

Minutes
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting

Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One
Date: Monday, November 19, 2012
7:00 p.m.



Members: Lucy Santopietro, Chair; Roxy Fainer, Vice Chair; Kathleen Freimuth, Secretary; Holly Herbert, Treasurer; Rebecca Guay, Member; Alexander Lee, Member; Anne Petrucci, Member; Joanne Gilland, Member; Debra Schriver, Member

Minutes

Present: Lucy Santopietro, Holly Herbert, Roxy Fainer, Anne Petrucci, Alexander Lee, Joanne Gilland, Becky Guay, Debra Schriver

Absent: Kathleen Freimuth

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick; High School Administrator, John Perrucci; Black Rock School Administrator, Alisha DiCorpo; Center School Administrator, Anne Uberti; Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer; Student Board Representatives, Sarah Guay and Phil Sechow; and Board Clerk, Patricia George

I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:

Board Chair Lucy Santopietro established a quorum and called to order the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance:

Lucy Santopietro led the pledge of allegiance

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Anne Petrucci and seconded by Joanne Gilland to accept/approve the agenda with the following amendment;

Under VII. Communications; Subsection F., Field Trips; add an item 1; Faculty Members Michelle Dayton and Carol Wright along with Digital Media and Fashion and Design Students to the Museum of the Moving Image and Mood Fabrics; New York City; December 13, 2012;

No further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

On a motion made by Anne Petrucci and seconded by Debra Schriver to accept/approve the Board of Education minutes for the Regular meeting dated Monday, October 15, 2012; no further discussion; Joanne Gilland abstained; motion carried unanimously.

V. Student Representative Reports:

Student representatives Sarah Guay and Phil Sechow were on hand and reported on athletic events, the homecoming festivities, ASVAB testing, and fundraising efforts at the high school.

VI. Incredible Classroom/Recognitions: n/a

VII. Communications:

1. New Hires/Replacements:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Anne Petrucci to accept/approve the new hire as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

1. Resignations/Retirements/Exit Interviews:

On a motion made by Joanne Gilland and seconded by Alexander Lee to accept/approve the resignation as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

1. Athletics:

On a motion made by Anne Petrucci and seconded by Becky Guay to accept/approve the coaching assignments as presented;

Further discussion

The Board asked that the coaching assignments be brought to them for approval prior to the start of the respective sport season;

Motion carried unanimously.

1. Transfers: n/a

1. Leaves of Absence: n/a

1. Field Trips:

On a motion made by Roxy Fainer and seconded by Debra Schriver to accept/approve the field trip as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

1. Correspondence: n/a

1. Meeting Dates for 2013:

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Joanne Gilland to accept/approve the meeting dates for 2013 as presented; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

VIII. Superintendent's Report:

1. Student-of-the-month: Cameron Chaplen

Superintendent Mitchell reported that Cameron Chaplen is an involved and very well-rounded young lady who participates in sports and theater. She has received a series of awards, winning several sports recognitions. Cameron is also involved in the Thomaston Opera House and theater at the high school.

1. Litchfield County Superintendent's Association Student Recognition Program

The annual LCSA recognition banquet was held recently and the recipients this year included Allie Martin, Christopher Zebrowski, Jessica Ciavarella and Madison McCarthy.

1. Superintendent's Goals for 2012-2015

Superintendent Mitchell drafted her goals for 2012 through 2015. She took into consideration what she had to work with and what had to be accomplished. Ms. Mitchell read each goal and provided a brief synopsis of each. Her goals include:

#1 Connecting with the Thomaston Community – Building Understanding

#2 Student Achievement

#3 Financial Planning

The Board will develop goals at a collaborative meeting with administrators, the superintendent and members of the community who are interested in attending.

1. 2013/2014 School District Calendar

The district calendar is scheduled to be brought before the Board for approval at their December meeting. Superintendent Mitchell wanted to provide an opportunity for administrators to review it and make any necessary edits.

E. Teacher Evaluation Plan

Superintendent Mitchell explained that she plans to convene a committee in early December to begin reviewing the teacher evaluation plan. She provided three scenarios regarding the document; utilizing the state document as it stands, creating a hybrid version by making minor adjustments to it or writing your own document which she strongly opposes. She further stated

that the evaluation process will be an “eye opener”, and added, “It’s encompassing and pretty large”.

IX. Business Manager’s Report:

A. Negotiations

Business Manager, Ms. O’Dea-Wyrick noted that a tentative agreement with AFSCME had occurred on Thursday night. Hopes are to bring the contract to the December meeting for approval, perhaps before then.

X. Administrators’ Reports:

A. Black Rock School, Alisha DiCorpo/Thomaston Center School, Anne Uberti
Written, as presented; no oral report

1. Thomaston High School, John Perrucci

Principal Perrucci added that one of the burners which had been retrofitted is up and running, the second burner should be completed this week. Both burners should be on-line by week’s end.

C. Pupil Services, Nancy Schnyer

Written, as presented; no oral report

XI. Standing Committee Reports:

1. Budget:

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Roxy Fainer to accept/approve the year-to-date expenditures in the amount of \$4,706,652.12; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

1. Curriculum/Instruction:

i. “Curriculum Council Plan”

Plans are to hold off on any curriculum writing until the council meets in December in order to establish a structure and a plan of action for kindergarten through grade 12. The plan will then be brought forward and explained how it will be implemented so that “everybody is on the same page”.

1. “Science Curriculum”

Superintendent Mitchell has been in contact with Elizabeth Butner, the Science consultant at the State, who has indicated that the district should not write any science curriculum at this point in time. Ms. Mitchell noted that it probably wouldn’t occur until around 2015.

1. Maintenance/Facilities:

i. Snow removal bid

The recent snow removal bid was awarded to Henry Osowiecki and Sons

1. ECG Update

Ms. O'Dea-Wyrick noted that the item should be labeled as ESPC (Energy Savings Performance Contract) as opposed to ECG. She reported that the transformer work had been completed successfully with the project closing targeted for the end of December.

1. Roof Project

Continuing to refine the numbers which will then be brought to the Board of Selectmen and then to the Board of Finance to take to referendum.

1. Field Maintenance

Ms. O'Dea-Wyrick is currently working with Athletic Director, Bill Ryan to obtain the specifications in order to put the package out to bid. She hopes to have it out to bid after the first of the year.

1. Technology:

1. Update

Deborah Sanford reported to the Board that the district received the heavy duty printers and that they were installed in the three schools. Existing printers were left in the classrooms until the ink ran out as a cost savings initiative. At that point, they will be removed unless there are special circumstances.

E. Personnel: n/a

F. Transportation: n/a

G. Athletics: n/a

1. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee: n/a

I. Policy:

1. Cell Phone Policy (First Read)

Board chair Lucy called for questions on the draft policy. Member Roxy Fainer asked if there would be one blanket policy across the district, to which the reply was yes. Ms. Fainer felt that the rules needed for the high school students are very different from the needs of elementary school students.

Ms. Santopietro felt that the rules should be the same across the Board and that the right of the student to have a phone should come from the parent. She also said that schools can customize the policy to their respective school, at least there was a policy to go by.

Ms. Petrucci also felt the schools could establish their own guidelines within the confines of the current policy.

Business Manager Nancy O'Dea-Wyrick felt that the district should have something in place to address cell phone usage, that it's a starting point.

Board Chair Lucy Santopietro thought that perhaps the committee could meet again to "tweek" the draft policy before it was brought to the December Board meeting for a vote to accept/approve.

J. Government Relations: n/a

K. Affiliations: n/a

1. Legislation: n/a

XII. Public Participation:

Jack Pasquella

Mr. Pasquella liked the Superintendent's goal for 2012 to 2015, "Connecting with the Thomaston Community". He felt that her initiative, "Food for Thought" was extraordinary.

XIII. Old Business:

1. **A. Donations**
 - i. Varsity Scoreboard
 - ii. Bentley Systems

Board Chair, Lucy Santopietro informed the Board, that according to its by-laws, the Board does not need to formally accept/approve donations. However, she decided to make a motion on the donations presented.

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Joanne Gilland to accept/approve the noted donations; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.

XIV. New Business:

1. Regular Meetings of the BoE commencement time

A suggestion was brought forward to begin the Board of Education meetings at 6:00 p.m. as opposed to 7:00 p.m.

Cons would include the unavailability of some Board members to attend a special meeting which historically would occur prior to a regular meeting due to the high probability of establishing a quorum. Additionally, any member who works out of town may not be able to make the 6:00 p.m. commencement time. The advantage of holding the meeting at 6:00 would be adjourning the meeting at an earlier hour.

The item will be placed on a future agenda for consideration for the year 2014.

XV. Items for Future Agendas:

- A. BoE meetings times (for consideration in the year 2014)

XVI. Executive Session:

XVII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Holly Herbert and seconded by Debra Schriver to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:55 p.m.; no further discussion; motion carried unanimously.