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**A G E N D A**  
**THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING**

**Thomaston High School Auditorium**

**Entrance Door - #3**

**Monday, August 16, 2021**

**7:00 p.m.**

Public May Attend In-Person ([see requirements](#)) or Virtually  
This meeting can be viewed live on [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#)

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**Mission Statement:**

In a partnership of family, school and community, our mission is to **educate**, **challenge** and **inspire** each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society.

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**Board of Education Goals:**

- 1) Spotlight on one staff member each Regular meeting (September - June)
  - 2) Conduct meetings that are efficient using hybrid meeting technology
  - 3) Provide relevant research and data prior to the formal presentation of that information to the Board.
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**Members:**

**Beth Campbell, Chairperson**  
**David Colavecchio, Vice Chairperson**  
**Heather Patchell, Secretary**  
**Roxy Fainer, Treasurer**  
**Francine Coss, Superintendent**

**Nicole Rinaldi**  
**Jennifer Nolan**  
**Matthew VanOrmer**  
**Sarah Ethier**  
**Steven Carr**

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**Student Representatives 2021 - 2022**

**Cesar Velez**  
**Delaney Jose**

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1. **Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order** (*Bylaws of the Board 9325.1 – Quorum*)
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Approval of Agenda** ▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9325.2 – Order of Business and Policy 1205 Community Relations– Participation by the Public – Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination)

**Vote to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education Meeting dated August 16, 2021 as presented.**

4. **Public Participation** ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9325– Meeting Conduct)

The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with Thomaston Board of Education Policy 9325 – Bylaws of the Board Meeting Conduct. Specifically, provision for permitting any individual or group to address the Board concerning any subject that lies within its jurisdiction shall be as follows:

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- Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter.
- No boisterous conduct shall be permitted at any Board of Education meeting. Persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for summary termination, by the chair, of that person's privilege of address. If necessary, the Chairperson may clear the room so that Board members may continue the meeting.
- No oral presentation shall include charges or complaints against any employee of the Board of Education, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified in the presentation by name or by another reference that tends to identify an individual. All charges or complaints against employees shall be submitted to the Board of Education under provision of Board of Education policy.

The Thomaston Board of Education is confident you will observe the rules of common courtesy. Thank you.

**5. Approval of Minutes ▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes)**

5.1. Regular Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated June 14, 2021

**Vote to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education dated June 14, 2021 as presented.**

5.2. Special Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes dated June 23, 2021

**Vote to accept/approve the Special Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education dated June 23, 2021 as presented.**

**6. Recognitions ▲ (Policy 1170 – Community Relations/Recognitions of Students, Citizens, Staff Members, and Members of the Board of Education and Bylaws of the Board 9420 – Recognition of Accomplishments by Citizens, Students, Staff Members or Member of the Board) – No recognitions due to summer recess.**

**7. Presentations ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments)**

7.1. 2020-2021 Confidential (anonymous) school climate survey data/feedback on the performance of the Thomaston Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools - Jessica Bedosky, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

7.2. Summary of Exit Interview data/feedback from employees who retired, resigned or who were terminated during the 2020-2021 school year - Kristen DiVenere, Human Resources Specialist

7.3. 2021-2022 Personnel Management Goal for the Superintendent of Schools - Francine Coss, Superintendent of Schools

**Vote to accept/approve the recommended next steps related to the 2021-2022 personnel management goal set for the Superintendent of Schools, specifically, change the original 2021-2022 goal set on June 23, 2021 to “The Superintendent shall obtain feedback on the district environment from the 2020-2021 School Climate Survey and take actions to improve the lowest performing area for the Board of Education and the lowest performing area for the Superintendent as identified by the data collected in said survey.”**

7.4. 2021-2022 Thomaston Public Schools Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan - Francine Coss, Superintendent of Schools

**Potential action related to the 2021-2022 Thomaston Public Schools Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan.**

**8. Student Representatives Report ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9160 – Student Representation on the Board of Education) – No report due to summer recess.**

**9. Chairperson’s Report ▲▲▲ (Bylaws of the Board 9121 – Office of the Chairperson)**

9.1. Fourth Quarter Honor Roll - Thomaston High School

9.2. Letter from Donald Harris, CABA President, acknowledging renewal of membership for 2021 - 2022

9.3. Response Letter to Michael Edwards in regards to public comment at the June 14, 2021 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education

9.4. Two-Year Meeting Calendar of the Board of Education (January 2020 through December 2022)

9.4.1. Discussion regarding leaving the November 15, 2021 (the third Monday of November) Regular Meeting of the Board of Education as scheduled on the Two-Year Meeting Calendar of the Board of Education January 2020 - December 2021 or schedule a new date of November 8, 2021 (second Monday of November)

**Potential vote to accept/approve the change in Regular Meeting date from Monday, November 15, 2021 to Monday, November 8, 2021 on the Two-Year Meeting Calendar of the Board of Education (January 2020 - December 2022)**

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9.4.2. Discussion regarding the addition of an Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 to the Two-Year Meeting Calendar of the Board of Education(January 2020 - December 2022)

9.4.3. Bylaws of the Board 9120 - Board Officers and Auxiliary Personnel - Organizational Meeting

**Potential vote to accept/approve the addition of an Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, November 17, 2021 to the Two-Year Meeting Calendar of the Board of Education(January 2020 - December 2022)**

9.4.4. Discussion regarding the addition of an Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, November 22, 2023 to the Two-Year Meeting Calendar of the Board of Education(January 2022 - December 2023)

9.4.5. Bylaws of the Board 9120 - Board Officers and Auxiliary Personnel - Organizational Meeting

**Potential vote to accept/approve the addition of an Organizational Meeting on Wednesday, November 22, 2023 to the Two-Year Meeting Calendar of the Board of Education(January 2022 - December 2023)**

**10. Superintendent's Report** ▲ ▲ ▲ (*Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools*)

10.1. Correspondence

10.1.1. Superintendent

10.1.1.1. Thomaston Public Schools Retiree Options Letter and Benefit Form to retired AFSCME staff member from Human Resource Specialist, Thomaston Public Schools - August 1, 2021

10.1.1.2. Thank You Letter to Spencer Luthy for his work in preparation for the Board of Education Special Meeting on June 3, 2021 held at the Thomaston Opera House.

10.1.1.3. Thank You Letter to Jeff Dunn for his generosity in allowing the June 3, 2021 Special Meeting of the Board of Education to be held at Thomaston Opera House

10.1.1.4. Reading Recovery School Report - Black Rock School - 2020 - 2021

10.1.1.5. Completed Exit Interview Forms - Former Staff Members - Thomaston Public Schools - 2020 -2021

10.1.1.6. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - June 9, 2021

10.1.1.7. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - June 16, 2021

10.1.1.8. Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - July 2021

10.1.1.9. Fiscal Year funding for School Readiness, Child Day Care and Smart Start - Michelle Anderson, School Readiness Liaison

10.1.1.10. Letter to Beth Campbell, Chairperson - Thomaston Board of Education- Superintendent Designee - July 24, 2021 - August 14, 2021

10.1.1.11. Journal for Leadership and Instruction - (NESDEC), New England School Development Council

10.1.1.12. Updated Chemical Hygiene Plan

10.1.1.13. District-Provided Transportation Report

10.1.1.14. Connecticut State Police Bureau of Identification Implementation Communication

10.1.1.15. Thank you Letter to Jonathan Kozlak for serving as the Superintendent Designee - August 9, 2021

10.1.1.16. Thank you Letter to John Perrucci for serving as the Superintendent Designee - August 16, 2021

10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE)

10.1.2.1. CABE Liaison Newsletter - June 2021

10.1.2.2. CABE Liaison Newsletter - August 2021

10.1.3. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents(CAPSS) - None

10.1.4. United States Department of Education (USDE)

10.1.4.1. Office for Civil Rights and Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services Resource on Long COVID

10.1.5. Department of Public Health (DPH) - None

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- 10.1.6. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
    - 10.1.6.1. Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services Plan Template
    - 10.1.6.2. Accelerate CT - Connecticut’s Framework for Accelerating Educational Opportunity and Access
    - 10.1.6.3. Guidance Regarding Special Recovery for Students with Individualized Programs (IEPs) due to the COVID-19 Pandemic
    - 10.1.6.4. 2021 Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge
    - 10.1.6.5. Flexibilities for Implementing the CT Guidelines for Educator Evaluation 2017 for the 2021 - 2022 School Year
    - 10.1.6.6. African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies with Training Schedule and Registration Links
    - 10.1.6.7. Expression of Appreciation Letter to Superintendents from Acting Commissioner of Education, Charlene Russell - Safe return to in-person instruction and continuity of services plans and public health mitigation measures
    - 10.1.6.8. Guidance Regarding the Future of Remote Learning
    - 10.1.6.9. Connecticut Summative Assessment Calendar - 2021 - 2022
    - 10.1.6.10. Summer Learning Academy 2021
    - 10.1.6.11. Open Review Period for Universal Screening Reading Assessments
    - 10.1.6.12. Professional Support Series for Districts
    - 10.1.6.13. 2020 -2021 Education Financial System
    - 10.1.6.14. EdFinance Invitation
    - 10.1.6.15. Fall Athletics and Vaccinations
    - 10.1.6.16. Continued Support for Student Internet Connectivity
    - 10.1.6.17. Interim Recommendations for COVID-19 Prevention in Connecticut’s Pre-K12 Schools - Fall 2021
    - 10.1.6.18. CT Teachers’ Retirement Board Maximum Pensionable Salary Voluntary Contribution
    - 10.1.6.19. 2021-2022 Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) and Transmittal File Due Dates
    - 10.1.6.20. Summer School Reporting Guidance

10.2. Reports, Contracts and General Information

10.2.1. Reports

10.2.1.1. Administrator Reports

10.2.1.1.1. July 2021

10.2.1.1.2. August 2021

10.2.1.1.2.1. All Hazards School Security and Safety Plan - Thomaston Public Schools - 2021 - 2022 - Gianni Perugini, Assistant Principal, Thomaston High School

10.2.1.1.2.2. Student Handbook - Thomaston Public Schools 2021 - 2022 - Gianni Perugini, Assistant Principal, Thomaston High School

10.2.1.1.2.3. Faculty Handbook - Thomaston Public Schools 2021 - 2022 - Gianni Perugini, Assistant principal, Thomaston High School

10.2.1.1.2.4. Family Handbook - Little Bears University - 2021 - 2022 - Andrea Peters, Director of Pupil Services

**Vote to acknowledge notice of the updated 2021-2022 All Hazards School Security and Safety Plan, the updated 2021-2022 Student Handbook, the updated 2021-2022 Faculty Handbook, and the updated 2021-2022 Little Bears Family Handbook.**

10.2.1.2. Enrollment Report

10.2.1.2.1. 2021 - 2021 Enrollment Projection Report - Spring Update - June 2021,

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(NESDEC) New England School Development Council

10.2.1.2.2. Monthly Enrollment Table - July 1, 2021 and August 1, 2021

10.2.1.2.2.1. Registrations have been occurring during the summer for the 2021 - 2022

10.2.2. Contracts

10.2.2.1. Memorandum of Agreement-Thomaston Education Association-Teachers' Personal Leave

10.2.2.2. Francine Coss, Superintendent - July 1, 2021- June 30, 2024

10.2.2.3. Michelina Stanley, Executive Secretary to the Superintendent-July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024

10.2.2.4. Todd Bendtsen, Business Manager - July 1, 2021-June 30, 2024

10.2.2.5. Human Resources Service and Support - EdAdvance, Kristen DiVinere, Human Resource Specialist for Thomaston Public Schools-July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022

10.2.2.6. Greatland Corporation Services Agreement

10.2.2.7. Memorandum of Agreement - AFSCME -Pension Catch-Up Contributions-dated July 21, 2021

10.2.2.8. Memorandum of Agreement - AFSCME - August 5, 2021

10.2.3. Grants - None

10.2.4. General Information

10.2.4.1. Fund-Raisers

10.2.4.1.1. Class of 2023 - Thomaston High School - Annual collection of class dues

10.2.4.1.2. Class of 2023 - Thomaston High School - Annual homecoming dance

10.2.5. Personnel (*Policy 4112/4212 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment*)

10.2.5.1. New Hires

10.2.5.1.1. James Newton, Physics Teacher-Thomaston High School-Effective August 27, 2021

10.2.5.1.2. Brandon Lynn, Technology Education Teacher/Industrial Arts Teacher-Thomaston High School - Effective August 27, 2021

10.2.5.1.3. Christina Chase, Mathematics Teacher, Thomaston High School-Effective August 27, 2021

10.2.5.1.4. Kelsey Murzak, Special Education Teacher, Black Rock School-Effective August 27, 2021

10.2.5.1.5. Victoria Becker, Kindergarten Teacher - Black Rock School - Effective August 27, 2021 awaiting fully

10.2.5.1.6. Karen Obst, Preschool Teacher - Black Rock School - Effective August 27, 2021

10.2.5.2. Continuation of Assignments

10.2.5.2.1. Diane Aniki, Continued assignment-COVID-19 Health and Safety Liaison (temporary assignment)-Thomaston Public Schools-Effective July 1, 2021 until further notice

10.2.5.2.2. Spencer Luthy, Continued assignment-COVID-19 Personal Protective Equipment Health Supply Inventory Coordinator (temporary assignment)-Effective July 1, 2021 until further notice

10.2.5.3. Transfers/New Assignment

10.2.5.3.1. Margaret Protzmann from To Be Determined to Mathematics Intervention Teacher, K-8-Thomaston High School-2021-2022

10.2.5.3.2. Crystal Longhi, extended appointment-Building Substitute Teacher grades 7-12-(temporary/per diem)-Thomaston High School-Effective June 10, 2021 through June 16, 2021

10.2.5.3.3. Crystal Longhi, Extended School Year (ESY), Special Education

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- Paraprofessional (temporary, part-time) - Pupil Services - Effective June 14, 2021 through July 9, 2021
  - 10.2.5.3.4. Laura Miller, Summer School Teacher-Enrichment Program (temporary, part time)-Thomaston Public Schools-Effective June 14, 2021 through July 9, 2021
  - 10.2.5.3.5. Melissa Campo, Extended School Year-Special Education Paraprofessional (temporary, part time)-Pupil Services-Effective June 14, 2021 through July 9, 2021
  - 10.2.5.3.6. Breanna Riollano, Extended School Year Summer School Teacher, Credit Recovery Program (temporary, part time)-Thomaston High School-effective June 14, 2021 through July 9, 2021
  - 10.2.5.3.7. Susan Fuller-Mathematics Intervention Teacher (through Thomaston Education Association Retirement Program)-Black Rock School 2021-2022
  - 10.2.5.3.8. Christine Thomas, Clerical Assistant-Central Office (temporary, part-time, non-union position)-Effective July 19, 2021 (as needed)
  - 10.2.5.3.9. Resignations
    - 10.2.5.3.9.1. Charles Ritter, Mathematics Teacher, Thomaston High School-Effective June 9, 2021
    - 10.2.5.3.9.2. Maria Zamora-Leyton, Spanish Teacher, Thomaston High School-Effective June 9, 2021
    - 10.2.5.3.9.3. Stacy Fisher, Special Education Teacher, Thomaston Center School-Effective June 9, 2021
  - 10.2.5.4. Retirement
    - 10.2.5.4.1. Thomaston Board of Education Retirement Program
      - 10.2.5.4.1.1. Susan Fuller, Remote Teacher Grades K-1 - Black Rock School-Effective July 31, 2021
  - 10.2.5.5. Renewals - None
  - 10.2.5.6. Stipends - 2020 - 2021
    - 10.2.5.6.1. Gianni Perugini, SBDI Co-Leader in Residence-Thomaston Public Schools
    - 10.2.5.6.2. Megan Kellogg, SBDI Co-Leader in Residence-Thomaston Public Schools
    - 10.2.5.6.3. Eric Kociszewski, Assistant Coach - Track and Field (Part-Time Stipend Position for One Sports Season Only) - Thomaston High School
  - 10.2.5.7. Stipends - 2021 - 2022
    - 10.2.5.7.1. Breanna Riollano, Experiential Learning Program Coordinator-Thomaston High School

**Vote to acknowledge the Superintendent's notification of Personnel, specifically, New Hires/Transfers/Retirements/Resignations/Renewals/Stipends per Policy 4112/4212 Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment as presented.**

- 10.2.5.8. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) (*Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act*)
  - 10.2.5.8.1. Employee 1
- 10.2.5.9. Interns and Student Teachers (*Policy 1212–Community Relations–School Volunteers*)–None
- 10.2.5.10. Field Trips (out of state) (Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools)
  - 10.2.5.10.1. Washington D.C. Mega Trip - April 2022 - Grades 8, 9 & 10

**Vote to accept/approve the Mega Washington DC trip.**

- 10.2.5.11. Policy 3260 Business/Non-Instructional Operations Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies–None

**II. Committee Reports ▲ (*Bylaws of the Board 9132 – Standing Committees and Bylaws of the Board 9133 - Special Committees/Advisory Committees*)**

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11.1. Business Manager Report

11.1.1. June Business Report

11.1.1.1. 2020-2021 Budget Table Without Encumbrances

11.1.1.2. 2020-2021 Budget Table With Encumbrances

11.1.1.3. 2020-2022 Grant Report

11.1.1.4. 2020-2021 Transfers

11.1.1.5. 2020-2021 Projection

11.1.1.6. Expenditures

11.1.1.6.1. June 2021 (2020-2021 Fiscal Year): \$1,395,440.10

11.1.2. July Business Report

11.1.2.1. 2020-2021 Budget Table Without Encumbrances

11.1.2.2. 2020-2021 Budget Table With Encumbrances

11.1.2.3. 2020-2022 Grant Report

11.1.2.4. 2020-2021 Transfers

11.1.2.5. 2020-2021 Projection

11.1.2.6. Expenditures

11.1.2.6.1. July 2021 (2021-2022 Fiscal Year): \$404,687.73

**Vote to accept / approve Business and Finance Report and Expenditures per Policy 3432/3433**

**Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement as presented.**

11.2. Policy Committee (*Policy 2231—Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems*)

11.2.1. Presentations

11.2.1.1. John Perrucci, Principal - Thomaston High School

11.2.1.1.1. Policy 3450 - Monies in School Buildings

11.2.1.1.1.1. Request for Replenishing of Emergency Cash - Current Policy

11.2.1.1.1.2. Request for Replenishing of Emergency Cash - Proposed Copy

11.2.2. Discussion Items

11.2.2.1. Policy 1330 - Facility Use Request Forms for district staff and community members - Thomaston Public Schools

11.2.2.1.1. Request to either remove Appendix A from Policy 1330 or to fast track the changes to Appendix A in Policy 1330 to allow for immediate use of Appendix A in the 2021-2022 school year

**Vote to accept/approve the changes to Appendix A as presented for Policy 1330 (either removing Appendix A from Policy 1330 or fast tracking the approval of the changes to Appendix A in Policy 1330) to allow for immediate use of Appendix A in the 2021-2022 school year.**

11.2.3. First Read Items

11.2.4. Second Read Items

11.2.4.1. Policy 5132 - Students - Dress and Grooming

1.1.1.1.1. Policy 5132 - Current Policy - Thomaston Public Schools

1.1.1.1.2. Policy 5132 - Proposed Changes (post-pandemic)

1.1.1.1.3. Policy - 5132 - Clean Copy

11.2.4.2. Policy 6172.1 Instruction - Gifted Children Program

11.2.4.2.1. Policy 6172.1 - Current Policy Program - Thomaston Public Schools

11.2.4.2.2. Policy 6172.1 - Marked Up Copy

11.2.4.2.3. Policy 6172.1 - Clean Copy

11.2.5. Action Items

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11.2.5.1. Cleaning and Disinfecting Protocols for Thomaston Public Schools

11.2.5.1.1. Connecticut Department of Public Health Protocol Currently in Use in Thomaston Public Schools

11.2.5.1.1.1. Connecticut Department of Public Health (CTDPH) Guidance for the Cleaning and Disinfection of Schools during the COVID-19 (as of June 22, 2020)

11.2.5.1.1.2. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Protocols Currently in Use Elsewhere:

11.2.5.1.1.2.1. Cleaning and Disinfecting Your Facility - Every Day and When Someone is Sick (as of June 15, 2021)

11.2.5.1.1.2.2. Cleaning, Disinfection, and Hand Hygiene in Schools - A Toolkit for School Administrators (as of April 16, 2021-Now Archived and replaced with 1.1.1.1.5 below)

11.2.5.1.1.2.3. Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools (as of August 5, 2021)

Potential vote to accept/approve the use of Guidance for COVID-19 Prevention in K-12 Schools (as of August 5, 2021 and as updated) until further notice and whenever there is no government mandate on district actions related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**12. Adjournment**

**Vote to adjourn**





THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
185 BRANCH ROAD  
THOMASTON, CT 06787  
860-283-3053  
860-283-3096

FRANCINE COSS, SUPERINTENDENT

Michael Edwards  
475 Hickory Hill Road  
Thomaston, CT 06787  
[edwards89m@yahoo.com](mailto:edwards89m@yahoo.com)

**DELIVERED VIA U.S. POST AND ELECTRONIC MAIL**

Dear Mr. Edwards,

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

Thank you for participating in the public comment portion of the June 14, 2021 Thomaston Board of Education meeting and thank you for providing your oral comments about unmasking students in the new school year in writing. Your written comments have been included in the [minutes of the June 14, 2021 Thomaston Board of Education meeting](#).

[Connecticut Executive Order 12a](#) mandates that all staff, students and visitors of a school building must be masked. This Executive Order is in effect through July 20, 2021 unless earlier modified or terminated by the State.

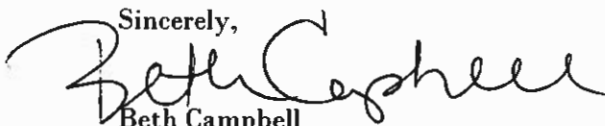
In anticipation of the termination or expiration of Executive Order 12a, the Thomaston Board of Education Policy Committee has prepared an updated policy which would eliminate masking for students. This policy is ready for approval and implementation by the Thomaston Board of Education as soon as Executive Order 12a is terminated or expires.

Lastly, your comment related to Thomaston Public Schools' access to grant funding being contingent upon a mask mandate is inaccurate. The American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, 2021 Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) Guidance provided by the Connecticut State Department of Education does not require masking of students to receive funding. Instead, it requires a district-defined response to several mitigation strategies including the universal and correct wearing of masks. Thomaston Public Schools' response to this mitigation strategy is:

*"Universal and correct wearing of masks is required for all public schools per State government mandate; once this State government mandate is lifted, TBOE Policy 5132 shall be amended and universal mask-wearing shall be eliminated. If a staff member, student or visitor voluntarily wears a mask after the mandate is lifted, they will be permitted to do so as long as it is neither disruptive of the educational process nor endangering to persons or property (see TPS Plan pages 19, 23, 24, and 27)."*

Thank you again for participating in the public comment portion of this month's meeting.

Sincerely,

  
Beth Campbell  
Chairperson

Cc: Thomaston Board of Education

this virus. Children should not be in fear of being yelled out by school staff for taking their mask off. Its time to stop having our children live in FEAR.

I cannot wrap my head around how society is willing to allow large groups of older adults (such as a G7 summit), even though vaccinated. But children, whose natural immune defense which may be stronger than a seniors with vaccination, must remained masked.

We have several examples in human history to understand that any time people were treated for who they are or what they look like it can have horrible consequences. That is what is happening to our youth today. Because they have not been vaccinated, regardless of whether they are symptom free, they are being unilaterally treated like disease ridden persons in an infirmary. Unacceptable. Sickening.

What is the motivation for the continued masking? Is mandated masking a requirement to receive additional federal funding under the Covid-19 grants? Are we forcing masks on children solely for money? If that is the case then everyone involved in that decision to walk away. The data does not support that the continued masking is due to risk aversion. Is the plan that children will be masked until the vaccine are cleared all the way down to elementary age? What is the plan after that, only vaccinated children get to take off masks?

Also, 17 states have lifted mask mandates allowing local districts to set their own policies and six states have banned masking requirements out right. That's 23 states essentially with mask choice. Do the children in these states have superior genetics and immune systems then our children? How can they afford to drop the mask but we can not in CT. Is our state and town unable to provide healthy school environments on the level as these states? Or would you consider these states to be acting with "Neanderthal thinking".

Lastly, I do not expect any of you to fight for unmasking children on the basis of health issues as you are not medical professionals. However, have any educators, counselors, or administrators found that the quality of education or educational environment has been negatively impacted by masks. If this is the feeling of some educators, has this been communicated to the CT Department of Education? Two years in a row of forced masking for students will have long standing consequences.

Come fall I will have a 5 year old, 3 year old and 2 year old. Prior to this year I would have placed my children into Thomaston Public schools without thought. Now, just a couple months away from my oldest child starting kindergarten, I still have serious reservations about putting my children into the school system. I may home school and if that decision is made the district loses three future students, this is an absolute failure on the part of the state of CT and the Thomaston school system. Your asking me to take my 4 year old and increase his weekly mask time from pre school 3 days a week for 3 hours a day to 5 days a week to 7 hours with bus time added in. Your asking me to do something that as a parent, I feel is abusive to my child's development.

**MAKE MASKS OPTIONAL.** Do not be on the wrong side of history.

"Our children are our greatest treasure. They are our future. Those who abuse them tear at the fabric of our society and weaken our nation."- Nelson Mandela

"The true character of a society is revealed in how it treats its children."-Nelson Mandela

**Thomaston Board of Education Meeting**

**Monday, 06/14/21 7:00 P.M.**

**Public Comment from Michael Edwards of 475 Hickory Hill Road, THOMASTON :**

Thank you for time, for your attention and for serving on the board.

**“We owe our children, the most vulnerable citizens in any society, a life free from violence and **FEAR**”-Nelson Mandela**

I am here on behalf of school aged children, some as young as 3 and up to about 18 years of age, who cannot defend themselves from the ongoing psychological from forced masking. This is my formal request to the Thomaston Board of Ed. And Thomaston Superintendent to make face masks for students **OPTIONAL** for the 2021-2022 school year.

In Spring 2020 Thomaston schools closed for in person for the remainder of the school year. Then in Fall 2020 they re-opened with in person (masks required) or distance learning for those parents who made the **CHOICE** to do so. Now in Fall 2021 the distance learning option is no longer available and parents still do not have a **CHOICE** on their child being masked or not?

I need the Board of Education to explain to me, without citing CDC Guidance or the CT Governor's emergency order, what data validates a mask mandate on school children moving forward? Rhetorical question because there is not an answer.

Show a Covid-19 Daily Infection Graph since start of spring 2020?

Can somebody explain to me how the same emergency orders that mandated face masks during Spring 2020 are still considered an **EMERGENCY** order today? What is the criteria for when public health is no longer in an emergency status? Do we need to ease the burden on hospital capacity? **CHECK**. Do we need to dramatically lower deaths related to the WUHAN LAB COVID-19 virus ? **CHECK**. Do we need to wait for vaccines to become available to the most at risk population which is the elderly? **CHECK**. Do we need to wait until any adult can receive a vaccine should they want one ? **CHECK**. Do we need to dramatically lower daily infection rates? **CHECK**. Achieve multiple weeks of sub 1% daily infection rate? **Check**. This is the longest standing **EMERGENCY** and “14 days to slow the spread” I have ever heard of. In fact if you look at the map I believe we have “flattened the curve”. As of today, CT, a state with a population of 3.565 million people, has 50 Covid-19 patients in the hospital and about 35 new positive cases daily. What is the goal line before children are unmasked?

School aged children have an extremely low risk of serious side effects from a Covid-19 infection. By the grace of **GOD**, their immune systems have allowed for them to have an extremely low risk of serious symptoms and death. The treatment of children by forcing masks in school is worse than the virus impact on children itself. Children should not fear this virus. Children should not fear giving other people