
**MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thomaston Town Hall - Meeting Room One
Monday, May 9, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

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**

Student Representatives:

Kathleen Brody

Justin Gallo

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

- 1.1 Chairperson **Roxy Fainer** called the meeting to order at 7:01 P.M.
- 1.2 Board members in attendance: **Roxy Fainer, Kathleen Freimuth, Alexander Lee, Francine Coss, Maureen McMahon, Scott Theriault, Student Representatives Kathleen Brody and Justin Gallo.**
- 1.3 Members Absent: **Beth Campbell** and **Anne Petrucci.**
- 1.4 **Late Arrival Members:** **David Colavecchio** 7:05 p.m.
- 1.5 Others in Attendance: Robby Piazzaroli, Laraine Weschler, Michael Madow, Heidi Madow, Aaron Madow, Susan Root, James Root, Emily Root, Aimee Turner, John Brouillard, Joyce Brouillard, Matt Fabiano Chris Fabiano, Michelle Fabiano, Gabrielle Hurlbert, Karen Hurlbert, Donna Brostek and Steven Brostek

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Roxy Fainer lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Agenda

Vote to accept/approve, Regular Meeting Agenda, May 9, 2016

Kathleen Freimuth moved and **Alexander Lee seconded** to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for May 9, 2016 as presented.

Vote: Motion carried

| | | |
|-----|----|---------|
| Yes | No | Abstain |
| 6 | 0 | |

4. Approval of Minutes:

4.1 Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated April 11, 2016

Vote to accept/approve Regular Meeting Minutes dated April 11, 2016 as presented

Kathleen Freimuth moved and **Alexander Lee seconded** to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated April 11, 2016 as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

| | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Yes | No | Abstain |
| 4 | 0 | 2 Kathleen Freimuth Maureen McMahon |

4.2 Budget Committee Meeting Minutes dated April 11, 2016

Vote to accept/approve Budget/Audit Committee Minutes dated April 11, 2016 as presented

Kathleen Freimuth moved and **Alexander Lee seconded** to accept/approve the Budget/ Audit Committee Minutes dated April 11, 2016 as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

| | | |
|-----|----|---|
| Yes | No | Abstain |
| 5 | 0 | 2 Kathleen Freimuth Maureen McMahon |

4.3 Policy Committee Meeting Minutes dated April 11, 2016

Vote to accept/approve Policy Committee Minutes dated April 11, 2016 as presented

Kathleen Freimuth moved and **Alexander Lee seconded** to accept/approve the Policy Committee Minutes dated April 11, 2016 as presented.

Vote: Motion carried

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|-----|----|---|
| 5 | 0 | 2 Kathleen Freimuth Maureen McMahon |

5. Recognitions

- 5.1. Rotary Student of the Month – Gabrielle Hurlbert
- 5.2. CABE Student Leadership Awards – Kathleen Brody, Aaron Madow, Emily Root & Matthew Fabiano

6. Presentations

- 6.1. Civic Life Project - Kathleen Brody, Justin Gallo, & Aaron Madow presented the Civic Life Project called The Heroin Epidemic. The presentation can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5rEvfvIXf6Y>
- 6.2. IDEA Grant - Aimee Turner explained that the IDEA Grant is a federal entitlement grant which means we don't have to apply for it, but we do need to put together a plan on how we are going to use it. The Federal Government provides a certain amount of money to the State, and the State dissipates it to the towns. There are two sections to the grant. We are receiving \$216,335.00 for the 611 section, which is for Pre-K through 12 and we are receiving \$ 18,739.00 for the 619 section, which is just for preschool. Aimee Turner also stated that the last two years the department has been working on improving the teacher's knowledge on reading instruction, reading evaluation and reading intervention. The department feels that the district is in a really good spot. In the next two years we are going to work on system technology, since we have the one to one computing, we have a lot of students that could be accessing their education a little bit easier. These funds will go toward professional development and instructional supplies and about 90% of the funds are used for teacher's salaries. Next month we will be going over Title 1 and Title 3 grants.

Discussion: Superintendent Coss stated that going forward there will be more presentations of grants to the Board of Education, so the Board can approve the grant if necessary or so that the Board of Education can see the work that go into the grants and to understand where the numbers on the Business Managers report are coming from.

Vote to accept/approve IDEA Grant as presented

Kathleen Freimuth moved and **Frank Treglia seconded** to accept/approved the IDEA Grant as presented.

Vote: Motion carried

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|-----|----|---------|
| 7 | 0 | 0 |

7. Student Representatives' Report

Justin Gallo and **Kathleen Brody** presented the Student Representative's Report.

- Most Seniors have paid their deposits to the schools of their choice for the next school year and have started the admissions process.
- The Seniors and Juniors are preparing for, or have taken their AP exams.
- The Thomaston Drama Club recently had their production of Avenue Q. The show was fantastic and Mr. Thornton and his daughter put a lot of time and effort in it. It was great to see a lot of kids that don't normally get up and do that kind of thing, up on that stage.
- Sage planted some pansies in the wooden flower boxes out in front of the school. The boxes are updated seasonally.
- Interact volunteered to usher at the Opera House for Sister Act.
- Student Council had Mr. THS and Aaron Madow is Mr. THS for this year.
- National Honor Society inducted seven new members.
- National Honor Society is planning the Ultimate Glow in the Dark Frisbee Game.
- Senior week will be coming up in a couple weeks which includes, wear your collage T-shirt day, class night, Senior breakfast, and the Senior field trip to Holiday Hill.

8. Chairperson's Report

8.1. Letters of Gratitude

8.1.1. John Perrucci

8.1.2. Kristin Raymond

8.1.3. Benjamin Giorgi

Chairperson Roxy Fainer explained that John Perrucci, Kristin Raymond and Benjamin Giorgi came last month and did a presentation on the Honor Roll, so we thanked them for coming.

8.2. Thomaston High School Honor Roll Quarter 3

9. Superintendent's Report

9.1. State Board of Education Memorandum – Qualifications for Instructors of American Sign Language (ASL) for World Language High School Credit

9.2. State Board of Education Memorandum – Updates on the Reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, PEAC Recommendations, Ongoing Support of BloomBoard, and Moving from Compliance to Coherence Conference 2016

9.3. State Board of Education Memorandum – Increased Flexibility for the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment

9.4. Dr. Broomhead Property – 344 Watertown Road, Thomaston, CT 06787

Superintendent Coss presented a hand out that includes overhead and street view photos, and some specks of the property located at 344 Watertown Road in Thomaston. Mrs. Broomhead contacted the First Selectman asking if the Board would be interested in purchasing the property since it is adjacent to Black Rock School. The First Selectman gave **Superintendent Coss** Mrs. Broomhead's contact information. **Superintendent Coss** stated that the property is not yet on the market, but Mrs. Broomhead would like to offer it to the town before putting it on the market, but she doesn't have a price yet because she hasn't had it appraised. If the Board of

Education shows an interest, **Superintendent Coss** would go before the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance, and request that they consider what the Board of Education would like to do with the property and then respond back to Mrs. Broomhead as to what the intentions would be. **Superintendent Coss** has walked the property and the driveway would connect through to Black Rock School as it stands now. The property would be in a place, that if we ever wanted to expand Black Rock School facility it would be a natural place to expand it in that direction. **Superintendent Coss** asked the Board of Education to take some time to discuss this and if the Board of Education feels that it is appropriate to take some action in moving forward with either attempting to purchase this property or not to purchase this property.

David Colavecchio said that this is information that needs to be digested, and he doesn't think that anyone is ready to make a decision. He also stated that he doesn't think the board should turn their back to it until the Board has heard the price of the property.

Superintendent Coss explained that Mrs. Broomhead would get it appraised if the Board of Education was to show an interest in the property.

Scott Theriault stated that he thinks it would be foolish not to entertain the idea. If the rest of the Board agrees, extend the interest and get on with the appraisal and go from there.

Kathleen Friemuth asked if it would ever be possible to have the Central Office housed there.

Superintendent Coss replied that it was not her intention and she would want to look at the cost of that due to the fact that Central Office is low cost right now. Other ideas have come up like the PATHS Program and office space to name a few.

Scott Theriault mentioned that even if it was purchased just to alleviate the parking lot issues, it would be worth looking into. And as a courtesy to Mrs. Broomhead the Board of Education should expedite the process and make a decision.

Scott Theriault moved and **David Colavecchio second** to move ahead with looking into the cost of purchasing Dr. Broomhead's property at 344 Watertown Road.

Vote: Motion carried

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|-----|----|---------|
| 7 | 0 | 0 |

9.5. Effective School Solutions

9.5.1. *Insights April 2016 – Teens and Marijuana Use*

9.5.2. *Solutions April 2016 – Let's Really Talk*

9.6. District Policies Related to Principal Evaluation, Learning-Centered Leadership, and Student Achievement

9.7. Residency Letters

There are three residency letters, one is for a student who was not attending school here but wants to attend Thomaston Schools but could not prove residency. The other letters are for students who are currently enrolled in our schools but the district has reason to believe that they no longer live in town. **Superintendent Coss** explained that you must live here in Thomaston on a permanent basis with their parent/guardian to be educated here. Hearings have been offered to the parents and three of the parents have requested a hearing. The hearings will be held the night of the June, Board of Education meeting. The Board of Education will hear each case and decide residency on their proof that the parents/guardians have submitted.

9.8. FMLA Request

9.9. Records Disposition Authorization Forms

The Records Disposition Authorization Form is a list of documents that the district would like to destroy because they are of the age to be destroyed legally. This form will be sent to the State of Connecticut for approval. A Notice will be put out prior to the records being destroyed.

9.10. Thomaston Administrators Celebrate New Learning at ASCD Conference

9.11. Field Trips

9.11.1. *Heidi Laus, Grade 8, Gettysburg, PA/Washington D.C., April 18 – 21, 2017*

9.11.2. *Richard Wilson & Terry Franzi, Grade 12, Ellis Island, World Trade Center Memorial & Statue of Liberty, October 2016*

Vote to accept/approve Out-of-State Field Trips

Kathleen Freimuth moved and Frank Treglia seconded to accept/approve the Out-of-State Field Trips as presented

Vote: Motion carried

| <i>Yes</i> | <i>No</i> | <i>Abstain</i> |
|------------|-----------|----------------|
| 7 | 0 | 0 |

9.12. Administrator Reports

9.13. Enrollment Report

10. Committee Reports

10.1. Budget/ Audit Committee

10.1.1. Reports

10.1.1.1. *April Business Report*

- *Thomaston Center School Semi-Annual Roof Report*
- *Henry M. Osowiecki & Sons, Inc Proposal – Thomaston Center School Cupola*
The Cupola at the Center School is going to be repaired in the amount of \$17,044.00. When it rains and there is wind, water is getting into the Cupola.
- *State Department of Education Letter – Thomaston Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Audit Report*
The letter identified areas where the district needed to respond and submit a plan of action.
- *Discussion of Shared Food Service Director with Wolcott*
Superintendent Coss had a meeting with the Wolcott Superintendent to see if there was any way to share any services that the districts have. The Wolcott Superintendent was interested in sharing a Food

Service Director. The Wolcott Superintendent was willing to go to his Board and ask if he could share that position.

10.1.1.2. April Finance Report

- 2015/2016 Budget Projection
- 2015/2017 Grant Report
- April 2016 Expenditures \$1,161,183.79
- April 2016 Transfers \$13,054.51

Vote to accept/approve Business and Finance Report and Expenditures as presented

Alexander Lee moved and Kathleen Freimuth second to accept/approve the Business and Finance Report and Expenditures as presented.

Vote: Motion carried

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|-----|----|---------|
| 7 | 0 | 0 |

10.1.1.3. 2016 – 2017 Operating Budget Revised

The 2016-2017 Operating Budget is a .51% increase operating to operating with no cuts to services or anything the Board proposed.

Vote to accept/approve the 2016-2017 Revised Operating Budget as presented

David Colavecchio moved and Kathleen Freimuth second to recommend the 2016-2017 Revised Operating Budget based on the fact that this is most likely not the final budget being presented to the Board of Finance.

Vote: Motion carried

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|-----|----|---------|
| 7 | 0 | 0 |

10.2. Policy Committee

10.2.1. Presentations

10.2.1.1. Athletic Coach Hiring Protocol – John Perrucci

Kathleen Freimuth stated that John Perrucci presented the Athletic Coach Hiring Protocol. The discussion was based around the difficulty with coaches not having all of their material in on time. Part of the problem has been that it is easier for people who are internal to go into AppliTrack and upload their document. For people that external it has been more of a challenge. Part of it has been personal accountability for these coaches. There is a shortage for certain coaches especially at the middle school level. The discussion was also about Mr. Perrucci being proactive and having the documents to the Board of Education for approval prior to the season. Mr. Perrucci would also like to have a meeting set up with all the coaches, Athletic Directors, Superintendent Coss and himself to go over the procedures and forms that need to be completed for submittal. The coaches must submit their documents every year or the AppliTrack system will erase them from the system. It has also been difficult not having a consistent Athletic Director. Mr. Perrucci is continuing to make updates to the Athletic Handbook.

Scott Theriault asked if they are going to have this meeting with the coaches.

Kathleen Freimuth explained this was a suggestion they had during the committee meeting.

Scott Theriault mentioned that there was an email that had gone out to coaches, but not all the coaches had received the email.

Superintendent Coss stated that it sounds like there is a need for a document, like a Google document with all

of the coaches contact information on it and **Superintendent Coss** will bring this to Mr. Perrucci's attention. **Superintendent Coss** stated we are in the processes of improving the procedures and the information Mr. Perrucci brought for his presentation were very positive.

10.2.2. Action Items - None

10.2.3. Read Items - None

10.2.4. Discussion Items

10.2.4.1. Policy Audit Series 5000 – Students

10.2.4.2. New Standard Required for School Food Services Personnel – Series 3542.41

10.2.4.3. CABE Policy Update Service Report Mailing No. 1

- PA 15-6 An Act Concerning Online Privacy – 4118.41/4218.41
- PA 15-17 An Act Concerning A Labor and Free Market Capitalism Curriculum – 6142
- PA 15-94 An Act Concerning the Inclusion of CPR Training, the Safe Use of Social Media and Computer Programming in the Public School Curriculum – 6142
- PA 15-97 An Act Concerning Students with Dyslexia – 6142.2 and 4131
- PA 15-133 An Act Concerning Alternative Education – 6172
- PA 15-138 An Act Concerning Financial Literacy Education – 6142
- PA 15-173 An Act Concerning Municipal Communications Regarding Referenda – 3152
- PA 15-205 An Act Protecting School Children – 5141.4
- PA 15-232 An Act Concerning Trauma-Informed Practice Training for Teachers, Administrators and Pupil Personnel – 4131.1
- PA 15-237 An Act Concerning High School Graduation Requirements

10.2.4.4. CABE Policy Update Service Report – Mailing No. 2

- Unmanned Aerial Systems “Drones” – 3523.11
- Field Trips – 6153
- New Social Studies Frameworks – 6142.5
- Food Services Personnel – 3542.22
- Professional Standards for Personnel in School Nutrition Programs – 0523

10.2.4.5. CABE Policy Update Service Report – Mailing No. 3

- Progressive Discipline – 5144.5 and 5144
- School-Based Health Centers – 5141.29
- Fragrance Sensitivities (Fragrance-Free Workplace) – 4118.14/4218.14 & 7230.2
- Mastery-Based Learning – 6146, 6146.1 & 6146.13
- Gender Identity/Transgender Students (Revisited) – 5145.53

The Policy Committee members decided that they will need to meet after the school year comes to close to go over the 5000 series. The committee would like to finish the 5000 series before they revisit the previous series being updated in the CABE Policy Updates. The CABE Policy Update Services Report have been postponed until the 5000 and 6000 series have been reviewed.

10.2.4.6. **Waterbury Arts Magnet School Operation Agreement**

11. Public Participation

The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with Thomaston Board of Education Policy 9325(a) – 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.

12. Adjournment

Kathleen Freimuth moved and Scott Theriault seconded for the meeting to be adjourned.

Vote: Motion carried

| Yes | No | Abstain |
|-----|----|---------|
| 7 | 0 | 0 |

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.