



MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Thomaston High School Auditorium, Entrance Door #3

Monday, December 13, 2021 at 7:00 p.m.

Public May Attend In-Person ([see requirements](#))

This meeting can be viewed live on [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#)

Mission Statement:

In a partnership of family, school and community, our mission is to **educate**, **challenge** and **inspire** each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society.

Board of Education Goals:

- 1) Spotlight on one staff member each Regular meeting (September - June)
 - 2) Conduct meetings that are efficient using hybrid meeting technology
 - 3) Provide relevant research and data prior to the formal presentation of that information to the Board.
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Members:

Roxy Fainer, Chairperson
David Colavecchio, Vice Chairperson
Heather Patchell, Secretary

Steven Carr, Treasurer
Francine Coss, Superintendent
Frank Treglia
Marie Eldridge

Sarah Ethier
Beth Campbell
Matthew VanOrmer

Student Representatives 2021 - 2022

Cesar Velez Delaney Jose

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

(Bylaws of the Board 9325.1 – Quorum)

- 1.1. **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Roxy Fainer, Vice Chairperson David Colavecchio, Treasurer Steven Carr, Secretary Heather Patchell, Matthew VanOrmer, Sarah Ethier, Beth Campbell, Frank Treglia, Superintendent Francine Coss**
- 1.3. Student Representative In Attendance: **Delaney Jose** (*arrived at 8:00pm.*)
- 1.4. Student Representative Absent: **Cesar Velez**
- 1.5. Others in Attendance: Andrea Peters, John Perrucci, Jonathan Kozlak, Kristin Bernier, Jessica Bedosky, Gianni Perugini, Sheila McKay, George Newsome, Chris Newsome, Pamela Nascimento & Family, Michael Desrosiers, Emma Desrosiers, Elyssa Desrosiers, Michelle Desrosiers, Marie Eldridge, Zoe Kociszewski, Beau Kociszewski, Dave Seabourne, Karen Newsome, Talha Curuk, Mr. Curuk, Isabella VanOrmer

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9325.2 – Order of Business and Policy 1205 Community Relations – Participation by the Public – Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination)

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education Meeting dated December 13, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

4. Public Participation ▲▲▲ - None

(Bylaws of the Board 9325 – Meeting Conduct)

The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with Thomaston Board of Education Policy 9325 – 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.

5. Approval of Minutes ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes)

5.1. Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated November 8, 2021

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated November 8, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

5.2. Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated November 17, 2021

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Special Meeting Board of Education Minutes dated November 17, 2021 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

6. Recognitions ▲

(Policy 1170 – Community Relations/Recognitions of Students, Citizens, Staff Members, and Members of the Board of Education and Bylaws of the Board 9420 – Recognition of Accomplishments by Citizens, Students, Staff Members or Member of the Board)

6.1. Julia Pupriqi - Rotary Student of the Month - December 2021

6.2. Students of the Month - November 2021

6.2.1. Kindergarten - Zoe Michaud

6.2.2. Grade 1 - Ezra Dobos

6.2.3. Grade 2 - Isabella VanOrmer

6.2.4. Grade 3 - Owen Dobos

6.2.5. Grade 4 - Aiden Wood

6.2.6. Grade 5 - Spencer Dobos

6.2.7. Grade 6 - Talha Curuk

6.2.8. Grade 7 - Beau Kociszewski

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- 6.2.9. Grade 8 - Jackson DiDonato
 - 6.2.10. Grade 9 - Emily Morton
 - 6.2.11. Grade 10 - Katerina Collaku
 - 6.2.12. Grade 11 - Daniel Guerrera
 - 6.2.13. Grade 12 - Ashley Guerin - November Rotary Student
 - 6.3. Emma Desrosiers - Celebration of Young Photographers
 - 6.4. December Staff Spotlight - Pamela Nascimento - Literacy Coach - Thomaston Center School and Black Rock School
 - 6.5. CABE Communications Award
 - 6.5.1. 2021 - 2022 Parent Student Handbook - Thomaston Public Schools
 - 6.5.1.1. Gianni Perugini, Assistant Principal, Thomaston High School, John Perrucci, Thomaston High School, Jonathan Kozlak, Black Rock School, Kristen Bernier, Thomaston Center School
 - 6.6. CABE Board Recognition Award - Fall 2021 - Thomaston Board of Education

7. Presentations ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments)

- 7.1. CABE Annual Legislative Update - Sheila McKay, Sr. Staff Associate for Government Relations
- 7.2. District Improvement Plan - Jessica Bedosky - Director of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment, Andrea Peters - Director of Pupil Services, John Perrucci - Thomaston High School Principal, Kristin Bernier - Thomaston Center School Principal, Jonathan Kozlak- Black Rock School Principal

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve District Improvement Plan

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

- 7.3. District Safety Coordinator Position Overview - Gianni Perugini - Assistant Principal, Thomaston High School
- 7.4. Summary of CIAC Winter Sports Guidance - Superintendent Francine Coss

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve CIAC Winter Sports Guidance as presented.

[Discussion Link](#)

Chairperson Roxy Fainer asked the Board to either vote on the motion on the table or amend the motion per the discussion.

Matthew VanOrmer voted and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve CIAC Winter Sports Guidance as presented allowing the superintendent, principals and athletic directors to make any changes as necessary.

Discussion: None

Opposed: **Frank Treglia**

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-1-0

8. Student Representatives Report ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9160 – Student Representation on the Board of Education)

9. Chairperson's Report ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9121 – Office of the Chairperson)

9.1. Formal Announcement of Board of Education Vacancy

9.1.1. First Quarter Honor Roll - Thomaston High School

9.1.2. Resignation Email from Board of Education Member, Jennifer Nolan to Superintendent Francine Coss

9.1.3. Bylaws of the Board - Policy 9221 - Filling Vacancies

9.1.4. Appointment of new Board of Education member to the unexpired term of recently resigned Board of Education member, Jennifer Nolan

David Colavecchio nominated Marie Eldridge and Frank Treglia seconded the motion

Sarah Ethier nominated Katie Pelletier and Heather Patchell seconded the motion.

Votes by Roll Call

Sarah Ethier - *Katie Pelletier*

Heather Patchell - *Katie Pelletier*

Frank Treglia- *Marie Eldridge*

Beth Campbell - *Marie Eldridge*

David Colavecchio - *Marie Eldridge*

Steven Carr - *Marie Eldridge*

Matthew VanOrmer - *Marie Eldridge*

Chairperson Roxy Fainer declared Marie Eldridge as the newly appointed Board of Education member to the unexpired term of recently resigned Board of Education member, Jennifer Nolan.

10. Superintendent's Report ▲ ▲ ▲

(Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)

10.1. Correspondence

10.1.1. Superintendent Correspondences

10.1.1.1. Letters of quarantine and isolation from Superintendent Coss to parents for COVID-related childcare work absence

10.1.1.2. Dear Colleague Letter - Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities

10.1.1.3. Effective School Solutions - November 3, 2021

10.1.1.4. Effective School Solutions - Insights & Solutions November 2021

10.1.1.5. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - November 10, 2021

10.1.1.6. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - November 17, 2021

10.1.1.7. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - November 24, 2021

10.1.1.8. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - December 1, 2021

10.1.1.9. Effective School Solutions - Insights & Solutions - December 2021

10.1.1.10. Thank you letter to Ken Santopietro from the Thomaston Board of Education for the donation of 16 Thomastonopoly board games to Grades 1-5 for Thomaston Public Schools

10.1.1.11. Thank you card to Superintendent Coss and the Thomaston Board of Education from Maureen McMahon and Family

10.1.1.12. Ed Advance Annual Report for 2020 - 2021

10.1.1.13. Letter of Appreciation to Diana Brandt, Music Teacher - Black Rock School

10.1.1.14. Thank you letter to the staff of Thomaston Public Schools from Jennifer Nolan, Chairperson - Light Up Thomaston Committee

10.1.1.15. Residency Determination Letter - Student C

10.1.1.16. Letter from Stacey Sefcik, Land Use Administrator (Thomaston) regarding the site plan modification #2021-09-21-01 for a low ropes course, composting units, and shed at the

Thomaston Nature Center, 57 Branch Road

- 10.1.1.17. Letter of Expulsion from Superintendent Coss to the parents of student 1
- 10.1.1.18. Holiday Greeting Card to Superintendent Coss and the Thomaston Board of Education - LINQ
- 10.1.1.19. Holiday Greeting Card to Superintendent Coss and the Thomaston Board of Education - Friar Architecture
- 10.1.1.20. Holiday Greeting Card to Superintendent Coss and the Thomaston Board of Education - Xerox Team
- 10.1.1.21. Holiday Greeting Card to Superintendent Coss and the Thomaston Board of Education - Roxy Fainer and Family
- 10.1.1.22. Holiday Greeting Card to Superintendent Coss and the Thomaston Board of Education - Region 16 Superintendent Michael Yamin
- 10.1.1.23. Thank you letter to Attorney Christine Chinni for her presentation at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on November 8, 2021
- 10.1.1.24. Thank you letter to Attorney Nicholas Grello for his presentation at the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education on November 8, 2021
- 10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)
 - 10.1.2.1. CABE Communications Award Letter to Superintendent Coss
 - 10.1.2.2. Board Recognition Award Letter to the Thomaston Board of Education
- 10.1.3. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS) - None
- 10.1.4. United States Department of Education (USDE) - None
- 10.1.5. Department of Public Health (DPH) - None
- 10.1.6. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
 - 10.1.6.1. Signed Letter Regarding Vaccination Efforts
 - 10.1.6.2. 2020 - 2021 Independent Accountant's Report
 - 10.1.6.3. Frequently Asked Questions Regarding Remote Learning
 - 10.1.6.4. Student Assessment News - November 18, 2021
 - 10.1.6.5. Educator Evaluation and Support Feedback Forums
 - 10.1.6.6. Transportation Email to Grantees
 - 10.1.6.7. Professional Support Series for Families - December 2, 2021
 - 10.1.6.8. Connecticut National Guard - Recruiter Access to Schools
 - 10.1.6.9. Student Recruitment for Choice Programs and Specialized Schools
 - 10.1.6.10. Legislative Change in GED Testing
- 10.2. Reports, Contracts and General Information
 - 10.2.1. Reports
 - 10.2.1.1. Thomaston Public Schools Consolidated COVID-19 Data and Vaccination Rate Report - Superintendent Coss
 - 10.2.1.2. Administrator Reports
 - 10.2.1.2.1. December 2021
 - 10.2.1.2.1.1. Band Curriculum Guide - Grades 7 and 8
 - 10.2.1.2.1.2. Chorus Curriculum Guide - Grades 7 and 8
 - 10.2.1.2.1.3. Piano Curriculum Guide - Grades 9-12

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Curriculum Guides as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

10.2.1.3. Enrollment Report

10.2.1.3.1. December 1, 2021

10.2.2. Contracts

10.2.2.1. Snow Removal Contract - Henry M. Osowiecki & Sons - 2021 - 2022 School Year

10.2.2.2. School Readiness Liaison - EdAdvance and Thomaston Public Schools - July 1, 2021 - June 30, 2022

10.2.2.3. Memorandum of Agreement - Thomaston Education Association - dated November 10, 2021

10.2.2.4. Memorandum of Agreement - Thomaston Education Association - D.C. Mega-Trip Coordinator for the 2021 - 2022 School Year

10.2.2.5. Consulting Agreement - George Newsome - December 1, 2021 - December 31, 2022

10.2.3. Grants

10.2.3.1. American Rescue Plan (ARP) Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) - 2022 - Thomaston Public Schools

10.2.3.2. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Special Education Recovery Grant Application

10.2.4. General Information

10.2.4.1. Fund-Raisers

10.2.4.1.1. “Do-It-Yourself” Craft Bags, Interact Club - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.1.2. Baby Photos and Messages, Senior Yearbook - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.1.3. Collection of Hats, Gloves, Scarves, Socks, and Coats - Link Crew - Thomaston High School

10.2.4.2. Gift/Donation - None

10.2.5. Personnel

(Policy 4112/4212 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment)

10.2.5.1. New Hires

10.2.5.1.1. Margaret Prahm, Kitchen Worker, Part time, school year only - Black Rock School - Effective November 8, 2021

10.2.5.1.2. Rachel Giannettini, Building Substitute Teacher (Temporary/Per Diem) - Black Rock School - Effective December 13, 2021

10.2.5.1.3. Jennifer Babb, Art Teacher - Black Rock School and Thomaston Center School - Effective December 15, 2021

10.2.5.2. Transfers/New Assignment - None

10.2.5.3. Reassignment

10.2.5.3.1. Debra Blackwell, Permanent Kitchen Worker to Substitute Kitchen Worker - Effective December 6, 2021

10.2.5.4. Resignations

10.2.5.4.1. Debra Blackwell, Kitchen Worker, Thomaston High School- Effective December 3, 2021

10.2.5.4.2. Joyce Weglarz, Paraprofessional, Black Rock School - Effective December 3, 2021

10.2.5.4.3. Megan Kellogg, Teacher, Thomaston High School - Effective December 22, 2021

10.2.5.4.4. Nicole Thornton, Long Term Substitute Paraprofessional - Thomaston High

School - Effective December 3, 2021

10.2.5.5. Retirement - None

10.2.5.6. Termination

10.2.5.6.1. Justin Naylor, Part-Time Custodian - Effective December 8, 2021

10.2.5.7. Renewals - None

10.2.5.8. Stipends - 2021-2021 - None

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to acknowledge the Superintendent's notification of Personnel, specifically, New Hires/Transfers/ Retirements/Resignations/Renewals/Stipends per Policy 4112/4212 Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

10.2.5.9. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) - None

(Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act)

10.2.5.9.1. Employee 2

10.2.5.9.2. Employee 3

10.2.5.10. Interns and Student Teachers - None

(Policy 1212–Community Relations–School Volunteer)

10.2.5.11. Field Trips (out of state)

(Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools)

10.2.5.11.1. Six Flags New England, Thomaston High School - Class of 2023 - June 3, 2022

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the field trip to Six Flags New England as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

10.2.5.12. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies

(Policy 3260 Business/Non-Instructional Operations Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies)

10.2.5.12.1. Donation of Textbooks - Thomaston Center School

10.2.5.12.1.1. Response Letter from Superintendent Coss to Jessica Bedosky,
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

10.2.5.12.2. Disposal of Textbooks - Thomaston High School

10.2.5.12.2.1. Response Letter from Superintendent Coss to Jessica Bedosky,
Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

II. Committee Reports ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9132 – Standing Committees and Bylaws of the Board 9133 - Special Committees/Advisory Committees)

11.1. Budget/Audit Committee

11.1.1. Business Manager Report

11.1.1.1. November Business Report

11.1.1.1.1. 2021-2022 Budget Table Without Encumbrances

11.1.1.1.2. 2021-2022 Budget Table With Encumbrances

11.1.1.1.3. 2021-2023 Grant Report

11.1.1.1.4. 2021-2022 Transfers

11.1.1.1.5. Expenditures

11.1.1.1.5.1. November 2021: \$1,282,816.33.

David Colavecchio motioned and Frank Treglia seconded to approve the bid award to Dime Oil for #2 Fuel Oil and Diesel in the following amounts:

#2 Fuel Oil \$.0582 Mark-up (Prepayment Option)

Diesel \$.1317 Mark-up (Prepayment Option)

and with a strike price of \$2.10 and Frank Treglia seconded.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept / approve Business and Finance Report and Expenditures per Policy 3432/3433 Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

11.2. Policy Committee

(Policy 2231–Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)

11.2.1. Presentations - None

11.2.2. Discussion Items

11.2.2.1. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 3541.44 - Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Transporting Students in Privately Owned Vehicles

11.2.2.1.1. Current Policy

11.2.2.1.2. CIRMA Marked Up Copy

11.2.2.1.3. CIRMA Statement on Parent Transportation

11.2.2.2. CABE Legal Issues - Speak No Evil: The Legal Contours of Board Member Speech

11.2.2.3. P.A. 21-1 (June Spec. Session) An Act Concerning Responsible and Equitable Regulation of Adult-Use

11.2.2.3.1. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 4118.235 - Personnel -

Certified/Non-Certified - Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco - Drug and Alcohol-Free Workplace, Medical Marijuana Standards

11.2.2.3.1.1. Current Policy

11.2.2.3.1.2. Attorney Marked Up Copy

11.2.2.3.1.3. Clean Copy

11.2.2.3.2. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 4119 - Personnel -

Certified/Non-Certified - Staff Conduct

11.2.2.3.2.1. Current Policy

11.2.2.3.2.2. Attorney Marked Up Copy

11.2.2.3.2.3. Clean Copy

11.2.2.3.3. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 4212.42 - Personnel -

Certified/Non-Certified - Drug and Alcohol Testing for School Bus Drivers

11.2.2.3.3.1. Current Policy

11.2.2.3.3.2. Attorney Marked Up Copy

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- 11.2.2.3.3. Clean Copy
 - 11.2.2.3.4. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 4218.231 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified - Alcohol, Drugs, and Tobacco
 - 11.2.2.3.4.1. Current Policy
 - 11.2.2.3.4.2. Attorney Marked Up Copy
 - 11.2.2.3.4.3. Clean Copy
 - 11.2.3. First Read Items - None
 - 11.2.4. Second Read Items
 - 11.2.4.1. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 6172.3 - Home Schooling - Equivalent Education Under Parental Direction
 - 11.2.4.1.1. Current Policy
 - 11.2.4.1.2. Marked Up Policy
 - 11.2.4.1.3. Clean Copy
 - 11.2.4.2. Thomaston Board of Education Policy 5132 - Students - Dress and Grooming
 - 11.2.4.2.1. Current Policy
 - 11.2.4.2.2. Marked Up Copy (for post-pandemic circumstances)
 - 11.2.4.2.3. Clean Copy (for post-pandemic circumstances)

Steven Carr made a motion and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to fast track the policy approval process per by law 9311, specifically to fast track agenda item 11.2.4.2, Thomaston Board of Education Policy 5132 - Dress and Grooming.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

Steven Carr motioned and David Colavecchio seconded to approve the Thomaston Board of Education Policy 5132 - Dress and Grooming as presented in the policy committee report, specifically adding language to align with the policy to the CIAC winter sports guidance.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

- 11.2.5. Action Items - None

12. Adjournment

David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer adjourned the meeting at 9:31pm.