



MINUTES

THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. Thomaston High School Auditorium Entrance – Door #2

*This meeting can be attended in person by the public ([see requirements](#)) or viewed live/recorded on the [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#).
([Bylaws of the Board 9322 – Public and Executive Sessions](#) and [Bylaws of the Board 9326.1 – Taping/Recording Board Meetings](#))*

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.

2023–2024 Board of Education Goals:

1. The Board will evaluate the Superintendent based on the effectiveness of her leadership in implementation and achievement of the district goals.
2. The Board will participate in biannual professional development provided by CABE to improve the collaborative leadership team with the Superintendent to focus on priorities around high achievement for all students in the district.

Members:

Roxy Fainer, Chairperson
Tanya Galpin, Secretary
Sarah Ethier
Frank Treglia

Francine Coss, Superintendent
Beth Campbell
Megan Campbell, Student Representative
Landen Galpin, Student Representative

Matthew VanOrmer, Vice Chairperson
Steven Carr, Treasurer
Anthony Kepler
Nathan Vieira

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

([Bylaws of the Board 9325.1 – Quorum](#))

- 1.1. **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** called the meeting to order at 7:16pm.
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Roxy Fainer, Vice Chairperson Matthew VanOrmer, Secretary Tanya Galpin, Sarah Ethier, Beth Campbell, Anthony Kepler, Nathan Vieira**
- 1.3. Board Member Absent: **Frank Treglia**
- 1.4. Board Member in Virtual Attendance: **Steven Carr** (*due to audio issues while live streaming the meeting, Steven was unable to vote. He joined the meeting by phone for the Executive Session at the end of the meeting*)
- 1.5. Student Representatives in Attendance: **Megan Campbell, Landen Galpin**
- 1.6. Administrators in Attendance: **Cristina Kingsbury, Andrea Peters, Jennifer Irazabal**
- 1.7. Others in Attendance: Olivia Blasko, Michelina Stanley, Susan Lubomski, Daniel Cocchiola, Brandon Lynn, Tracy Decker, Kelly Decker, Nicole Rinaldi

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda ▲

([Bylaws of the Board 9325.2 – Order of Business/Policy 1205 Community Relations – Participation by the Public – Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination](#))

Beth Campbell motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the agenda of the Board of Education Meeting dated January 8, 2024 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

4. Public Participation ▲▲▲

([Bylaws of the Board 9325 – Meeting Conduct](#))

The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with the rules of common courtesy and the Bylaws of the Board 9325 – Meeting Conduct:

- Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter.
- No boisterous conduct shall be permitted; persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for termination of that person's privilege to address the Board. The Chairperson may clear the room so that Board members may continue the meeting.
- No oral presentation shall include charges/complaints against any employee of the Board of Education, regardless of whether or not the employee is identified by name.

Nicole Rinaldi, 65 Edgewood Ave

I'm here tonight regarding delayed openings. If I remember correctly there was a survey regarding two hour versus three hour delay several years ago. I don't recall the results of that survey but I am curious about the results of that data. Did that data support using a 3 hour delay instead of 2 hours? I wonder this because According to the district website, there is a two hour and three hour delay option. It seems as of late, as within the past year or two, a majority if not all of the delayed openings Have been three hours in length. It seems all too often that Thomaston is the only district using a 3 hour delay schedule . I am just looking for some clarification or decision-making protocols that are in place to determine which the delay scheduled is to be followed. Any information would be appreciated. Thank you for your time.

5. Approval of Minutes ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes)

5.1. [Thomaston Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes – December 11, 2023](#)

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded to accept/approve the Thomaston Board of Education Regular Meeting Minutes dated December 11, 2023 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

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)

6.1. January 2023 Rotary Student of the Month – Ava Harkness

6.2. Students of the Month – December 2023

Grade 12: Nicole Decker

Grade 7: Spencer Dobos

Grade 2: Hannah Donahue

Grade 11: Grace Levasseur

Grade 6: Aiden Wood

Grade 1: Abigail Brady

Grade 10: Perla Pupriqi

Grade 5: Kate Mazzarella

Kindergarten: Avalyn Davies

Grade 9: Ethan Ranney

Grade 4: Cody Deland

Preschool: Lyric Joseph

Grade 8: Sophia Grega

Grade 3: April O'Mara

6.3. PSAT Testing Administration – Top 10 Student Performance – Thomaston High School – Grade 11

Mason Allen

Christopher Marciel

Jayden Duong

Jacqueline Phillips

Grace LeVasseur

Gwyneth Romanzi

Maddox Lahey

Erti Shkrepi

Emily Losee

Francesco Treglia

6.4. [January 2024 Staff Spotlight – Brandon Lynn, Industrial Arts Teacher – Thomaston High School](#)

7. Presentations ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments)

7.1. College and Career Accelerator (EdAdvance), Susan Lubomski, Career Pathways and Workforce Development Consultant; Daniel Cocchiola, Director of Career Pathways and Workforce Development; Marissa VanOrmer and Kylie Decker, Thomaston High School Class of 2023

7.1.1. [Presentation](#)

7.1.1.1. Student Testimonials

7.1.1.1.1. [Kylie Decker](#)

7.1.1.1.2. [Marissa VanOrmer](#)

7.1.1.1.3. [Thomaston High School Career and College Accelerator Program](#)

8. [Student Representatives Report](#) ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9160 – Student Representation on the Board of Education)

9. Chairperson's Report ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9121 – Office of the Chairperson)

9.1. [Progress Report on 2023–2024 Goals for the Thomaston Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools](#)

9.2. EdAdvance Update

10. Superintendent's Report ▲▲▲

(Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)

10.1. Correspondence

10.1.1. Superintendent

10.1.1.1. [Thank You Card from the Foss Family to Superintendent Coss](#)

10.1.1.2. [Effective School Solutions – MINDBEAT – Self-Care for Teachers](#)

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- 10.1.1.3. [Effective School Solutions - MINDBEAT - A Special Holiday Message](#)
 - 10.1.1.4. [EdAdvance Scholarship Letter from Dr. Jeffrey Kitching, Ed.D., Executive Director, EdAdvance](#)
 - 10.1.1.5. [Thank You Letter to Jennifer Irazabal and Pamela Nascimento for their Presentation at the December 11, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education](#)
 - 10.1.1.6. [Thank You Letter to Sheila McKay for her Presentation at the December 11, 2023 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education](#)
 - 10.1.1.7. [Letter to Charlene-Russell-Tucker, Commissioner, Connecticut State Department of Education from Superintendent Coss Regarding the Reconsideration of Reading Waiver](#)
 - 10.1.1.8. [Connecticut State Register and Manual](#)
 - 10.1.1.9. [Letters of Approval for Mini-Grant Applications and Funding - Thomaston Education Enrichment Fund](#)
 - 10.1.1.10. [Letters of Regret for Mini-Grant Applications - Thomaston Education Enrichment Fund](#)
 - 10.1.2. Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) - None
 - 10.1.3. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents (CAPSS) - None
 - 10.1.4. United States Department of Education (USDE) - None
 - 10.1.5. Department of Public Health (DPH) - None
 - 10.1.6. Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE)
 - 10.1.6.1. [Performance Matters - December 2023](#)
 - 10.1.6.2. [Student Assessment News - December 2023](#)
 - 10.2. Reports
 - 10.2.1. General Reports
 - 10.2.2. Administrator Reports
 - 10.2.2.1. [January 2024](#)
 - 10.2.3. Residency Report - None
([Policy 5118 - Students - Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students](#))
 - 10.2.4. Student Discipline Report - Expulsions - None
([Policy 5144 Students - Discipline](#))
 - 10.2.5. Homeschooling Report
([Policy 6172.3 - Instruction -Home Schooling](#))
 - 10.2.5.1. Letter of Intent to Homeschool - Superintendent's Acknowledgement - Student A
 - 10.2.6. Enrollment Report
([Policy 5112 Students - Age of Attendance](#))
 - 10.2.6.1. [January 2, 2024](#)
 - 10.2.6.2. [2023-2024 School Year Enrollment Projection Report - Thomaston Public Schools](#)
 - 10.3. Contracts - None
 - 10.4. Grants (*Please refer to the [December 2023 Business Manager's Report](#)*)
 - 10.5. General Information
 - 10.5.1. Fundraisers (*Please refer to the [December 2023 Business Manager's Report](#)*)
 - 10.6. Personnel (**Denotes Effective Date*)
([Policy 4112/4212 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment](#))
 - 10.6.1. New Hires - None
 - 10.6.2. Reassignment
 - 10.6.2.1. Francis Embardo, from Building Substitute to Full Time Paraprofessional/ISS (Instructional), Thomaston High School*January 2, 2024
 - 10.6.3. Transfer/New Assignments
 - 10.6.3.1. Michelle Pope, from Special Education Teacher to Grade 6 Mathematics and Social Studies Teacher*January 2, 2024
 - 10.6.4. Resignations
 - 10.6.4.1. Marissa Desrosiers, NAEYC Paraprofessional, Black Rock School*December 22, 2023
 - 10.6.4.2. Seth Murphy, History Teacher, Thomaston High School*January 2, 2024
 - 10.6.4.3. Jennifer Farrell, Grade 6 Teacher, Thomaston Center School*January 5, 2024
 - 10.6.5. Retirement - None
 - 10.6.6. Termination - None
 - 10.6.7. Non-Renewals - None
 - 10.6.8. Stipends
 - 10.6.8.1. Robert Skinner - Basketball - Boys Freshmen Coach

Beth Campbell motioned and Nathan Vieira 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: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

10.6.9. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

(Policy 4152.6/4252.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act)

10.6.9.1. [Employee E](#)

10.6.10. Interns and Student Teachers - None

(Policy 1212–Community Relations–School Volunteers)

10.6.10.1. [Hayley Cuttitta, University of Bridgeport*January 8, 2024](#)

10.7. Field Trips - None

(Policy 6153 - Instruction Field Trips - Secondary Schools)

10.8. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies

(Policy 3260 Business/Non-Instructional Operations Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies)

11. Committee Reports ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9132 – Standing Committees and Bylaws of the Board 9133 – Special Committees/Advisory Committees)

11.1. [Budget Audit Committee](#)

11.1.1. [December 2023 Business Manager’s Report](#)

11.1.1.1. Expenditures for the Month: \$963,986.03

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded 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 for December 2023.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

11.2. [Policy Committee](#)

(Policy 2231–Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded per the Bylaws 9311 of the Thomaston Board of Education, policies will be adopted or amended after consideration at two regular meetings of the Board of Education, unless by vote of two-thirds of the members present at a Board of Education meeting, the Board permits a “fast tracking” of the policy adoption or amendment. I move that the Policy Committee’s proposed amendments to Policy 4117.6/4217.6 – Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified – Exit Interviews be permitted for “fast tracking” by two-thirds vote of the members present at tonight’s Board of Education meeting.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded to accept/approve the changes to Policy 54117.6/4217.6 – Students – Admission/Placement/Withdrawal as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

12. Executive Session for the purpose of a mid-year evaluation meeting of the Superintendent based on the effectiveness of her leadership in implementation and achievement of district goals and for the purpose of the leadership team self-assessment based on the effectiveness of their leadership in implementation and achievement of Board goals.

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded to enter into Executive Session at 8:08pm. And invite **Superintendent Coss** for the purpose of a mid-year evaluation meeting of the Superintendent based on the effectiveness of her leadership in implementation and achievement of district goals and for the purpose of the leadership team self-assessment based on the effectiveness of their leadership in implementation and achievement of Board goals.

Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

13. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session at 9:46pm.

No action was taken.

14. Adjournment

**Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Beth Campbell seconded to adjourn the meeting.
Chairperson Roxy Fainer adjourned the meeting at 9:47pm.**