



**Minutes**  
**THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One  
Date: Monday, November 8, 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, Holly Herbert, Roxy Fainer, Laura Rieley, and Steve Catania

**Absent:** Lucy Santopietro, Beth Keutzer, Joanne Gilland

**Also Present:** Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Sue Laone; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Black Rock School/Thomaston Center School Principal, Anne Uberti; High School Principal, John Perrucci; Board Clerk, Patricia George; and Student Representatives Curtis Dunn and Alex Lee

- 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:**  
Student Representatives led the pledge of allegiance.
  
- III. **Approval of Agenda:**  
On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Steve Catania to approve/accept the agenda as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
  
- IV. **Approval of Minutes:**  
On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by George Counter to approve/accept the minutes from the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated October 18, 2010; no further discussion; Steve Catania abstained; motion carried.  
  
On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes from the Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated October 25, 2010; no further discussion; Roxy Fainer, Laurie Barrett and Steve Catania abstained, motion carried.
  
- V. **Student Presentations:**

Student Representatives Alex Lee and Curtis Dunn reported on upcoming activities at the High school including Homecoming festivities and a Veterans' Day all school assembly.

**VI. Communications:**

Item E: Leaves of Absence:  
On a motion made by Steve Catania and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the leaves of absence as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

Item H: Proposed Regular Meeting Dates for 2011  
On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Steve Catania to approve/accept the proposed Regular Board Meeting Dates for 2011

Further Discussion:

Board meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of each month excluding July. In October, the Columbus Day holiday falls on the second Monday of the month. It was then the consensus of the Board to hold the Regular Meeting of the Board on the third Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup>.

Motion carried unanimously.

**VII. Superintendent's Report:**

- A. Student of the Month: (will resume with next month's report)  
Superintendent Mitchell will report on Student-of-the-Month, Stephen Mondak, after his scheduled appearance at the November 18<sup>th</sup> Rotary luncheon.
- B. LCSA Banquet/Student Recipients  
Every year in November, The Litchfield County Superintendent's Association recognizes students for their community service efforts and academic prowess. The recognition is in the form of a banquet and will be held this year at the Cornucopia in Torrington on November 18<sup>th</sup>. Those students from Thomaston being honored this year are Robert Archibald, Samantha Bird, Melissa Mohamed and Kurtis Neddermann.
- C. Connecticut Academic Performance Test 2010  
Superintendent Mitchell acknowledged two students in the district who performed at advanced level in mathematics, reading, writing and science on the 2010 Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT): Katy Bennett and Sarah Voor.
- D. Public Relations Committee Overview/Powerpoint Presentation

Superintendent Mitchell continues her efforts in organizing a Community Relations Committee for the district. She provided a brief Powerpoint presentation outlining her plan.

- E. Three District Meeting (Thomaston, Terryville, Wolcott)  
A recent meeting was held with Superintendent's and their Business Managers from Thomaston, Terryville and Wolcott to discuss regionalization or sharing of services. The primary focus was on transportation. Other topics of discussion included health care, technology, and special education.

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

Ms. Laone provided the following as her verbal report:

- A. 2011-2012 budget materials are currently with the building administrators to begin the budgeting process;
- B. Bayberry Drive remains under construction with limited bus transportation;
- C. The investigation continues into an overcrowding compliant on the WAMS bus;
- D. The price of the student accident insurance policy has tripled, which has prompted the investigation of cost savings options.

#### **IX. Administrators' Reports:**

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer  
Written report, as presented
- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
  - 1. Several Board members commented on Principal Perrucci's "open mic" program and how it is orchestrated.
  - 2. Questions were posed regarding transportation for students who choose to stay after school for the homework club. Principal Perrucci noted that it is an issue and that he plans to look into a late bus for next year.  
  
Typically students are given a bus pass to utilize the Black Rock School buses. Only students who are remaining after school for academic purposes are provided with a pass. The only issue involves time constraints. Homework club commences at 2:15 and the busses at Black Rock leave at 2:45. Homework club is scheduled from 2:15 to 3:15 p.m.
  - 3. After reading Principal Perrucci's report regarding technology issues, Board member George Counter stated that up-to-date technology is a critical issue for any modern day high school." He added that "it costs money and there needs to be a plan in place as to how it gets updated annually."

Mr. Perrucci concurred with Mr. Counter's statements and added that "by implementing technology into a program, you grow dependent on it and starve for more. Technology is growing faster than the district can keep up with."

- C. Two Schools Principal (BRS and TCS), Anne Uberti  
Written report, as presented

**X. Standing Committee Reports:**

- A. Budget:
  - 1. Budget Expenditures
  - 2. Monthly TransfersOn a motion made by Laura Rieley and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the budget line year-to-date expenditures in the amount of \$4,127,425.10 and the transfers for the month of October 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: n/a
- F. Transportation: n/a
- G. Athletics: n/a
- H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee: n/a
- I. Policy: n/a
- J. Government Relations: n/a
- K. Affiliations: n/a
- L. Legislation: n/a

**XI. Public Participation:**

Kim Foss  
45 Blue Trail Drive

Ms. Foss made an inquiry regarding securing a grant writer for the district. The idea was brought forward during last year's budget process.

David Colavecchio  
52 Lynnrich West

Mr. Colavecchio provided a brief overview of the Finance Board's cost savings initiatives for the upcoming budget year including refinancing bonds.

**XII. Old Business:**

A. Technology Update

- With major upgrades to technology needed, a question was posed as to whether or not it could be done on a lease-purchase basis. The example was a \$500,000 technology budget at \$50,000 for the next ten years. What are the legalities? Can the Board legally bind the town to a financial lease agreement?
- Business Manager Sue Laone reiterated some of the information discussed during the Superintendent's report regarding sharing resources between several school districts. Technology was included in that conversation.
- Discussions and follow up continue with regards to the district's phone system

**XIII. New Business:**

- A. Board Member George Counter asked that the Athletic Director report regarding C.I.A.C. playoffs

**XIV. Items for Future Agendas:**

**XV. Executive Session: n/a**

**XVI. Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Steve Catania and seconded by Holly Herbert to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:26 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.