

**Thomaston Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Thomaston Town Hall
Lena Morton Gallery
May 11, 2009
7:00 p.m.**



Minutes

Present: Laurie Barrett, Deborah April, Holly Herbert, Cheryl Roberts, Laura Rieley, Lucy Santopietro, Beth Yaffe, *Joanne Gilland (arrived 7:09 p.m.)

Absent: Steve Catania and Student Representatives Nick Guertin and Adam Scheppard

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Susan Laone; Board Clerk, Patricia George; High School Vice Principal, John Perrucci; Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson; Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio and Pupil Service Director, Nancy Schnyer

I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:

Chairperson, Laurie Barrett established a quorum and called to order the Regular Meeting of the Thomaston Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

No flag present – pledge deferred

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendments:

- A. Under IX., Superintendent's Report, add an item G, Powerpoint Presentation, Two Schools, One Mission with a vote to accept/approve;
- B. Move XIII. Standing Committee Reports, subsection F., Transportation to immediately follow Section VII. Public Participation.

Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated April 20, 2009

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the minutes as presented. Cheryl Roberts and Laura Rieley abstain, motion carries.

V. Healthy Food Statements:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Deborah April to

approve/accept the Healthy Food Certification Statements, Section 2 Certification, and Section 3 Exemption Statement, for July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 as presented; motion carried unanimously.

VI. Volunteer Recognition:

Board Chair, Laurie Barrett, reiterated her comments of gratitude expressed during the Volunteer Recognition ceremony held just prior to the Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

VII. Public Participation:

Anthony Durso
Old Northfield Road
Thomaston, CT 06787

Mr. Durso had several questions regarding the ECS (Educational Cost Sharing) monies

*Joanne Gilland arrives 7:09 p.m.

XIII. (F) Transportation: (Agenda amended)

Superintendent Mitchell and Business Manager Sue Laone brought the issue to the table in an effort to keep the Board apprised of the new plan. Lori Foley and Steve Worhunsy from Worhunsy Bus Company were both in attendance to answer any questions that arose.

The plan to tier the buses was initially implemented as a “dollar piece”. It also works as a piece in the Superintendent’s initiative of “Two Schools, One mission”. (Black Rock School and Center School) It would allow for the schools to begin and end at the same time, as well as allowing for cross grade discussions and faculty meetings. The office is currently working on a letter to send to parents with the bus route schedules in order to provide parents ample opportunity to review their personal situations.

Business Manager, Sue Laone indicated several notable changes with the tiered busing. The first noted change affects Black Rock School students, whose bus stop pick up and school dismissal times will be adjusted by approximately 15 minutes. Secondly, students attending Play and Learn would no longer have bus transportation to Center School. The third change affects students who attend Maloney and Rotella Magnet Schools. These students will no longer have use of in-town buses but rather a centralized pick up and drop off location yet to be determined.

VIII. Communications:

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept Communications as presented; motion carried unanimously.

IX. Superintendent’s Report:

A. Employee of the Month: Susan Root

Superintendent Mitchell asked that Ms. Schnyer speak on Susan Root's behalf. Ms. Schnyer noted that Susan is a long-term, special education substitute at Center School. She continued by saying that Susan does an awesome job, stays late and is a dedicated hard worker. She couldn't say enough good things about her. Mr. Diorio added his support to Ms. Schnyer's comments.

- B. Student of the Month: Jonathan Lampron – Superintendent Mitchell deferred her comments for the next meeting after Jonathan has had the opportunity to speak at Rotary.
- C. Graduation Presenters:
Vice Principal, Mr. Perrucci made the following corrections with regards to High School Graduation and 8th Grade Awards Night dates. High School Graduation is scheduled for Wednesday, June 24th and 8th Grade Awards Night is scheduled for Tuesday, June 23rd. High School Presenters will be Beth Yaffe and Holly Herbert and 8th Grade Awards Night presenters will be Deborah April and Lucy Santopietro.
- D. Wellness – Where We Are: Superintendent Mitchell indicated that she assembled a team, wrote a policy, and now must work on implementing it.
- E. 2008 Legislative Changes Pertaining to Bullying and School Climate: Included in packet, informational, as presented
- F. Professional Development Planning: A planning team has been established and meets weekly.
- G. Power Point Presentation: Two Schools, One Mission:
Board Chair, Laurie Barrett, said that the program is being designed to advance education without costing a lot of money. The Board has had many discussions and views this mission as positive in moving the schools forward. Superintendent Mitchell provided the Board with a Power Point presentation which outlined the general idea. On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Joanne Gilland to approve accept the concept as presented; motion carried unanimously.

X. Business Manager's Report:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the extension of the AFSCME Contract for the period of July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
Ms. Schnyer went over the information noted in her written report. She added that she is currently interviewing Speech Pathologist candidates.
- B. High School Principal, James Wenker (absent, no report)
- C. Thomaston Center School, James Diorio
Principal Diorio added the following to his written report:
 - Math classes have concluded;
 - Willy Wonka, Jr. was an outstanding success;

- Grade 4 State Fair – Approximated that 90% of 4th grade parents were in attendance and the students did an outstanding job showcasing their skills.
- D. Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson
Principal Johnson added the following to his report:
- Steve Worhunsky of Worhunsky Transportation donated the buses to transport students to see Dr. Doolittle at the Opera House. Due to lack of funds, it was noted at an earlier Board meeting that students were not going to be able to attend.
 - The Wizard of Oz play was recently held and was a huge success.

XII. Student Representatives' Reports:

No reports

XIII. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Budget
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept the Budget Expenditures and Monthly Transfers as presented; motion carried unanimously.
- B. Curriculum/Instruction:
No report
- C. Maintenance/Facilities:
No report
- D. Technology:
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Deborah April to approve/accept the District Technology Plan for July 1, 2009 to June 30, 2012 as presented; motion carried unanimously.
- E. Personnel:
No Report
- F. Transportation:
Moved per amendment
- G. Athletics:
No report
- H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee:
No report
- I. Policy:
No report
- J. Government Relations:
No report

K. Affiliations:

No report

XIV. Old Business:

XV. New Business:

XVI. Items for Future Agendas:

A. Two Schools – Two Campuses = One Unified Program

Superintendent Mitchell will keep the Board apprised as she proceeds with the initiative.

XVII. Executive Session:

XVIII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Deborah April to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:01 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.