



Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall - Meeting Room One

Date: Monday, January 10, 2011

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, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert and Laura Rieley

Absent: Steve Catania

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 Administrators, John Perrucci and Jonathan Kozlak; Board Clerk, Patricia George; and Student Representative Curtis Dunn

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 7:03 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Student Representative Curtis Dunn led the 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 amendment:

Under X. Standing Committee Reports, Subsection A., Item 2, Budget Line Transfers - enter into agenda revised transfers, which included Black Rock School, Thomaston Center School, Thomaston High School, and Technology in addition to Pupil Services.

No further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Education dated December 13, 2010; no further discussion; Roxy Fainer abstained, motion carried.

V. Student Presentations:

Student Representative Curtis Dunn reported on upcoming activities at the high school, which included a dance and Ping Pong tournament. Curtis also spoke about the recent Challenge Day program stating that it was a “really great learning experience.”

VI. Communications:

Item B: Resignations/Exit Interviews:

Superintendent Mitchell met with Ms. Karen Sandor, who recently resigned from her position as Spanish teacher at the high school. Ms. Sandor has accepted a position in Woodbury which will be closer to her residence. Additionally, Ms. Sandor will receive a higher salary and is hoping to serve in the capacity of teacher-level curriculum coordinator.

Item G: Correspondence

In a letter to Nancy Wolfe at CREC, Superintendent Mitchell stated that “the Center for Creative Youth Program at Wesleyan represents an outstanding opportunity for students to work in a pre-college environment that focuses on the arts. We were very fortunate to have Cameron Chaplen... as a resident in the Wesleyan Program”. Ms. Mitchell noted that although the program is expensive, she is hoping to hang onto it.

Item H. 2011/2012 School Calendar

On a motion made by Beth Keutzer and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the 2011/2012 school district calendar as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

VII. Superintendent’s Report:

A. Student of the Month- January:

Patrick Neumann is scheduled to attend a rotary luncheon on Thursday, January 13th. Ms. Mitchell will provide details of his resume at the next Board meeting.

B. Regional Cooperation:

Superintendent Mitchell along with Superintendents and Business Managers from Wolcott and Plymouth continue their conversations regarding sharing services as a cost saving measure. Most recent conversations were related to transportation.

C. CABB – Administration of Medication – Update:

Superintendent Mitchell indicated that there will be changes in the administration of medication that will eventually affect the district’s policy.

VIII. Business Manager’s Report:

Board member, George Counter had several questions relating to Ms. Laone’s report, specifically, he addressed the Job Funds monies. He had questions regarding the School Resource Officer at the high school and the Media Specialist, a split position between Black Rock School and Thomaston Center School.

Principal Perrucci is still working out the details for the school resource officer, which has been changed to a Community Outreach position.

Principal Uberti indicated that she has had difficulty hiring a Media Specialist but she continues her efforts.

IX. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer
Ms. Schnyer reiterated some of the material contained in her written report. In particular she highlighted the recent completion and submission of a NAEYC Early Childhood programs report, the upcoming preschool open house and SEDAC-G grant work.
- B. High School Principal, John Perrucci
Principal Perrucci was scheduled to provide a study presentation on the current grading policy but chose to provide a summary in lieu of. He also spoke to the Board regarding a new course he would like to implement at the high school titled "Playwright and Production". This course is still in the planning phase. Additionally he spoke about the recently submitted NEASC report as well as other items contained in his written report.
- C. Two Schools Principal (BRS and TCS), Anne Uberti
Principal Uberti is currently in the planning phase of linking K-6 to the high school.

On a different note, she was mostly excited about the number of students who have signed up to take instrument lessons at the Center school. The number of students is currently in the vicinity of 50.

X. Standing Committee Reports:

- A. Budget:
1. Summary by Budget Line Y-T-D expenditures
2. Budget Line Transfers
3. 2011/2012 Proposed Pre-K Tuition
On a motion made by Laura Rieley and seconded by Beth Keutzer to approve/accept items 1 through 3 as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
4. 2010/2011 Six Months Ended Financial Summary – December 31, 2010
Written report as presented.
- B. Curriculum and Instruction: n/a
- C. Maintenance/Facilities:
1. Building Energy Audits
On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept energy audits;

Further Discussion:

It was the consensus of the Board to move forward with the audit portion of the program at this point in time.

Business manager Sue Laone reiterated that if the Board chooses to move forward with the program once the audits have been completed, the savings realized through the program would then be used for enhancements.

Motion carried unanimously.

- 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:
 - 1. Lice Protocol to Thomaston BoE Policy:
On a motion made by /George Counter and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the lice policy as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.
 - 2. Recommended Policy Amendments – Connecticut State Department of Education
 Superintendent Mitchell noted that there will be policy amendments to address down the pike.
 - 3. School Climate Improvement & Bullying Prevention
 School Social Worker Rose McLaughlin and Intern Jessica Marini provided a follow up Powerpoint presentation from a Kevin Jennings' conference they recently attended on the topic of Bullying. They also spoke to the Board about the Second Step program at the high school as well as the recent Challenge Day anti bullying program. Assistant Principal, Jonathan Kozlak publicly thanked all those who participated in this well received initiative.
 - 4. Flu Protocol 2011/2012 update (informational piece)
 - 5. Social Networking
 - 6. Internet Computer Use
 Items 5 and 6 are topics that Superintendent feels would be necessary to include on future agendas.
 - 7. Food Allergy (informational)
- J. Government Relations: n/a
- K. Affiliations: n/a
- L. Legislation:
 - 1. Health Related Legislative Changes
 Superintendent Mitchell provided a piece from the state regarding health related changes and how they will ultimately impact the district.

XI. Public Participation: n/a

XII. Old Business:

- A. Phone System Update
 Technology Coordinator, Tim Polowy was on hand to field questions from the Board regarding the phone systems in all three schools. The immediate plan is to

fix the system at Black Rock School this year. The long range plan is to expand the system that is put in place at Black Rock School to the Center School and High School.

Tim is currently working with several vendors to find the best option and what the costs are. He has been asked to provide an update at the next Board meeting.

XIII. New Business: n/a

XIV. Items for Future Agendas:

A. Teacher Retention

XV. Executive Session: n/a

XVI. Adjournment:

On a motion made by George Counter and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 9:15 p.m., no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.