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**MINUTES  
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING**

Thomaston Town Hall  
Meeting Room One  
Monday, January 25, 2016  
6:00 p.m.

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**Members:**

**Roxy Fainer, Chairperson  
Kathleen Freimuth, Vice Chairperson  
Anne Petrucci, Secretary  
Alexander Lee, Treasurer  
Francine Coss, Superintendent  
Beth Campbell  
David Colavecchio  
Maureen McMahon  
Scott Theriault  
Frank Treglia**

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

- 1.1 Chairperson **Roxy Fainer** called the meeting to order at 6:06 P.M.
- 1.2 Board members in attendance: **Roxy Fainer, Kathleen Freimuth, Anne Petrucci, Alexander Lee, Francine Coss, David Colavecchio, Scott Theriault** and **Frank Treglia**.
- 1.3 Members Absent: **Beth Campbell** and **Maureen McMahon**.
- 1.4 Others in attendance: Todd Bendtsen, Kristin Bernier, Alisha DiCorpo, Jonathan Kozlak, John Perrucci, George Seabourne and Aimee Turner

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

**3. Presentation**

- 2016-2017 Operating and Capital Budgets: **Francine Coss, Todd Bendtsen**, Kristin Bernier, Alisha DiCorpo, Jonathan Kozlak, John Perrucci, and Aimee Turner each presented information on their respective school/ department budgets.

**4. Board of Education Budget Discussion**

- Board members and invited guests discussed the 2016-2017 Operating and Capital Budgets.
  - **Francine Coss**, George Seabourne and **David Colavecchio** each referenced the “1% account” that allows school districts to rollover up to 1% of the annual budget into

- an account for future use. George Seabourne requested additional information on this account and offered suggestions on how to use funds in such an account.
- George Seabourne asked **Todd Bendtsen** to provide details related to the utility lines (object 400) to the Board of Finance as a component of the formal budget presentation.
  - George Seabourne suggested that School Principals apply for a Thomaston Savings Bank Technology grant which averages \$2,500 per grant and has offered up to \$17,000 on recently.
  - Kristin Bernier provided information regarding the advantages of Kelly Services, the per diem substitute service currently used by the District.
  - George Seabourne asked Aimee Turner to illustrate the savings/actual cost of the PATHS program for the formal budget presentation to the Board of Finance.
  - **Todd Bendtsen** described the conservative funding level for the ECS grant and stated that each 10% increase in the grant revenue equaled approximately \$55,000.
  - **Roxy Fainer** asked Alisha DiCorpo if the SERC coaches currently assisting the District could be utilized in the 2016-2017 school year instead of the proposed, in-house coaches. Ms. DiCorpo stated data from the District's intervention program would need to be reviewed before considering either option.
  - **Alexander Lee** asked Alisha DiCorpo if her department was affected by having only a part-time secretary. Ms. DiCorpo explained how she had requested an additional hour per day for the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Department Secretary and that this request was not supported in the 2016-2017 operating budget.
  - George Seabourne asked John Perrucci if Marty Egan includes "Upkeep of Grounds" in the Recreation Department budget. Mr. Perrucci stated that the District's budget reflects only the portion of "Upkeep and Grounds" that the District is responsible to fund.
  - George Seabourne suggested that the Athletic Trainer be moved from object 111 to object 300; **Alexander Lee** stated his agreement and **Todd Bendtsen** said he would make that change.
  - **Francine Coss** and George Seabourne each pointed to the 2015-2016 budget column which showed a double listing of \$23,000 in revenue.
  - John Perrucci stated his intention to review the athletics transportation line; he believed the amount listed was more than necessary.
  - Alisha DiCorpo stated that a contact at Education Connection told her the State's Technology Grant will not be funded. **Francine Coss** stated that she had participated in a conference call with Senator Slossberg who assured Superintendents that she would investigate the delay in funding this grant.
  - George Seabourne asked **Todd Bendtsen** to review and adjust the medical services page.
  - Multiple members of the Board of Education and Thomaston Public School administration discussed the Thomaston Center School Ramp Project. **Francine Coss** stated she would confirm the capital request with Ken Koval.
  - **David Colavecchio** asked if the Eversource lighting replacement project included the auditorium; John Perrucci said he would ask a representative from Johnston

Controls, the company that worked on the project. **Todd Bendtsen** said there may be rebates if the project needs to be expanded.

- George Seabourne asked **Todd Bendtsen** to include actuals from July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.
- **David Colavecchio** suggested that the ECS fund rate be increased to 52.5% from 50% to increase revenue and reduce the Town allocation.
- **David Colavecchio** suggested that the Board present a budget with a Town allocation increase of no more than 1.99%.
- **Anne Petrucci** said the budget presentations evidenced the collaboration between and among administrators.
- **Alexander Lee** stated his agreement with **Anne Petrucci's** statement.
- **Alexander Lee** stated his disagreement with the approach suggested by **David Colavecchio**, explaining that the Board should not try to get to a specific number to get the budget passed but should get a number that is best for the students.
- **George Seabourne** stated that the relationship between the Board of Finance and the Board of Education is different now because of **Francine Coss** and **Todd Bendtsen**, specifically, that information is shared regularly and that the budget is transparent.

**5. Public Participation:**

- There was no public participation.

**6. Possible Action on 2016-2017 Operating and Capital Budgets**

There was no action taken on the 2016-2017 operating and capital budgets. **Roxy Fainer** stated that the absent Board members should be given the opportunity to process the information; action may be taken during the February Regular Meeting.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:58 P.M.