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**MINUTES  
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thomaston High School  
Auditorium  
Monday, April 9, 2018  
7:00 p.m.**

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**Members:**

**Rebecca Guay, Chairperson  
Beth Campbell, Vice Chairperson  
Heather Patchell, Secretary  
David Colavecchio, Treasurer  
Francine Coss, Superintendent**

**Roxy Fainer  
Maureen McMahon  
Jennifer Nolan  
Scott Theriault  
Frank Treglia**

**Student Representatives:**

**Erin Fainer**

**Naime Gilani**

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**1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order**

1.1. **Chairperson Rebecca Guay** called the meeting to order at 7:13 p.m.

1.2. Board members in attendance: **Chairperson Rebecca Guay, Beth Campbell, Heather Patchell, David Colavecchio, Superintendent Francine Coss, Roxy Fainer, Jennifer Nolan, Scott Theriault, Frank Treglia, Student Representatives Erin Fainer and Naime Gilani**

1.3. Board members absent: **Maureen McMahon**

1.4. Others in attendance: Tanya Galpin, Danica Galpin, Renee Wojtczak, Jean Nolte, Jen McAtee, Karen Payne, Cindy Goscinski, Don Protzmann, Gail Lascko, Bill Dwan, Keri Rozzi, Kate Zitnay, Doug Craig, Tammy Dayton, Darlene Hellerich, Steve Turner, Diana Jonas, Robert McMahon, Linda Miller, Cindy Sabolcik, Susan Fuller, Sue Dalka, Peg Protzmann, Brenda Adams, Diane Aniki, Pat Henderson, Jaimee Hustek, Tracy Capozzi, Sharon Machin, Chris Webster, Brian McCarthy, Steve Foss, Sam Johnson, Beverly Johnson, Kim Macsicza, Steve Curran, Marie Eldridge, Sharon Martino, and Melissa Hamel.

## 2. Pledge of Allegiance

2.1. Chairperson Rebecca Guay led the pledge of Allegiance.

## 3. Approval of Agenda

***Vote to accept/approve, Regular Meeting Agenda of the Board of Education, April 9, 2018 as presented***

**David Colavecchio motioned and Beth Campbell seconded** to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Agenda of the Board of Education, April 9, 2018 as presented.

***Discussion: None***

***Vote: Motioned carried***

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

## 4. Public Participation

*The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with Thomaston Board of Education Policy 9325(a) - 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:*

- 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.*

Kathleen Zitnay, Thomaston Center School Teacher explained that recently the Thomaston Center School participated in a program called, Look for the Good Project. During the ten day campaign, students and staff reflected on what and who in their lives inspires their gratitude. Each day the students and staff were asked, what makes you grateful? Reflections are shared aloud, in messages and letters of thanks. Ms. Zitnay continued to explain that she and her colleagues were attending the Board meeting to share some of their reflections with the Board of Education. The staff has found the process to shift thoughts from a negative to a positive. During this process, the students and staff have found many reasons they are grateful for Thomaston Center School. The staff is grateful for the dedicated staff at Thomaston Center School and the shared core belief in a student centered school community. The staff is also grateful for the caring, courageous, and hardworking students who imaginative minds inspire the teachers. The Thomaston Center School staff are grateful for the strong and enthusiastic leadership of their principal.

Susan Dalka, Black Rock School and Thomaston Center School Instructional Coach, stated that she is grateful for the Board of Education advocating for the teachers and therefore the students in implementing instructional coaching. Through the role of Instructional Coach, Ms. Dalka has had the opportunity to see the teachers from a different perspective. It is Ms. Dalka's job to support teachers in their own learning, growth and efforts to continuously put forth their very best for the students of Thomaston. Ms. Dalka thanked Principal Bernier and the Thomaston Center School teachers for welcoming her with open arms and creating a climate where teachers are excited about learning.

Robert McMahon, Thomaston Center School Teacher, shared with the Board that the staff at Thomaston Center School try to create each day a nurturing, safe environment for the students. Each day the staff challenges each student to grow by setting high goals and expectations. The staff encourages the students to take chances. If they fail, the teachers are there to teach perseverance so they can keep pushing until the student masters the goal or reaches the target. During conferences, students presented to their parents their strengths and weaknesses in Math, Reading, Writing, and their character. Students showed through the conferences that they were leaders of their own learning. Mr. McMahon concluded by saying that he loves the town, loves the school, and good things are happening.

Renee Wojitczak, Thomaston Center School Teacher, stated that through the years she has had the opportunity with work with some of the most dedicated teachers and administration she has ever seen. Many come in early and stay late preparing for the education of the students of Thomaston. Ms. Wojitczak mentioned that she has amazing support from the parents and the PTA. She followed up by saying she is proud to work in such a giving and supporting school district and community.

Gail Lascko, Thomaston Center School Teacher, explained that the Thomaston School District has always been a place where her and her children had thrived, learned, and then grew into productive adults. She has a second family, her school family. Ms. Lascko stated that the leader of the family, Principal Bernier comes in everyday with a smile and a warm greeting. Ms. Lascko thanked all the parents and community members who help to make the school great.

Jen McAtee, Thomaston Center School Teacher, explained that she was inspired by the Look for the Good Program and the effect on the Center School population. Ms. McAtee stated that being part of the campaign made her realize the many reasons why she is grateful to be a part of the Thomaston Center School. Ms. McAtee is grateful to be in an environment of people who genuinely care for each other. She is grateful for the staff members, the parents in the community and the boys and girls who step through the doors of TCS each day.

Tanya Galpin, 69 Pleasant View Road, shared with the Board the impact that Thomaston Center School has had on her two childrens learning and positive attitude they have had from the school. The programs that the principal and staff have implemented have made a positive vibe for the students and the staff. The moral of the staff is upbeat and happy. The students care for one another and are always cheering each other on. The students look out for one another. Ms. Galpin stated that there is always going to be at times a snide comment, and if so, a teacher will shut it down. When such a comment is made to her children, she uses it as a learning experience. As a parent, Ms. Galpin feels the most

important thing she can do for her child is to teach them coping skills to deal with these situations, since they will have these situations their entire life. Ms. Galpin continued by saying there is a lot of good at Thomaston Center School and she wanted to take the time to thank the staff, administration, the Board of Education and Superintendent Coss for support the kids. Ms. Galpin had only one request, that the Board of Education and Superintendent Coss bring back a School Resource Officer. The presence of an SRO would help the parents feel that their students are safe and deter bad behavior before it even begins.

Danica Galpin, Thomaston Center School Student, shared with the Board of Education about how nice the staff is at Thomaston Center School. Miss Galpin also mentioned about a fifth grade teacher who has a funny way of teaching and he always make the kids laugh. This teacher does not allow bullying in his class and do not allow the students to make fun of other students who get the answers wrong. Miss Galpin loves Thomaston Center School.

Brenda Adams, 303 Reynolds Bridge Road, addressed the Board of Education to verify if the Board had received an email that Ms. Adams had sent to the Board. Ms. Adams stated that her daughter was bullied back in November of 2017. Ms. Adams requested that the Board read a letter that she submitted to the Board clerk.

**5. Approval of Minutes:**

5.1.Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated March 12, 2018

***Vote to accept/approve Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Minutes dated March 12, 2018 as presented***

**Beth Campbell motioned and David Colavecchio seconded** to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education, March 12, 2018 as presented.

*Discussion: None*

***Vote: Motioned carried***

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
<i>8</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

**6. Student Representative’s Report**

**7. Recognitions**

7.1.Rotary Student of the Month - March - Kaelyn Foss

7.2.Rotary Student of the Month - April - Alexa Milius

**8. Presentations**

8.1.IDEA Grant - Aimee Turner

***Vote to accept/approve IDEA Grant as presented***

**Beth Campbell motioned and David Colavecchio seconded** to accept/approve the IDEA Grant as presented.

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: Motioned carried**

<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>	<i>Abstain</i>
8	0	0

8.2. Presentation of Evidentiary Portion of Local 1303-97 of Connecticut Council 4, AFSCME Grievance dated March 17, 2018 under Article VIII, Section 8.3 of the AFSCME Collective Bargaining Agreement

The Presentation of Evidentiary Portion was postponed until next month per the request of Steve Curran, AFSCME C/4.

**9. Enter Executive Session for the Purpose of Deliberations and Discussion of Local 1303-97 of Connecticut Council 4, AFSCME Grievance dated March 17, 2018 with Board Attorney Nicholas Grello**

The Board did not enter into Executive Session due to the request to postpone the presentation of evidentiary portion by AFSCME C/4.

**10. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session**

**11. Potential Action Regarding Step 3 Grievance**

No action taken

**12. Chairperson's Report**

12.1. Letters of Response to Public Comment

12.2. Honor Roll Second Quarter 2017-2018 School Year

**13. Superintendent's Report**

13.1. State of Connecticut Department of Education Email - Connecticut SAT School Day - Guidance for Weather Related Issues

13.2. State of Connecticut Department of Education Memorandum - 2019 Anne Marie Murphy Paraeducator of the Year Award

13.3. State of Connecticut Department of Education Memorandum - Guidelines Regarding Independent Educational Evaluations at Public Expense and In-School Observations

13.4. State of Connecticut Department of Education Memorandum - EdSight Secure - School-level Access Now Available

13.5. State of Connecticut Department of Education Memorandum - New Administrator and Employer Survey Regarding Administrator Preparation Quality and New Teacher and Employer Survey Regarding Teacher Preparation Quality

13.6. Thomaston Public Schools - News for Staff - February/March 2018

13.7. Letters of Intent to Homeschool

13.8. Residency Determination Letter

13.9. Records Disposition Authorization

13.10. Effective School Solutions

13.10.1. Insights, March 2018

13.10.2. Solutions, March 2018

13.11. Administrator Reports

13.12. Enrollment Report

### 13.13. Field Trips

13.13.1. Catamount Aerial Adventure Park, Hillsdale, NY, Class of 2021, Preston Soeprasetyo

**Vote to accept/approve the Field Trip as presented**

**Beth Campbell motioned and David Colavecchio seconded to accept/approve the Field Trip as presented**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: Motioned carried**

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

### 13.14. Personnel

13.14.1. Doug Craig, Involuntary Transfer, Technology Teacher, Thomaston Center School to Thomaston High School, April 23, 2018

13.14.2. Robert Stack, Voluntary Transfer, Paraprofessional, Thomaston Center School

13.14.3. Laura Miller, Voluntary Transfer, Teacher Grade 6 Mathematics, Thomaston Center School

13.14.4. Bryan Holmes, New Hire, Physics Teacher, Thomaston High School, August 24, 2018

**Vote to accept/approve New Hires/Transfers/Retirements/Resignations as presented**

**Beth Campbell motioned and David Colavecchio seconded to accept/approve New Hires/Transfers/Retirements/Resignation as presented.**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: Motioned carried**

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

13.14.5. Jeffrey Dickau, Schedule K Position, Boys' Varsity Tennis, Thomaston High School

**Vote to accept/approve Schedule K/Coach positions as presented**

**Beth Campbell motioned and David Colavecchio seconded to accept/approve Schedule K/Coach positions as presented.**

**Discussion: None**

**Vote: Motioned carried**

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

### 14. Committee Reports

#### 14.1. Budget/Audit Committee

##### 14.1.1. March Business Report

- Regionalization Efforts for Insurance
- Heating Oil for 2018-2019
- AFSME Contract Settlement
- 2017 School Security Competitive Grant Program
- ED244 - Adult Education Annual Grant Application

14.1.2. March Finance Report

- 2016-2019 Grant Report
- March 2017 Expenditures \$1,246,870.52
- March 2017 Transfers \$12,284.28

**Vote to accept/approve Business and Finance report and Expenditures as presented**

**Beth Campbell motioned and David Colavecchio seconded** to accept/approve the Business and Finance Report and Expenditures Report including the transfer of funds as presented.

*Discussion: None*

**Vote: Motioned carried**

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

14.2. Policy Committee - Cancelled

**15. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of Self Evaluation of the Board of Education**

15.1. The Board entered Executive Session at 8:01 p.m.

**16. Exit Executive**

16.1. The Board exited Executive Session at 8:32 p.m.

**17. Adjournment**

**David Colavecchio motioned and Beth Campbell seconded** to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 p.m.

*Discussion: None*

**Vote: Motioned carried**

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

DRAFT Until Board Approved