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**MINUTES**  
**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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**I. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order (*Bylaws of the Board 9325.1 – Quorum*)**

- 1.1. **Chairperson Beth Campbell** called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.
  - 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Beth Campbell, Vice Chairperson David Colavecchio** (remote at 7:05 pm, arrived in-person @ 7:22pm.), **Secretary Heather Patchell, Treasurer Roxy Fainer, Steven Carr, Matthew VanOrmer, Sarah Ethier, Nicole Rinaldi, Jennifer Nolan, Superintendent Francine Coss**
  - 1.3. Student Representative in Virtual Attendance: **Delaney Jose**
  - 1.4. Student Representative Absent: **Cesar Velez**
  - 1.5. Others in Attendance: **Kristen DiVenere, Jonathan Kozlak, Jessica Bedosky, Keith Lahey, Jennifer Guerin, Michael Edwards, Sarah Treglia, Frank Treglia, Lisa Bethin**
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## 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)

**Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education Meeting dated August 16, 2021 as presented.**

Discussion: **Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to amend the agenda to add the quarantine/ isolation student attendance information and resolution as item #7.5**

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

### 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:

- 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.

#### 4.1. Frank Treglia, 222 Clay Street, Thomaston

4.1.1. Mr. Treglia inquired on the policy regarding the attendance status of a student who is placed in quarantine due to being exposed to COVID-19 from another student in the classroom. Mr. Treglia wanted to know if remote learning would be allowed. **Chairperson Beth Campbell** stated that Mr. Treglia's question will be further discussed during the discussion on the proposed resolution (added agenda item #7.5)

#### 4.2. Michael Edwards, 475 Hickory Hill Road, Thomaston

4.2.1. Mr. Edwards spoke to the Board members in regards to making masks optional for the 2021-2022 school year. Mr. Edwards provided the Board with a copy of his public comment. A copy of Mr. Edwards' speech has been attached to the end of these minutes.

#### 4.3. Keith Lahey, 428 Walnut Hill Road, Thomaston

4.3.1. Mr. Lahey addressed the board regarding vaccinations, mask wearing, and attendance status while quarantined. Mr. Lahey provided the Board with a copy of his public comment. A copy of Mr. Lahey's speech has been attached to the end of these minutes.

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

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

**Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education dated June 14, 2021 as presented.**

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

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

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**Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew Vanormer seconded to accept/approve the Special Meeting Minutes of the Board of Education dated June 23, 2021 as presented.**

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

**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

**Superintendent Francine Coss** highlighted to the Board that the district and the Board of Education should be proud of the scores presented. The district and the Board of Education should also be proud that this information is being shared with the community. The Thomaston Board of Education is very transparent with the community in that they value the opinion of the members of the community and that these results are shared with the community. The Board takes the responses very seriously.

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

**Superintendent Francine Coss** elaborated on Kristen DiVenere's recommendation to update the Exit Interview Policy 4117.6 by replacing the written form with an interactive Exit Interview survey. **Superintendent Coss** stated that Kristen DiVenere will prepare an alternative survey and bring it to the Policy Committee when ready. The policy committee will vote at that time.

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

**Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded 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.”**

Discussion: **Steven Carr** requested to change the word “area” to “areas” in order to cover multiple areas that may need to be addressed rather than limiting the motion to one area. **Chairperson Campbell** requested **Steven Carr** make a motion to change the language of the initial motion.

**Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded 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 areas for the Board of Education and the lowest performing areas for the Superintendent as identified by the data collected in said survey.”**

Discussion: **Superintendent Coss** clarified that it's written in the Superintendent's evaluation form 2020-2021 (Personnel Management) that **Superintendent Coss** will work with the Ad-Hoc committee to obtain feedback on district environment. **Superintendent Coss** stated that this new goal that is being motioned this evening is a better goal since it is broader and not attached to a committee that is expired.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

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

[Board of Education Discussion Link](#)

Chairperson Beth Campbell thanked Superintendent Coss for her research and for always being very thorough and transparent with the Board.

7.5. (added agenda item) Thomaston Board of Education Resolution: Quarantined/Isolated Student Attendance Resolution was read aloud by Roxy Fainer. [Link to listen to the Resolution](#)

**Roxy Fainer motioned and David Colavecchio seconded to accept/approve the amended agenda new item(7.5) as presented - the Thomaston Board of Education deems adequate remote, virtual learning provided in mostly live synchronous instruction by any Thomaston Public Schools teacher to any Thomaston Public Schools homebound student to ensure the homebound student is able to successfully return to the in-person classroom. A homebound student who participates in live synchronous learning for more than half a school day shall be marked "present" (not absent).**

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

**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)

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

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

**Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded 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) and 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) and to accept/approve the addition of an Organizational Meeting on Monday, November 27, 2023 to the Two-Year Meeting Calendar of the Board of Education(January 2022 - December 2023)**

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

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**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
- 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

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- 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. Parent 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

**Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded 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.**

Discussion: **Roxy Fainer** came across some discrepancies in the Parent Student Handbook and the Faculty Handbook **Superintendent Coss** requested that **Roxy Fainer** submit the discrepancies and **Superintendent Coss** will share the discrepancies with the author of those 2 handbooks. **Superintendent Coss** did add that some additions were made and corrected during the day of the Board meeting.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

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 school year.

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

**Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded 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.**

Discussion: **Roxy Fainer** inquired on the status of the stipend positions for the upcoming sports season. **Superintendent Coss** stated that she will keep the Board updated as the positions are filled. Most of the coaching positions are rolled over year-to-year.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

- 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



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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

**Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the Mega Washington DC trip and the added trip of the Big E Field trip for Thomaston High seniors.**

Discussion: **Superintendent Coss** stated that the Spring Parent Teacher conferences will conflict with the Mega Washington DC trip. If the motion passes, the Spring Parent Teacher conferences will be rescheduled.

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

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)**

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

**Roxy Fainer motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept / approve the Business and Finance Report and Expenditures per Policy 3432/3433 Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement as presented.**

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

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

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- 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.

**Heather Patchell motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to fast track policies 3450 and 1330.**

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

**Heather Patchell motioned and Sarah Ethier seconded to accept/approve the changes to Policy 1330 Appendix A Use Form as presented to the Policy Committee.**

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

**Heather Patchell motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the changes in the form for Policy 3450 as presented by the Policy Committee.**

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

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

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

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

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

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

11.2.5.1.1.1.2.2. Cleaning, Disinfection, and Hand Hygiene in Schools - A Toolkit for School Administrators (as of April 16, 2021-Now Archived and replaced with 1.1.1.1.1.5 below)

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

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**Heather Patchell motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded** to accept the use of cleaning and disinfection for your facilities per CDC until further notice and whenever there is no government mandate.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

### **Adjournment**

**David Colavecchio motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded** to adjourn the meeting.

**Chairperson Beth Campbell** adjourned the meeting at 8:51pm.

**THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**Monday, 08/16/21 7:00 P.M.**

**Public Comment from Michael EDWARDS of 475 Hickory Hill Road, Thomaston:**

Thank you for your attention and for serving on the Board of Education.

Today by myself I took care of my three children, soon to be aged 5, 3, and 2 and had a use a vacation day to get off my scheduled work shift tonight in order to be here. But I am here because I believe children are being unfairly burdened by the current safety protocols.

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

**IM NOT A DOCTOR SO MAYBE I SHOULD JUST BE QUIET**

As a parent I have struggled with what to say at this meeting. I thought about citing various studies or articles showing other states or countries who have had masks optional for school children and have not fared any worse then places that have mandated them. I thought about citing medical statistics showing how low risk Covid is to children. But then I realized I am not a doctor so anything I speak about from that standpoint will be disregarded. As a matter of fact, it seems a significant number of practicing physicians, virologists and epidemiologist are being silenced who offer opposing viewpoints to the never ending Covid fear drum beat.

**MAKE MASKS OPTIONAL**

Masks should be optional for school children. As simple as that.

**Lack of Transparency Leading to Distrust of Parents**

I would venture to say some of the BOE members may even agree with me. Some may disagree. That is ok. But your rights should not trample mine or my child's right.

Many parents in town (Dozens if not more) and the state wide (thousands) agree with me. Why is there not more parents here at the meeting? I would say the actions of our government institutions in the last 16 months have caused people to lose faith in their ability to make a difference with their voice. We have a dually elected state legislature being nullified by our Governor who is unilaterally governing from his desk. We have the non-elected alphabet agencies like the Center for Disease and CONTROL, the CT Department of Public Health, The Office of Early Childhood, and the CT Department of Education, all seemingly making decisions with no parental input, it can be very discouraging for parents.

How many teachers were asked, based on their professional opinion, if masks cause an obstruction for education in the classroom? How many teachers were asked if they want to see kids unmasked? Were they asked at all? Does the teachers opinion on the topic matter or just the people in the teacher unions? If teachers are not being asked then why?

My 5 year old is due to attend Kindergarten this year. I have been trying to get an answer from the BOE and Superintendent with regards to mask policy since May. You have been responsive and for that I say thank you. However, Whether it is the Governor, the aforementioned alphabet agencies or the local school district, this current status of unknown for masks is shameful. We are being told they are required for the first month then who knows until we see if the governor's order is extended. And now all of a sudden the goal posts have moved further away...AGAIN.

Not so long ago, like as of a week ago, my understanding based our communication was if the governor's order disappeared then the local district could choose it's own policy. **THE WAY IT SHOULD BE.** Now with this weeks updated Safe return to schools plan we find out that beyond the governors' order expiring we now need the CDC to change it's recommendation for universal everyone masks policy to they recommend voluntary masking plus the local health district has to give it's blessing as well. The Center for Disease and **CONTROL** will not be making a recommendation of voluntary masking in schools until....my child is probably in 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade from kindergarten now.

### **Where are we headed?**

Masks were not required for vaccinated persons from May until recently according to CDC. Now they are recommending them for everyone again. I used to think the light at the end of the tunnel was masks come off children when they get vaccinated after becoming eligible. As an aside, let me give you a little heads up right now, parental reaction to masks mandates are insignificant compared to what they will be for experimental vaccine mandates.

But now the "EXPERTS" are saying even with vaccine that kids will be masked. So when does this go on until? Do kindergartners from 2020 have to wait until they are in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, or 3<sup>rd</sup> grade to see their friends faces? When do LOCAL LEADERS stand up and ask the tough questions to the state government, and inform them that this is no way to educate kids. When do we say lets use some of the common sense hygienic methods learned in the last year such as regular surface cleanings and and make masks optional?

Make these agencies give concrete answers or tell them you are making your own decisions at the local level. If they say concrete answers can not be given because the virus is not black and white, well same goes for a child's education, it's not black and white, in fact I believe you would agree that it is very complex.

### **UNFAIR TREATMENT**

A local private religious school has decided that they will make masks optional for their students in 1<sup>st</sup> grade-8<sup>th</sup> grade. More importantly, they decided to BAN mask use for the Pre-K AND KINDERGARTEN classes. WHY? Their professional opinion is that it is vital to the development of the 3-5-year-olds to see faces and lips for speech development. They did not make this up out of the air, I am sure this is based on years of academic studies and research of speech development in children. Does the Thomaston Board of Education disagree with this notion or are making the conscious decision to sacrifice youngest children's development at the advice of agencies whom will never be involved in education of youth?

Children should not be in FEAR of this virus. Children should not be in FEAR of spreading this virus. Children should not be in FEAR of being yelled at for not wearing a mask. Children should not be in FEAR.

Keith Lahey, 428 Walnut Hill Road

**Response pertaining to Vaccinations:**

Before the discussion on bullet point "10.1.6.15. Fall Athletics and Vaccinations" in Monday's agenda begins, I would like to put the following statement on record. First and foremost, it is not up to the State or the BOE to determine what goes into the bodies of my children. This is a personal choice that will be made at the appropriate time with a healthcare provider. I would hope that in the best interest of the town and the BOE that there will be no mandates for vaccinations and no discrimination of those who choose not to take part in an experimental gene manipulation therapy that still hasn't been approved by the FDA. Furthermore, fully vaccinated people can still get and transmit the virus to others. These are personal decisions that should be made with your doctor. Those that would like to be vaccinated please do so. Those that choose not to get vaccinated that's great too! It's a personal choice and it should be left that way! Please don't discriminate against certain groups for decisions made on a personal level in the best interests of their families.

NATHAN BRUNNEN

**Response pertaining to masks:**

The wearing of masks should be left up to the students and their families. It's a personal decision and should be left as such. Unfortunately, in our state we have a House and Senate that has failed to fulfill their obligations as elected officials. They've relinquished their authority as legislators to allow for an Autocratic form of "leadership" who does not have the best interests of our children in mind. Thankfully their dereliction of duty is our golden ticket. Only the legislator has the authority to pass laws. Mr. Lamont can ask us all to wear masks but he can't force anyone to unless you are on state property. It is up to us as parents to stand up for our children and our freedoms. By all means if you want to wear a mask please do so. However please don't discriminate against those who choose not to.

**Response pertaining to marked absence:**

I completely understand the need to track attendance of all students. I also strongly disagree with someone who's being forced to quarantine to be marked as absent. It's perfectly understandable if you miss school due to illness to be marked as absent. I will use one of my daughters as an example: under no fault of her own she missed over a month of in person learning due to forced quarantine last year. It's preposterous to think that she would be marked absent if this happens again this year. It is my understanding that there will be online learning for students in forced quarantine situations. In my opinion students who actively participate and complete their daily assignments during a forced quarantine should not be marked absent.