

**Thomaston Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
Thomaston Town Hall  
Meeting Room One  
December 14, 2009  
7:00 p.m.**



**Minutes**

**Present:** Laurie Barrett, George Counter, Beth Yaffe, Lucy Santopietro, Roxy Fainer, Steve Catania, Joanne Gilland (arrived 7:03 p.m.), Holly Herbert, Laura Rieley

**Absent:** n/a

**Also Present:** Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Susan Laone; Board Clerk, Patricia George; High School Principal, John Perrucci; Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson; and School Board Representatives, Alexander Lee and Leah Miller

**I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:**

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:**

Student Representatives, Alex Lee and Leah Miller, led the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Call for nominations to establish BoE Chairperson:**

Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell, called for nominations of the Chairperson.

**Laurie Barrett** was nominated by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Holly Herbert to serve as **Chair**.

**George Counter cast a ballot in favor. Motion carried unanimously.**

**IV. Election of Officers:**

**Beth Yaffe** was nominated by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by George Counter to serve as **Vice Chair**.

**Lucy Santopietro** was nominated by Beth Yaffe and seconded by George Counter to serve as **Secretary**.

(Joanne Gilland arrived 7:03 p.m.)

**Laura Rieley** was nominated by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to serve as **Treasurer**.

**Chair, Laurie Barrett, was asked to cast one ballot for each of the nominees.**

**All carried unanimously.**

### **Board of Education Members**

Laurie Barrett Member	Chair	Holly Herbert
Steve Catania Treasurer	Member	Laura Rieley
George Counter	Member	Lucy Santopietro Secretary
Ruthann (Roxy) Fainer	Member	Beth Yaffe Vice Chair
Joanne Gilland	Member	

#### **V. Nomination of Subcommittee Members and Chairs**

The following subcommittees and chairs were established:

Athletics: Beth Yaffe, Chair; George Counter, Holly Herbert

Budget: Holly Herbert, Chair; Laurie Barrett, Laura Rieley, Lucy Santopietro, Steve Catania

Building Committee: Laurie Barrett, Chair; George Counter

CABE: Joanne Gilland, Chair

Curriculum: Lucy Santopietro, Chair; Joanne Gilland, Laura Rieley

Education Connection: Roxy Fainer, Chair; George Counter

Education Enrichment Fund: Laurie Barrett, Chair; Joanne Gilland, Lucy Santopietro

Facilities and Maintenance: Laurie Barrett, Chair

Negotiations: Lucy Santopietro, Chair; Steve Catania, Laura Rieley, Holly Herbert

Personnel: Beth Yaffe, Chair; Roxy Fainer

Policies: Joanne Gilland, Chair; Steve Catania

Transportation: Holly Herbert, Chair; George Counter

#### **VI. Approval of Agenda:**

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Joanne Gilland to approve/accept the agenda as presented, no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

#### **VII. Approval of Board of Education Minutes for:**

Special Meeting of Monday, November 9, 2009 (5:00 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 and Laura Rieley abstain, motion carried unanimously.

Special Meeting of Monday, November 9, 2009 (5:30 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 and Laura Rieley abstain, motion carried unanimously.

Regular Meeting of Monday November 9, 2009 (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 Monday, November 16, 2009

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the minutes as presented, no further discussion, Steve Catania, Joanne Gilland and Laura Rieley abstain, motion carried unanimously.

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

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

**X. Communications:**

**A. New Hires:**

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by George Counter to approve/accept the new hire, no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

**B. Resignations:** n/a

**C. Athletics:**

Athletic schedules, informational

**D. Transfers:** n/a

**E. Leave of Absence:** n/a

**F. Field Trips:** n/a

**G. Correspondence:**

Informational, as presented

**H. 2010/2011 School District Calendar:**

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the 2010/2011 School District Calendar as presented, no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

## **XI. Superintendent's Report**

- A. Student of the month, Katie Martin: Mrs. Mitchell remarked that Katie is one individual in a group of leaders at the high school, specifically with the Interact Club. She added that Katie is a charming young woman and a good public speaker.
- B. Healthy Food Certification: Superintendent Mitchell shared correspondence from the State noting that Thomaston has successfully submitted all documentation required for certification. She thanked Sue Laone for coordinating the efforts with district administrators and Michael Allen, the Food Service Director at Education Connection.
- C. H1N1: All districts received a letter from the state which provided an overview of the H1N1 flu. Several representatives from the Torrington Area Health Center attended a recent LCSA (Litchfield County Superintendents' Association) meeting where an update was provided. Superintendent Mitchell found this very informative and helpful.
- D. Budget Retreat  
A budget retreat is scheduled for January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010 with Administrators, Business Manager Sue Laone and the Superintendent. The purpose is to solidify the 2010/2011 budget.

## **XII. Business Manager's Report:**

- A. Capital Budget Review  
Business Manager, Sue Laone, included a copy of the capital outlay expenditure plan in the Board report. She reviewed each line with the Board and fielded their questions.  
On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the capital outlay budget with the following amendments:
  - The roof at Black Rock School will be increased to \$20,000 from the presented figure of \$12,000.
  - District Technology will depict a \$20,000 expenditure in years 2, 3, 4, and 5 as opposed to just year 1.No further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

## **XIII. Administrators' Reports:**

- A. Principal Diorio added the following to his written report:
  - The Drama Club will be presenting, "The Pirates of Penzance". The Opera House has stated that the Drama Club will be able to use their facility for the May production.
  - The auditorium bid opening is scheduled for Tuesday, December 15<sup>th</sup>. The bid includes replacing seats, handicap accessibility, flooring and new perimeter doors. Mr. Diorio is hopeful that the Building Committee will accept the bid.

- Math consultant, Paula Banas, continues her data work with staff.
- B. Principal, Paul Johnson: written only
- C. Principal, John Perrucci:  
Mr. Perrucci highlighted some of the information included in his written report including Progress in RTI (response to intervention), Data Teams, student civic duty, bullying, and curriculum and instruction.
- D. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
- The Integrated Preschool at Black Rock School achieved early childhood program standards and is now NAEYC accredited according to Ms. Schnyer. She publicly thanked all those who worked hard to see the process completed.

**XIV. Student Representatives' Reports:**

Student representative, Alex Lee, updated the Board regarding the recent visit of Veterans to the school. A rose was given to each Veteran who was related to a student. Approximately 25 Veterans attended the event.

Student representative, Leah Miller, noted that the focus of the Student Council is currently on service projects, especially during the holiday season.

**XV. Standing Committee Reports:**

- A. Budget:  
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Steve Catania to approve/accept the budget expenditures and transfers as presented, no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.
- B. Curriculum/Instruction:  
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Joanne Gilland to approve/accept the science curriculum. The science curriculum was provided to Board members for review at the November 9, 2009 meeting. Mr. Perrucci indicated that minor content changes may occur once the curriculum is implemented.
- C. Maintenance/Facilities:  
No Report
- D. Technology:  
No Report
- E. Personnel:  
No Report
- 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:  
No report

**XVI. Old Business:**

A. Honor Roll Proposal

Mr. Perrucci investigated several districts' policies and developed a proposal for Thomaston based on Northwest Regional's current honor roll criteria. He added, however, that the proposal does have strings attached. He went on to discuss the details of both the current and proposed policies.

Upon concluding his oral presentation, the Board asked that Mr. Perrucci survey the staff for the pros and cons of utilizing a numeric grading system over the current letter system. He was asked to bring his findings to the next Board meeting.

The item has been tabled for the January 11, 2010 Board meeting.

- B. Strategic School Profile (SSP) further review: Superintendent Mitchell asked if Board members had questions pertaining to the SSP report.
- C. "Team" /Teacher Education and Mentoring Program Public Act No. 09-6  
Superintendent Mitchell provided the Board with state correspondence on the TEAM (Teacher Education Mentoring) Program. Topics included 2009/2010 transition from BEST to TEAM, the Implementation of TEAM, and the TEAM facilitator.

**XVII. New Business:**

George Counter agreed to the position of liaison between the Board of Education and the newly formed Town Track Committee headed by Michael Burr.

**XVIII: Items for Future Agendas:**

**XIX. Executive Session:**

**XX. Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Steve Catania and seconded by George Counter to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:55 p.m., no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.