

**Thomaston Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Thomaston Town Hall
*Meeting Room One
August 10, 2009
7:00 p.m.**

DRAFT

Minutes

Present: Laurie Barrett, Beth Yaffe, Lucy Santopietro, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert

Absent: Deborah April, Steve Catania, Cheryl Roberts, Laura Rieley

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; 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 7:06 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair, Laurie Barrett, led the pledge of allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendments.

- Under Item VIII. Superintendent's Report, add subsection E, Student Representatives to the Board of Education
- Under Item XII. Standing Committee Reports, subsection E. Personnel, add Principal Search Information

No further discussion, motion carried unanimously

IV. Approval of Minutes:

- Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated June 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the minutes as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
- Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated June 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the minutes as presented; no further discussion; Joanne Gilland abstains, motion carried unanimously.
- Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated June 17, 2009 at 8:00 a.m.
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the minutes as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

- Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated July 8, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes as presented; no further discussion; Laurie Barrett abstains; motion carried unanimously.
- Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated July 27, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the minutes as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

V. **Student Presentation:** n/a

VI. **Public Participation:** n/a

VII. **Communications:**

A. New Hires:

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept new hires as presented.

Further Discussion:

Superintendent Mitchell added further discussion on the hiring of Patricia Keparutis as a math teacher at Thomaston High School under a one-year contract. Ms. Mitchell stated that she had the Board Attorney, Dan Murphy, compose a memorandum of agreement, which Ms. Keparutis has not signed to date. Ms. Mitchell had the Board's attorney review a retirement incentive package which Ms. Keparutis received and accepted at the end of 2008. The Board's concern on re-hiring Ms. Keparutis is that she not be allowed to receive an additional retirement package if one were to be offered.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Resignations:

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept resignations as presented.

Further Discussion:

Superintendent Mitchell publicly wished Mr. Wenker luck in his new endeavor.

Motion carried unanimously

C. Athletics: n/a

D. Transfers: n/a

E. Leaves of Absence:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept leaves of absence as presented.

Further Discussion:

Superintendent Mitchell noted that Tricia Zubrowski requested a one-year leave of absence to coach at the University of Bridgeport. Prior to bringing the request to the Board, Ms. Mitchell researched the leave with CEA Representative, Bob Namnoum.

She understood, under this leave, Ms. Zubrowski would not be entitled to a salary or health care benefits from the Thomaston Board of Education. If the Board approved the leave, Ms. Mitchell wanted to make it clear that Tricia would not be protected from any budget cuts in the future. Her comments were a direct reflection on the difficulties brought forward during the 2009/2010 budget process, specifically in the arena of staff reduction.

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Field Trips:

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the field trips as presented. No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

G. Correspondence: as presented

VIII. Superintendent's Report

A. Employee of the Month: n/a

B. Student of the Month: n/a

C. Superintendent Goals for 2007/2009

Superintendent Mitchell reviewed the current status of goals established for the period of 2007 to 2009 specifically those encompassing Curriculum, Professional Development, District Safety, Completion Projects, Organizational Structure for Leadership and Communication, and Parent Involvement.

D. H1N1 – Planning – Non-Pharmaceutical Interventions

Administrators and Mrs. Mitchell will meet prior to the start of school in August to plan a programmatic piece.

E. Student Board Representatives

The Board will need to make a decision with regards to having student representatives attend meetings. Ms. Mitchell feels it is a valuable idea to continue.

IX. Business Manager's Report:

No Report

X. Administrators' Reports:

A. Director of Pupil Services, Nancy Schnyer

Ms. Schnyer distributed an informational flyer to Board members regarding a collaborative learning program between Wheeler Clinic and the Thomaston Public Schools. She continued by providing an oral presentation explaining the benefits of program and how it would be implemented.

B. High School Principal, James Wenker – no report

C. Center School Principal, James Diorio – no report

D. Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson

In addition to his written report, Mr. Johnson updated the Board on the boilers, the discovery of leaking pipes, common planning time for teachers and a job well done by Craig Lefebvre as the new head custodian.

XI. Student Representatives' Reports:

No Report

XII. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Budget:

Expenditures:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the budget expenditures as presented; no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

B. Curriculum/Instruction:

No Report

C. Maintenance/Facilities:

No Report

D. Technology:

No Report

E. Personnel:

Principal search committee:

Concerned about the time limit, Mrs. Mitchell wanted to bring to the Board a discussion regarding the process that would be implemented to secure a Principal at the high school. Several ideas were discussed including an internal transfer of a qualified person.

F. Transportation:

No report

G. Athletics:

No report

H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee:

No report

I. Policy:

No report

J. Government Relations:

No report

K. Affiliations:

CABE/CAPSS November Registration (as presented)

XIII. Old Business:

None

XIV. New Business:

None

XV. Items for Future Agendas:

None

XVI. Executive Session:

XVII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:02 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

*Meeting relocated to Meeting Room One from Lena Morton Gallery