



Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One
Date: Monday, August 9, 2010
7:00 p.m.

Members: Laurie Barrett, Chair; Beth Keutzer, Vice Chair; Lucy Santopietro, Secretary; Laura Rieley, Treasurer; Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, Roxy Fainer, George Counter and Steve Catania, Members

Minutes

Present: Laurie Barrett, George Counter, Beth Keutzer, Lucy Santopietro, Roxy Fainer, Laura Rieley, Steve Catania and Joanne Gilland

Absent: Holly Herbert

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Sue Laone; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Black Rock School/Thomaston Center School Administrators, Principal, Anne Uberti and Assistant Principal, Alisha Lyons; High School Principal, John Perrucci; High School Assistant Principal, Jonathan Kozlak; and Board Clerk, Patricia George

- 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 7:01 p.m.

- II. Pledge of Allegiance:**

- III. Approval of Agenda:**
On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the agenda with the following amendments:
 - Under Item XII., Old Business, add an item A. ECG EngineeringNo further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

- IV. Approval of Minutes:**
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Keutzer to approve/accept the minutes of the Board of Education for Regular Meeting dated June 14, 2010; no further discussion; Steve Catania and Joanne Gilland abstain; motion carried unanimously.

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Keutzer to approve/accept the minutes of the Board of Education for Special

Meeting dated June 15, 2010; no further discussion; Steve Catania and Laurie Barrett abstain; motion carried unanimously.

V. Healthy Food Certification Statement for July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011:

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Laurie Barrett to approve/accept Section 2 Certification Statement of the Healthy Food Certification Statement for July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 which reads:

*“On behalf of the Thomaston Board of Education and pursuant to section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, I hereby certify that all food items offered for sale to students in the school(s) under our jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education **will** meet said standards during the period of July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Such certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored.”*

No further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept Section 3 Exemption Statement of the Healthy Food Certification Statement for July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011 which reads:

*“Pursuant to section 10-215f of the Connecticut General Statutes, I hereby acknowledge that the board of education or governing authority, **will** exclude from certification food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards, provided that (1) such food is sold in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend, (2) such sale is at the location of the event, and (3) such food is not sold from a vending machine or school store.*

No further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

VI. Communications:

A. On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the new hires with the following correction:

Victoria Goetz should read Virginia Goetz

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

- B. On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Keutzer to approve/accept the resignations as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Items C. D. and E. n/a

F. Field Trip:

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

- G. Adoption of Guidelines for Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM)
(as presented)

VII. Superintendent's Report:

- A. Goals were established for the district during the 2009/2010 school year. In conjunction with the formation of these goals, Superintendent Mitchell would now like to create a mission statement that is interrelated and functional and asked that the Board review the mission statement that is currently in place.
- B. Superintendent Mitchell would like to establish a Community Relations committee to make education more visible in more places. She added that Board members, Beth Keutzer and Lucy Santopietro currently serve as liaisons for the High school and Center school respectively. Ms. Mitchell feels this works for internal relations and would now like to bring the initiative to the community.
- C. Superintendent Mitchell brought forward information from CABE regarding a Board self-evaluation. Ms. Mitchell asked the Board if they would be interested and, if so, would gather more information on the process. It is scheduled to be an item on a future board agenda.
- D. Superintendent Mitchell noted that an Administrators' Retreat was scheduled for Tuesday, August 10th at Principal Perrucci's house. An agenda was established that would cover a host of topics.
- E. An article written by Commissioner Mark Mcquillan, "Bullies Must Be Stopped Early", was forwarded to each of the building administrators. Superintendent Mitchell asked the administrators to include the article in the new year teacher packets.

VIII. Business Manager's Report: n/a

IX. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
Ms. Schnyer's report was not her conventional administrator's report this month. Instead, she opted to highlight a student who recently graduated from American School for the Deaf in West Hartford.
- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
Principal Perrucci indicated that RTI classes are in place and students have been enrolled. He acknowledges that he may meet with some resistance from parents but defended his position by stating that there was significant data evidence that went into placing the students i.e. screening, CAPT scores, and classroom performance. Mr. Perrucci also touched on the need for a school resource officer.
- C. Two Schools Principal (BRS and TCS), Anne Uberti
Ms. Uberti, who provided the Board with her very first report, indicated that she had been "very busy". Most of her energy was put into reworking schedules. Two teacher teams are now in place for Center School. She said she wanted to change school culture to a "student focus".

X. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Budget:
On a motion made by Laura Rieley and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the budget expenditures as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
- B. Curriculum and Instruction: n/a
- C. Maintenance/Facilities: n/a
- D. Technology: n/a
- E. Personnel:
 - 1. Exit Interview: Kristin Schwarz, Chemistry Teacher, THS
It was established during the exit interview between Ms. Schwarz and Superintendent Mitchell, that Kristin left the district for financial reasons. Kristin enjoyed both teaching and coaching in Thomaston but had secured a position in West Hartford which would pay her a significantly hire salary.
- F. Transportation:
 - 1. Special Education Transportation Bid
On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Keutzer to approve/accept the bid as presented.

Further discussion
Business Manager, Sue Laone, indicated that the bidding process began back in May and ended in July. There were four original bids. After meeting with each bidder

separately, it was decided that the best fit for the district would not be the lowest bidder, but rather Wollenberg Transportation, who was number two in the line up. Justification for the recommendation included the district's ability to regionalize and share services.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Magnet Transportation
Superintendent Mitchell stated that concerns regarding the town library parking lot as a bus stop were brought to her attention and prompted a review of the area. The high school is now being looked at as a possible alternate location for students who attend Rotella and Maloney for the upcoming school year.

G. Athletics: n/a

H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee:

1. With Principal Diorio's retirement, Superintendent Mitchell attended the recent Building Committee meeting of August 3rd. She noted that the Center School project is nearing the end and commented on the final piece, which is the auditorium.

Board chair, Laurie Barrett, suggested a ribbon cutting ceremony once the project is completed.

I. Policy: n/a

J. Government Relations: n/a

K. Affiliations:

1. The annual CABE/CAPSS convention is scheduled for November 19th and 20th. Members were reminded to contact Central office with registration information if they were planning to attend.

L. Legislation

1. School Reform
Superintendent Mitchell will include updates on legislation and their impact on the district on future agendas.

XI. Public Participation:

Mr. Joseph Finn
222 Bayberry Drive
Thomaston

Expressed his concerns over the Board not accepting the lowest bidder for Special Education Transportation.

Kathy Thompson
88 Trestle Lane
Thomaston

Asked for further clarification of RTI (response to intervention)

Teressa Bocci
Ridgewood Acres

Disheartened to learn that Thomaston lost another teacher. Would like a plan to retain teachers in Thomaston.

Chet Doheny
Connecticut Transportation Solutions LLC

Thanked the Board for the opportunity to bid on the Special Education Transportation.

Continued by stating what his company could provide for the district.

XII. Old Business:

A. ECG Engineering
Business Manager, Sue Laone, asked the Board for input on moving forward with the initiative. The firm, who presented to the Board in May, serves as a technical consultant to school districts that are looking to make energy efficient related upgrades to their buildings.

Board Chair, Laurie Barrett asked Ms. Laone to investigate the next step and confirm that there are no costs.

XIII. New Business:

XIV. Items for Future Agendas:

XV. Executive Session: n/a

XVI. Adjournment:

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Beth Keutzer to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:26 p.m.; no further discussion; motion passed unanimously.