



MINUTES

THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, December 11, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. Thomaston High School Auditorium Entrance - Door #2

*This meeting can be attended in person by the public ([see requirements](#)) or viewed live/recorded on the [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#).
([Bylaws of the Board 9322 - Public and Executive Sessions](#) and [Bylaws of the Board 9326.1 - Taping/Recording Board Meetings](#))*

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.

2023-2024 Board of Education Goals:

1. The Board will evaluate the Superintendent based on the effectiveness of her leadership in implementation and achievement of the district goals.
2. The Board will participate in biannual professional development provided by CAFE to improve the collaborative leadership team with the Superintendent to focus on priorities around high achievement for all students in the district.

Members:

Roxy Fainer, Chairperson
Tanya Galpin, Secretary
Sarah Ethier
Frank Treglia

Francine Coss, Superintendent
Beth Campbell
Megan Campbell, Student Representative
Landen Galpin, Student Representative

Matthew VanOrmer, Vice Chairperson
Steven Carr, Treasurer
Anthony Kepler
Nathan Vieira

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 7:00pm.
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Roxy Fainer, Vice Chairperson Matthew VanOrmer, Treasurer Steven Carr, Secretary Tanya Galpin, Sarah Ethier, Frank Treglia, Beth Campbell, Nathan Vieira**
- 1.3. Board Member Absent: **Anthony Kepler**
- 1.4. Student Representatives in Attendance: **Megan Campbell, Landen Galpin**
- 1.5. Administrators in Attendance: Cristina Kingsbury, Jennifer Irazabal
- 1.6. Others in Attendance: Pamela Nascimento, Sheila McKay, Olivia Blasko, Michelina Stanley

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)

Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education Meeting dated December 11, 2023 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 the rules of common courtesy and the Bylaws of the Board 9325 – Meeting Conduct:

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- Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter.
 - No boisterous conduct shall be permitted; persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for termination of that person's privilege to address the Board. The Chairperson may clear the room so that Board members may continue the meeting.
 - No oral presentation shall include charges/complaints against any employee of the Board of Education, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified by name.

5. Approval of Minutes ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes)

5.1. [Thomaston Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes - November 13 2023](#)

Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Thomaston Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes dated November 13, 2023 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Frank Treglia**

Motion Carried: 7-0-1

5.2. [Thomaston Board of Education Organizational Meeting Minutes - November 27, 2023](#)

Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Thomaston Board of Education Organizational Meeting Minutes dated November 27, 2023 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Frank Treglia**

Motion Carried: 7-0-1

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. December 2023 Rotary Student of the Month - Nicole Decker

6.2. Students of the Month - November 2023

Grade 12: Jenna Johnson

Grade 8: Aiden Delaney

Grade 2: Hailey Peck

Grade 12: Cierra O'Sullivan

Grade 7: Addison Tita

Grade 1: Maeve Hawley

Grade 12: Velia Russman

Grade 6: Olivia Moher

Kindergarten: Glauk Goroveci

Grade 11: Erti Shkrepi

Grade 5: Gavin McGee

Preschool: Avery Wilson

Grade 10: Kevin Beardsworth

Grade 4: Isabella VanOrmer

Grade 9: Skylar Wain

Grade 3: Ava Zahariadis

6.3. [December 2023 Staff Spotlight – Sarah DeMatteis, Grade 6 Teacher – Thomaston Center School](#)

6.4. [CABE Board of Distinction Award – Thomaston Board of Education](#)

6.5. [Connecticut High School Coaches Association 2023 Field Hockey All-Star Athlete – Grace Kociszewski](#)

6.6. [Ted Alex Sportsmanship Award – Coach Jennifer Ewart and the Thomaston High School Girls Soccer Team](#)

7. Presentations ▲▲▲

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

7.1. [Results of K-3 Reading Waiver – Jennifer Irazabal, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment and Pamela Nascimento, K-6 Literacy Coach](#)

Steven Carr motioned that based on the results of K-3 Waiver Presentation, the Superintendent of Schools respectfully requests specific action from the Thomaston Board of Education, i.e., directive to pursue reconsideration of the application requesting a waiver of Connecticut approved K-3 Reading Curriculum Models or Programs (Waiver) to be approved and **Beth Campbell seconded**.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain : None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

7.2. CABE Annual Legislative Update – Sheila McKay, Senior Staff Associate, Connecticut Boards of Education (CABE)

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. [First Quarter Honor Roll - Thomaston High School](#)

9.2. [Progress Report on 2023-2024 Goals for the Thomaston Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools](#)

9.3. [Wamogo Agricultural Education Advisory Committee Appointment of Kiera Kelly to complete the term of Amy McKenna](#)

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve the appointment of Kiera Kelly to complete the term of Amy McKenna for the Wamogo Agricultural Education Advisory Committee.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

10. **[Superintendent’s Report](#)** ▲ ▲ ▲

(Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)

10.1. Correspondence

10.1.1. Superintendent

10.1.1.1. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - ADHD and Gaming](#)

10.1.1.2. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - Violence Prevention in Schools](#)

10.1.1.3. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - Four Upcoming Webinars](#)

10.1.1.4. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - School Avoidance and Chronic Absenteeism](#)

10.1.1.5. [Effective School Solutions - Insights & Solutions - Supporting Students During a Time of Global Crisis](#)

10.1.1.6. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - Last Webinar of the Year](#)

10.1.1.7. [2022-2023 EdAdvance Annual Report](#)

10.1.1.8. [Holiday Card from Friar Architecture to Superintendent Coss and the Thomaston Board of Education](#)

10.1.1.9. [Determinations of K-3 Reading Waiver Requests by District](#)

10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) - None

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. [2022-2023 Educational Financial System, Special Education CExcess Cost Grant System, Public School Information System, and Independent Accountant’s Report](#)

10.1.6.2. [Student Recruitment for Choice Programs and Specialized Schools](#)

10.1.6.3. [Student Assessment News - November 2023](#)

10.1.6.4. [Updated Guidance Regarding P.A. 23-137 Extending IDEA Eligibility Through the End of the School Year](#)

10.1.6.5. [Visual Access to Mathematics - Free Online Teacher Workshop](#)

10.2. Reports

10.2.1. General Reports

10.2.1.1. [Thomaston Public Schools Food Service Employee Handbook](#) (Updated from February 13, 2023)

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve the Thomaston Public Schools Food Service Employee Handbook as presented.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

10.2.2. Administrator Reports

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- 10.2.2.1. [December 2023](#)
 - 10.2.3. Residency Report - None
([Policy 5118 - Students - Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students](#))
 - 10.2.4. Student Discipline Report - Expulsions - None
([Policy 5144 Students - Discipline](#))
 - 10.2.5. Enrollment Report
([Policy 5112 Students - Age of Attendance](#))
 - 10.2.5.1. [December 4, 2023](#)
 - 10.3. Contracts (*Please refer to the [November 2023 Business Manager's Report](#)*)
 - 10.4. Grants (*Please refer to the [November 2023 Business Manager's Report](#)*)
 - 10.5. General Information
 - 10.5.1. Fundraisers (*Please refer to the [November 2023 Business Manager's Report](#)*)
 - 10.6. Personnel (**Denotes Effective Date*)
([Policy 4112/4212 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment](#))
 - 10.6.1. New Hires
 - 10.6.1.1. Jordan Grenier, temporary, per diem Building Substitute Teacher, Thomaston High School*November 27, 2023
 - 10.6.1.2. Danielle Sullo, Library Media Specialist, Black Rock School*December 4, 2023
 - 10.6.1.3. Noah Hulton, full-time Paraprofessional, Thomaston High School*December 4, 2023
 - 10.6.1.4. Edward Stack, full-time Custodian II, second shift, Thomaston Public Schools*December 4, 2023
 - 10.6.1.5. Nicole Carangelo, full time Paraprofessional*December 4, 2023
 - 10.6.2. Reassignment
 - 10.6.2.1. Theresa Gambino, Return to Original Work Assignment, Custodian II, Black Rock School*December 5, 2023
 - 10.6.3. Transfer/New Assignments
 - 10.6.3.1. Gabrielle Malick, from full-time Paraprofessional, Black Rock School to full-time NAEYC Qualified Paraprofessional, Black Rock School*November 20, 2023
 - 10.6.4. Resignations
 - 10.6.4.1. Kimberly McGirr, Library Media Specialist, Black Rock School*November 3, 2023
 - 10.6.4.2. Annie Clement, Paraprofessional, Thomaston High School*December 12, 2023
 - 10.6.5. Retirement - None
 - 10.6.6. Termination - None
 - 10.6.7. Non-Renewals - None
 - 10.6.8. Stipends
 - 10.6.8.1. Erin Fainer - Class Advisor - Grade 9
 - 10.6.8.2. Kelly Finlay -Basketball - Girls Assistant Basketball Coach
 - 10.6.8.3. Brian Mozalak - Basketball - Girls Varsity Coach
 - 10.6.8.4. Laura Brochu - Basketball - Girls Freshmen Coach
 - 10.6.8.5. James Bunel - Basketball - Boys Assistant Coach
 - 10.6.8.6. Aaron Bunel - Basketball - Boys Varsity Coach
 - 10.6.8.7. Kayla Marble - Basketball - Boys Middle School Coach
 - 10.6.8.8. Rich Kelly - Basketball - Boys B Team Middle School Coach
 - 10.6.8.9. Jonathan Green - Wrestling Varsity Coach
 - 10.6.8.10. Eric Kociszewski - Indoor Track - Junior Varsity Coach
 - 10.6.8.11. Mark Olsen - Indoor Track - Coach
 - 10.6.8.12. Terry Waldron - Cheerleading - Varsity Coach
 - 10.6.8.13. Abby Lee - Cheerleading - Middle School Coach

Steven Carr 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 Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Roxy Fainer, Frank Treglia, Sarah Ethier, Nathan Vieira, Beth Campbell**

Motion Failed: 3-0-5

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

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

10.6.10. Interns and Student Teachers - None

(Policy 1212–Community Relations–School Volunteers)

10.7. Field Trips

(Policy 6153 – Instruction Field Trips – Secondary Schools)

[Museum of Natural History – New York May 20, 2024 – Thomaston High School – Grade 9-12](#)

Steven Carr motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to accept/approve the Museum of Natural History – New York – field trip as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

10.8. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies

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

10.8.1. Disposal of Books

10.8.1.1. [Response Letter from Superintendent Coss to Kristin Bernier, Principal, Thomaston Center School](#)

11. 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. [November 2023 Business Manager’s Report](#)

11.1.1.1. Expenditures for the Month: \$1,478,564.87

11.1.2. Action Item

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 for November 2023.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

12. [Policy Committee](#)

(Policy 2231–Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded per the Bylaws 9311 of the Thomaston Board of Education, policies will be adopted or amended after consideration at two regular meetings of the Board of Education, unless by vote of two-thirds of the members present at a Board of Education meeting, the Board permits a “fast tracking” of the policy adoption or amendment. I move that the Policy Committee’s proposed amendments to Policy 5111 – Students – Admission/Placement/Withdrawal be permitted for “fast tracking” by two-thirds vote of the members present at tonight’s Board of Education meeting.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve the changes to Policy 5111 – Students – Admission/Placement/Withdrawal as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Tanya Galpin, Nathan Vieira**

Motion Carried: 6-0-2

13. Adjournment

Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer adjourned the meeting at 9:03pm.