

**Thomaston Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Thomaston Town Hall, Meeting Room One
April 20, 2009
7:00 p.m.**



Minutes

Present: Laurie Barrett, Steve Catania, Lucy Santopietro, Beth Yaffe, Deborah April, and Holly Herbert

Absent: Cheryl Roberts, Laura Rieley, Joanne Gilland, and Student Representatives Nick Guertin and Adam Scheppard

Also Present: Superintendent, Lynda Mitchell; Business Manager, Susan Laone; Board Clerk, Patricia George; High School Principal, James Wenker; Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson; and Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio

I. Establishment of a quorum and call to order:

Chairperson, Laurie Barrett established a quorum and called to order the Regular Meeting of the Thomaston Board of Education at 7:05 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Board Chair, Laurie Barrett, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Agenda:

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Lucy Santopietro to approve/accept the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Approval of Minutes:

Regular Meeting of the Board of Education dated March 9, 2009

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the minutes as presented. Steve Catania abstains; motion carried.

Special Meeting of the Board of Education dated March 30, 2009

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the minutes as presented. Beth Yaffe, Lucy Santopietro and Steve Catania abstain; motion carried.

V. Student Presentations:

A. CTIA Students: Mrs. Michelle Dayton introduced the Board to several student members of the Connecticut Innovation Academy (CTIA), Jonathon Lampron, Jeremy Smith, Jacob Silver and Patrick Neumann. The CTIA project this year was to create a company which, in turn, creates a videogame that promotes "going green". The students described their project, how it came to fruition, and then provided a brief segment of the video. They will present their company and

video game at an upcoming Connecticut Innovation Expo scheduled for May 9th.

- B. Future Teachers: The purpose for attending this evening's Board meeting was to thank the Board members for their support and assistance in making NetSmartz the internet safety program for the state of Connecticut and to propose that the Thomaston district technical staff make the program available to appropriate age groups in each of the schools. No action required.

VI. Public Participation:

No report

VII. Communications:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept

(a) New Hires and (b) Retirements as presented; motion carried unanimously.

(g) Correspondence: Informational, as presented

VIII. Superintendent's Report:

- A. Employee of the Month: Superintendent Mitchell deferred to Principal Diorio to provide a few words on April's employee of the month, Mary Ellen Kucia. Mr. Diorio said that Ms. Kucia, a substitute, takes on a whole variety of different assignments and really cares about the students.
- B. Students of the Month: Jamison Kissh/March and Laura Hansen/April
Both students were recently recognized and introduced at a Rotary luncheon. Superintendent Mitchell read from each of their resumes highlighting a few of their academic and extracurricular accomplishments.
- C. Home-Schooled Students: Superintendent Mitchell explained to the Board the gray areas associated with home-schooled students.

IX. Business Manager's Report:

No report

X. Administrators' Reports:

- A. Pupil Services Director, Nancy Schnyer: Written, as presented
- B. High School Principal, James Wenker:
- Mr. Wenker commended the CTIA students for the hard work put forth on their project.
- C. Thomaston Center School Principal, James Diorio:
- Mr. Diorio added information regarding Tools for Schools and an update on students attending the Sylvan Learning Center.
- D. Black Rock School Principal, Paul Johnson:
Mr. Johnson's oral report included:
- Technology plan approved by Education Connection with two minor changes

- State of Connecticut District Results from the Fall 2008 Kindergarten Inventory
- The upcoming “Wizard of Oz” Show
- Bids to repair the boilers

XI. Student Representatives’ Reports:

No reports

XII. Standing Committee Reports:

A. Budget

1. Budget Expenditures and Transfers:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Steve Catania

2. Quarterly Update:

Business Manager, Sue Laone, indicated that the district is on target. She is currently reviewing expenditures that may be coming down the pike and currently expects a special education deficit.

B. Curriculum/Instruction:

1. Principal Johnson discussed this information under his administrator’s report.

C. Maintenance/Facilities:

No report

D. Technology:

No report

E. Personnel:

No Report

F. Transportation:

No report

G. Athletics:

No report

H. Long Range Task Force/Building Committee:

No report

I. Policy:

No report

J. Government Relations:

No report

K. Affiliations:

No report

XIII. Old Business:

A. Board Spokesperson

Board member, Steve Catania, indicated that current policy states that the Chair is the public spokesperson for the Board.

Superintendent Mitchell added that the policy further states, unless the responsibility is specifically delegated to others. It was the consensus of the Board not to create a new assignment.

On a motion made by Steve Catania and seconded by Lucy Santopietro not to implement an additional Board spokesperson. Motion carried unanimously.

B. Two Tier Busing (Lori Foley of Worhunsy)

The purpose of the two- tiered busing is dual. Initially, the plan was implemented to save budget dollars. Additionally, it further incorporates into Superintendent Mitchell's "Two Schools – Two Campuses = One Unified Program" by unifying Black Rock and Center School. Start and end times for both school would co- inside.

Lori Foley, a representative from Worhunsy was on hand to discuss how the program would be implemented from a busing standpoint.

XIV. New Business:

XV. Items for Future Agendas:

None

XVI. Executive Session:

XVII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Deborah April and seconded by Steve Catania to adjourn the Regular Meeting of the Board of Education at 8:24 p.m.; motion carried unanimously.