment, and discrimination.

Jennifer Chasse, 88 Edgewood Avenue, expressed to the Board that she is still frustrated with the Pre-K Program. Ms. Chasse asked why the new hired position on the agenda was listed as a Special Education Teacher and not a Pre-K Teacher. Ms. Chasse also stated that if it is the plan to hire a Board Certified Behavior Analyst instead of a teacher, please reconsider.

Deborah Degennaro, 103 Clay Street, stated that she had continued concerns over the lack of consistency in the Pre-K room and the continued lack of transparency with administrators.

Peter Worhunsy, stated that he attended the Budget Committee Meeting and was confused that a different company was going to be providing transportation in Thomaston for the next five (5) years.

Joyce Knowlton, Proud Teacher from Thomaston Center School, stated that she loves working at Thomaston Center School and that the school pays attention to and has

programs that promote respect and a culture of caring. Joyce urged everyone to continue what has always been an enthusiastic support of the school and to continue to shape the children to do what is right and to be the type of people with open hearts and open minds.

5. Approval of Minutes:

5.1.Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated December 11, 2017

Vote to accept/approve Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes dated December 11, 2017 as presented

Beth Campbell motioned and Heather Patchell seconded to accept/approve Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes dated December 11, 2017 as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
8	0	0

5.2.Special Meeting of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated December 11, 2017

Vote to accept/approve Special Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes dated December 11, 2017 as presented

Beth Campbell motioned and Heather Patchell seconded to accept/approve Special Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes dated December 11, 2017 as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
8	0	0

5.3.Special Meeting of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated January 22, 2018

Vote to accept/approve Special Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes dated January 22, 2018 as presented

Beth Campbell motioned and Heather Patchell seconded to accept/approve Special Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes dated January 22, 2017 as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
6	0	2
		<i>Maureen McMahon</i>
		<i>Scott Theriault</i>

6. Recognitions:

- 6.1. Rotary Student of the Month – January – Isaiah Zevetchin
- 6.2. Rotary Student of the Month – February – Victoria Bottass
- 6.3. Teaching and Learning Spotlight – Megan (Mazzini) Kellogg

7. Student Representative’s Reports

8. Chairperson’s Report

- 8.1. Letters of Response to Public Comment
- 8.2. CABE 14th Annual Leadership Institute
- 8.3. Board Evaluations & Assessments
 - 8.3.1. *Bylaws of the Board 9400 - Self Evaluation*
 - 8.3.2. *Policy 2400 Form 1 Board of Education Self-Evaluation*
 - 8.3.3. *Thomaston Board of Education Goals Mid-Year Review*
- 8.4. Educational Research Opportunity – Anthony Coss, Eastern Connecticut State University Honor Program
 - 8.4.1. *Education Research Opportunity Email*
 - 8.4.2. *Education Research Opportunity Letter*
 - 8.4.3. *Parent/Guardian Letter*
 - 8.4.4. *Survey*
 - 8.4.5. *Policy 6162.51 Instruction – Surveys of Students (Student Privacy)*

9. Superintendent’s Report

- 9.1. State of Connecticut Department of Education Memorandum – Advanced Placement Potential
- 9.2. State of Connecticut Department of Education – Statewide Student Information System Survey
 - 9.2.1. Statewide Student Information System Survey Memorandum
 - 9.2.2. Student Information System - Survey
- 9.3. State of Connecticut Department of Education Memorandum – State Data Reporting
- 9.4. State of Connecticut Department of Education Memorandum – Minimum Budget Requirement (MBR)
- 9.5. State of Connecticut Department of Education Memorandum - Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program
 - 9.5.1. *Teacher Education and Mentoring Memorandum*
 - 9.5.2. *Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document*
- 9.6. State Board of Education - Adoption of the Position Statement on Social, Emotional and Intellectual Habits for All Students K-3
- 9.7. State of Connecticut Department of Health - Information about Environmental Controls to Limit Spread of Influenza in Schools
- 9.8. Governor Dannel P. Malloy Press Release – School Security Grants
- 9.9. Litchfield County Superintendents Association Legislative Breakfast
- 9.10. Memorandum of Law in Opposition to Defendants’ Motion to Dismiss
- 9.11. Town of Thomaston Safety Committee Meeting Minutes December 13, 2017
- 9.12. Letter to Parents Asbestos Update
- 9.13. Letter to Fire Marshal – Final Annual Inspection Follow Up
- 9.14. Residency Letters
- 9.15. Email to Parents Parent Focus Group on Technology Standards
- 9.16. Effective School Solutions
 - 9.16.1. *Insights, December 2017*
 - 9.16.2. *Solutions, December 2017*

- 9.16.3. *Insights, January 2018*
- 9.16.4. *Solutions, January 2018*
- 9.17. Thomaston Public Schools News for Staff
 - 9.17.1. *December 2017*
 - 9.17.2. *January 2018*
- 9.18. Outdated/Obsolete/Unusable Books at Thomaston High School Media Center
 - 9.18.1. *Book Log, January 9, 2018*
 - 9.18.2. *Book Log, January 24, 2018*
 - 9.18.3. *Book Log, January 25, 2018*
- 9.19. Administrator Reports
 - 9.19.1. *December 2017*
 - 9.19.2. *January 2018*

Vote to accept/approve the Grade 5 English Language Arts Curriculum and the Grade 10 Modern World History Curriculum

Beth Campbell motioned and Maureen McMahon seconded to accept/approve the Grade 5 English Language Arts Curriculum as presented and table the Grade 10 Modern World History Curriculum.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
8	0	0

- 9.20. Enrollment Reports
 - 9.20.1. *December 2017*
 - 9.20.2. *January 2018*
- 9.21. Field Trips
 - 9.21.1. *Bronx Zoo, New York, AP Psych/AP Bio, May 22, 2018, Terri Franzi & Christopher McMullen Thomaston High School*
 - 9.21.2. *Spain, June 2019, Susan Abbott, Thomaston High School*
 - 9.21.3. *Six Flags, Junior Class, June 1, 2018, Jennifer Ewart, Thomaston High School*
 - 9.21.4. *Ellis Island, Sophomore Class, April 26, 2018, Susan Abbott, Thomaston High School*

Vote to accept/approve Field Trips as presented

Beth Campbell motioned and Maureen McMahon seconded to accept/approve the Field Trips as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
8	0	0

- 9.22. Job Description
 - 9.22.1. *Board Certified Behavior Analyst*

Vote to accept/approve Job Description as presented

Beth Campbell motioned and Heather Patchell seconded to accept/approve the Job

Description as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

9.23. Personnel

9.23.1. Katherine Coppola , New Hire, Teacher, Grade 3, Black Rock School, January 2, 2018

9.23.2. Mark Sousa, New Hire, Tutor, Thomaston High School

9.23.3. Susan Root, Resignation, Special Education Teacher, Black Rock School, January 12, 2018

9.23.4. Susan Root, Exit Interview, Special Education Teacher, Black Rock School, January

9.23.5. Nicole Sul, New Hire, Special Education Teacher, Black Rock School

Vote to accept/approve New Hires/Retirements/Resignations as presented

Beth Campbell motioned and Maureen McMahon seconded to accept/approve the New Hires/Retirements/Resignations as presented.

Discussion: None

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

9.23.6. Andrea Bingham, Schedule k Position, Drama Coach, Thomaston Center School

9.23.7. Ashley Royer, Schedule k Position, Drama Coach Assistant, Thomaston Center School

9.23.8. Brittany Thornton, New Hire, Middle School Cheerleading Coach, Thomaston High School

9.23.9. Preston Soeprasetyo, Resignation, Middle School Baseball Coach, Thomaston High School

Vote to accept/approve Schedule K/Coach positions as presented

Beth Campbell motioned and Heather Patchell seconded to accept/approve the Schedule K/Coach positions as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

10. Committee Reports

10.1. Budget/Audit Committee

10.1.1. December Business Report

- Heating Oil 2017-2018
- Regular Education Transportation Bid
- Energy Management Systems
- Maintenance Contract Memorandum

10.1.2. December Finance Report

- 2016/2019 Grant Report
- December 2017 Expenditures \$2,743,040.59

- *December 2017 Transfers \$0.00*

Vote to accept/approve Business and Finance Report and Expenditures for December as presented

Beth Campbell motioned and Maureen McMahon seconded to accept/approve the Business and Finance Report and Expenditures for December as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

10.1.3. January Business Report

- *Heating Oil 2017-2018*
- *Regular Education Transportation Bid*
- *State Board of Education Memorandum – 2017-18 Education Revenue Estimates*
- *State Board of Education Memorandum – 2018-19 Indirect Cost Proposals*
- *State Board of Education Memorandum - Completion of ED003 Form*
- *Thomaston Board of Education Retirement Program for Eligible Members of the Thomaston Education Association*
- *Security Grant*
- *Updated 2018-2019 Operating and Capital Budget*

Vote to accept/approve the Updated 2018-2019 Operating and Capital Budget as presented

Beth Campbell motioned and Heather Patchell seconded to accept/approve the Updated 2018-2019 Operating and Capital Budget as presented.

Discussion: Superintendent Coss explained that the current budget with the addition of the School Psychologist is a 3.95% increase. The Board of Education offered a retirement incentive package to eligible teachers. The minimum requirement for that plan to be executed required ten (10) participants. At the time of the deadline, four (4) applications were received. At the time of the Board meeting, without renegotiating that particular agreement we do not have any retirements to accept and to count as a reduction to the budget. If the Board were to accept the four (4) who have applied, the budget would be reduced by \$104,647.00. That is an estimate, making an assumption that three (3) of those staff would be replaced by a teacher that would be hired at a rate no higher than a Masters Step 3 and one of those staff would be hired at a rate no higher than a Masters Step 5. That would bring the budget to a 3.111% overall increase and for the town it would be a 3.246%.

Superintendent Coss stated that the value of the School Psychologist that was added to the budget is \$70,304.00. If the School Psychologist position was not added into the budget by itself (not including the retirements), the Board would be a 3.477% increase to the town and 3.329% increase overall.

If the value of the four (4) retirements and the value of the School Psychologist were removed from the budget, the budget increase would be 2.667% overall and 2.772% to the town. **Superintendent Coss** recommended to the Board that they consider taking action in

one of the following ways for this budget:

- Choose to accept the budget as presented at 3.95% and vote on it
- Choose to make a change to the budget
- Choose to table taking action on the budget until the next meeting

Maureen McMahon recommended tabling it, stating there are too many variables.

Frank Treglia recommended tabling it.

Superintendent Coss explained that the Board would have to amend the motion to table it.

Maureen McMahon motioned and Beth Campbell seconded to amend the motion to table the vote of the 2018-2019 Operating and Capital Budget.

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
8	0	0

10.1.4. January Finance Report

- *2016/2019 Grant Report*
- *January 2018 Expenditures \$1,332,148.97*
- *January 2018 Transfers \$0.00*

Vote to accept/approve Business and Finance Report and Expenditures for January as presented

Beth Campbell motioned and Maureen McMahon seconded to accept/approve the Business and Finance Report and Expenditures for January as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
8	0	0

10.2. Policy Committee

10.2.1. Presentations - None

10.2.2. Action Items

- *Policy 6142.10 Health Education Program Proposed New Policy*
- *Policy 6142.101 Student Nutrition (School Wellness Policy) Proposed Policy/Regulation Update*
- *Policy Audit Series 5000*
- *Policy Audit Series 7000*

10.2.3. Read Items

- *1st Read Policy Audit Series 6000*

10.2.4. Discussion Items

- *CAPSS Public Policy Agenda*

Vote to accept/approve Policy 6142.10 Health Education Program, Policy and Regulation 6142.101 Health Education Program, Policy Audit Series 5000, and Policy Audit Series 7000 as presented

Beth Campbell motioned and Jennifer Nolan seconded to accept/approve the Policy 6142.10 Health Education Program, Policy and Regulation 6142.101 Health Education

Program, Policy Audit Series 5000, and Policy Audit Series 7000 as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
8	0	0

11. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation and for the discussion of and strategy with respect to collective bargaining with AFSCME, Council 4 local 1303-97.

Beth Campbell motioned and Jennifer Nolan seconded to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of strategy and negotiations with respect to pending litigation and for the discussion of and strategy with respect to collective bargaining with AFSCME, Council 4 local 1303-97 and to invite **Superintendent Coss** at 8:24p.m.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
8	0	0

12. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session at 9:28 p.m.

Beth Campbell motioned and Scott Theriault seconded to amend the agenda to approve **Superintendent Coss** to explore and/or enter into an agreement regarding Agricultural Science and Technology Education.

Beth Campbell motioned and Roxy Fainer seconded approve **Superintendent Coss** to explore and/or enter into an agreement regarding Agricultural Science and Technology Education.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
8	0	0

13. Potential Action on AFSCME contract

Beth Campbell motioned and Frank Treglia seconded to accept/approve the Agreement between the Thomaston Board of Education and Local 1303-97 of Connecticut Council 4 American Federation of State, County and Municipal employees AFL-CIO July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2020.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
8	0	0

14. Adjournment

Beth Campbell motion and Roxy Fainer seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>