

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Special Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One

Date: Monday, April 30, 2012

Time: 6:00 p.m.



Board Members Present:

Lucy Santopietro, Ruthann Fainer, Kathleen Freimuth, Anne G. Petrucci, Alexander Lee, Rebecca Guay, Deborah Schriver, Holly Herbert.

Call to Order:

Board Chairman Lucy Santopietro called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Motion to approve the agenda made at 6:05 p.m. by Anne G. Petrucci, seconded by Kathleen Freimuth, no discussion, motion passed unanimously at 6:06 p.m.

Public Session:

Motion for executive session made at 6:07 p.m. by Alexander Lee, seconded by Anne G. Petrucci; no discussion; motion passed unanimously at 6:08 p.m.

MOTION: That the Board enter executive session to discuss a matter that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-210(b)(2), (11) and (17). Only those invited by the Board may be present in the executive session.

The following individuals were invited into executive session:

The parent of Student A;
The grandmother of Student A;
Lynda Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools;
Jonathan Kozlak, Assistant Principal, Thomaston High School;
Kyle McClain, Attorney for the Thomaston Board of Education
Susan Graham, Family Outreach Specialist, Town of Thomaston

Executive Session:

All present were excused for deliberations, except for Board Attorney Kyle McClain, at 6:40 p.m.

Everyone returned to executive session at 6:47 p.m.

Public Session:

The Board moved back into public session at 6:47 p.m.

Motion to expel the student made by Ruthann Fainer at 6:55 p.m., seconded by Rebecca Guay; no discussion; motion passed unanimously at 6:55 p.m.

MOTION: Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d, the Thomaston Board of Education shall expel the student discussed in executive session from attendance at Thomaston High School for the period from April 30, 2012 until April 30, 2013, for the reasons presented by the administration in executive session.

At the discretion of the Superintendent, the student may apply for early readmission to Thomaston High School prior to October 31, 2012. If the Superintendent permits the student to apply for early readmission, as a condition of readmission, the student must fulfill specific criteria set forth by the Superintendent in order to be considered for readmission. Those criteria are:

1. Attend and receive drug and alcohol counseling at the expense of the parent.
2. Drug testing in a form and frequency, not to exceed once per month, to be determined by the Superintendent, with no positive results for illegal substances or non-prescribed substances, at the parent's expense.

Further, the Board directs the administration to offer an alternative educational opportunity pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d(d), in a form to be determined by the Superintendent, to the student for the period of this expulsion.

The Board also directs the administration, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d(f), to record this expulsion on the student's cumulative educational record, to be expunged from such record if the student graduates from high school.

Finally, the Board authorizes Attorney Kyle McClain to communicate in writing the Board's decision and the reasons therefore, consistent with the Board's executive session discussion to the student and/or the student's parents, as appropriate.

Motion for executive session made at 7:05 p.m. by Alexander Lee, seconded by Anne G. Petrucci; no discussion; motion passed unanimously at 7:06 p.m.

MOTION: That the Board enter executive session to discuss a matter that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-210(b)(2), (11) and (17). Only those invited by the Board may be present in the executive session.

The following individuals were invited into executive session:

The parent of Student B;
Lynda Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools;
Jonathan Kozlak, Assistant Principal, Thomaston High School;
Kyle McClain, Attorney for the Thomaston Board of Education
Susan Graham, Family Outreach Specialist, Town of Thomaston

Executive Session:

All present were excused for deliberations, except for Board Attorney Kyle McClain, at 7:30 p.m.

Everyone returned to executive session at 7:40 p.m.

Public Session:

The Board moved back into public session at 7:40 p.m.

Motion to expel the student made by Ruthann Fainer at 7:45 p.m., seconded by Rebecca Guay; no discussion; motion passed unanimously at 7:45 p.m.

MOTION: Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d, the Thomaston Board of Education shall expel the student discussed in executive session from attendance at Thomaston High School for the period from April 30, 2012 until April 30, 2013, for the reasons presented by the administration in executive session.

At the discretion of the Superintendent, the student may apply for early readmission to Thomaston High School prior to October 31, 2012. The student may also return on October 1, 2012 to an alternative educational program at Thomaston High School as to be determined by the Superintendent. If the Superintendent permits the student to apply for early readmission, as a condition of readmission, the student must fulfill specific criteria set forth by the Superintendent in order to be considered for readmission. Those criteria are:

1. Attend and receive drug and alcohol counseling at the expense of the parent.
2. Drug testing in a form and frequency, not to exceed once per month, to be determined by the Superintendent, with no positive results for illegal substances or non-prescribed substances, at the parent's expense.
3. During such period of expulsion, including any period remaining after any readmission, if the student violates any of the above conditions, or violates any other school rules or board policies, or otherwise engages in any dangerous behavior, or behavior

that disrupts the educational process, on or off school grounds, the Superintendent shall have grounds to require the student to serve the remainder of the period of expulsion out of school, without convening a new hearing.

Further, the Board directs the administration to offer an alternative educational opportunity pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d(d), in a form to be determined by the Superintendent, to the student for the period of this expulsion.

The Board also directs the administration, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d(f), to record this expulsion on the student's cumulative educational record, to be expunged from such record if the student graduates from high school.

Finally, the Board authorizes Attorney Kyle McClain to communicate in writing the Board's decision and the reasons therefore, consistent with the Board's executive session discussion to the student and/or the student's parents, as appropriate.

Motion for executive session made at 7:48 p.m. by Alexander Lee, seconded by Anne G. Petruzzi; no discussion; motion passed unanimously at 7:49 p.m.

MOTION: That the Board enter executive session to discuss a matter that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Section 1-210(b)(2), (11) and (17). Only those invited by the Board may be present in the executive session.

The following individuals were invited into executive session:

The parent of Student C;
Lynda Mitchell, Superintendent of Schools;
Jonathan Kozlak, Assistant Principal, Thomaston High School;
Kyle McClain, Attorney for the Thomaston Board of Education
Susan Graham, Family Outreach Specialist, Town of Thomaston

Executive Session:

All present were excused for deliberations, except for Board Attorney Kyle McClain, at 7:55 p.m.

Everyone returned to executive session at 7:58 p.m.

Public Session:

The Board moved back into public session at 7:58 p.m.

Motion to expel the student made by Ruthann Fainer at 8:05 p.m., seconded by Rebecca Guay; no discussion; motion passed unanimously at 8:05 p.m.

MOTION: Move that pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d, the Thomaston Board of Education shall expel the student discussed in executive session from attendance at Thomaston High School for the period from April 30, 2012 until April 30, 2013, for the reasons presented by the administration in executive session.

Pursuant to an early re-entry agreement, the Student may return to school for the second marking period of the 2012-2013 school year, on or about October 31, 2012, depending on the number of non-school days, provided that the Student meets the following conditions:

1. The Student shall regularly attend and complete the alternative educational opportunity described above in Paragraph 4. Additionally, the teacher or tutor(s) administering such alternative educational opportunity must report, to the satisfaction of the Superintendent, that the Student has successfully completed all of his assignments;
2. The Student shall regularly attend and complete a counseling program lasting for the duration of the Period of Expulsion approved in advance by the Superintendent of Schools. The specific arrangements for this counseling program shall be agreed upon by the parties outside of this Stipulation, but shall in any event include an alcohol counseling component and shall be at the expense of the Parent(s). Should the parties agree that the Student will enroll in a counseling program that is not offered by the District itself, the parent(s) of the Student (the "Parent(s)") shall sign a release that will allow the District to communicate with the counselor.
3. During the Period of Expulsion, the Student shall commit no further violations of school rules or Board of Education policies, and shall not engage in any behavior that poses a danger to himself or others or property, or that disrupts the educational process, whether committed on or off of school grounds.

Further, the Board directs the administration to offer an alternative educational opportunity pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d(d), in a form to be determined by the Superintendent, to the student for the period of this expulsion.

The Board also directs the administration, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-233d(f), to record this expulsion on the student's cumulative educational record, to be expunged from such record if the student graduates from high school.

Finally, the Board authorizes Attorney Kyle McClain to communicate in writing the Board's decision and the reasons therefore, consistent with the Board's executive session discussion to the student and/or the student's parents, as appropriate.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Holly Herbert made at 8:06 p.m., seconded by Deborah Schriver; no discussion; motion passed unanimously at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION