



Thomaston Board of Education
Special Meeting
Thomaston Town Hall
Meeting Room One
July 27, 2009
7:00 p.m.

Present:

Laurie Barrett, Lucy Santopietro, Beth Yaffe, Joanne Gilland, Holly Herbert, Laura Rieley

Absent:

Deborah April, Steve Catania, Cheryl Roberts

Also Present:

Superintendent Lynda Mitchell, Board Clerk Patricia George, Board Attorney Daniel Murphy

I. Call to Order:

Chairperson Laurie Barrett called to order the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:00 p.m.

II. Approval of Agenda:

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

III. New Hires:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept the new hires as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Internal Vacancy Appointments:

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Holly Herbert to approve/accept the Internal Vacancy Appointments as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

V. Transfers:

(informational, as presented)

VI. Resignations:

On a motion made by Lucy Santopietro and seconded by Beth Yaffe to approve/accept resignations as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Petition:

Consideration and possible action upon petition filed on July 8, 2009

Board Chair, Laurie Barrett, stated that the hearing is limited to the subject matter requested in the petition which asked to retain Mr. Timothy Brandt as a music teacher. She indicated that the rules governing the hearing must be consistent with Board policy. In short, complaints about Board personnel must be directed to the Superintendent's office.

Public Participation:

Tricia Brody

790 Hickory Hill Road, Thomaston

Felt the petition addressed more than stated and requested to have it read.

Tim Scatena

67 Patricia Lane, Thomaston

After the petition was read, Mr. Scatena asked how the petition was limited to music teacher, Timothy Brandt

Frank Meaney

170 Valley View Road, Thomaston

Noted that everyone makes mistakes and should be provided a second chance. He asked to retain Ms. Krin on conditions, as an example. He said that the Board should put aside the easy way out which is to terminate her.

Anita Lipski

No address provided

Noted that Ms. Krin's actions directly affected her grand-daughter. Said that we are making excuses for an adult role model.

Jennifer Foell

21 Julia Lane, Thomaston

Spoke in favor of Mr. Brandt

Trisha Brody

790 Hickory Hill Road, Thomaston

Felt the hearing was unfair, public was misled, newspaper articles could have made it clear what the hearing would entail.

Rebecca Curtis

143 Pine Hill Road, Thomaston

Attested to Mr. Brandt's teaching and was devastated by his removal.

Jill Kennedy

287 D. Welton Way, Thomaston

Said that Ms. Krin was professional and well-liked.

Mike Barrett

Legal Counsel for Lindsay Krin,
297 Valley View Road, North, Thomaston

Stated that Ms. Krin was deeply upset and overcome with emotion. He continued by stating Ms. Krin is deeply passionate about music education.

He asked who actually was the author of the petition.

Liz Krasnowski

228 Carter Road, Thomaston

Ms. Krasnowski responded to the question posed regarding the author of the petition stating that everyone who signed it should be considered the author. They all feel strongly about the petition.

Carrie Veronesi

12 Innes Avenue, Thomaston

Asked what it would take to reinstate Mr. Brandt. Is hoping that money can be found in the budget to rehire Mr. Brandt.

Mike McMann

Hickory Hill Road, Thomaston

Concerned that the public did not have the proper guidelines regarding the hearing.

Michelle Rainville

209 Jackson Street

Provided the Board with a letter

Violet Bordner

48 Atwood Road, Thomaston

Commented that an individual with an arrest record should not be teaching students.

Gloria Quirke

565 Clark Avenue, Thomaston

Spoke in favor of Mr. Brandt.

Robert Stack

99 Walnut Hill Road, Thomaston

Spoke in favor of Mr. Brandt

Carol Gallo

194 Valley View Road, Thomaston

Wanted to know how a parent could circumvent music classes if Ms. Krin were to remain in the sytem.

Cheryl Griffin

44 Broadview Heights, Thomaston

Felt that the arts were always cut. Feels the district needs to keep the arts programs as big as possible.

VIII. Adjournment:

On a motion made by Beth Yaffe and seconded by Holly Herbert to adjourn the Special Meeting of the Board of Education at 7:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.