
**MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING**

**Thomaston Town Hall – Meeting Room One
Monday, July 11, 2016
7:00 p.m.**

Members:

**Roxy Fainer, Chairperson
Vice Chairperson - Vacant
Anne Petrucci, Secretary
Alexander Lee, Treasurer
Francine Coss, Superintendent**

**Beth Campbell
David Colavecchio
Maureen McMahon
Scott Theriault
Frank Treglia**

Student Representatives:

Joshua Gallo

Michaela Palladino

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

- 1.1. **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.
- 1.2. Board Members in attendance: **Chairperson Roxy Fainer, Alexander Lee, Superintendent Francine Coss, Beth Campbell, David Colavecchio, Maureen McMahon, Anne Petrucci, Scott Theriault, and Frank Treglia**
- 1.3. Others in attendance: John Perruci, Jonathan Kozlak, Eric Martin, Marie Eldridge, Shadia Hamzy, Theresa Gambino, Tammy Dayton, Cindy Sabolcik, Carol Hanson, Sherre Chaplen, Margaret McCreedy, Gail Lascho, Julie Ingham, Brian Tyrian, Susan Tyrian, Joseph Tyrian, Tanya Galpin, Kim Macsicza, Lynn Wilson, Gary Wilson, Wendy Thomas, Joan Heery, Cindy Bird, Ted Wethered, Robby Piazzaroli, and Laraine Weschler.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

- 2.1. **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** lead the Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda

Vote to accept/approve, Regular Meeting Agenda, July 11, 2016

Anne Petrucci moved and **Scott Theriault seconded** to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Agenda for July 11, 2016 as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	1 Anne Petrucci

4. Approval of Minutes:

4.1. Regular Meeting of the Board of Education Meeting Minutes dated June 13, 2016

Vote to accept/approve Regular Meeting Minutes dated June 13, 2016 as presented

Scott Theriault moved and **Anne Petrucci seconded** to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Minutes for June 13, 2016 as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	1 Anne Petrucci

4.2. Budget Committee Meeting Minutes dated June 13, 2016

Vote to accept/approve Budget Committee Minutes dated June 13, 2016 as presented

Anne Petrucci moved and **Alexander Lee seconded** to accept/approve the Budget Committee Minutes for June 13, 2016 as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	1 Anne Petrucci

4.3. Policy Committee Meeting Minutes dated June 13, 2016

Vote to accept/approve Policy Committee Minutes dated June 13, 2016 as presented

Anne Petrucci moved and **Beth Campbell seconded** to accept/approve the Policy Committee Minutes for June 13, 2016 as presented.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	1 Anne Petrucci

5. Chairperson's Report

5.1. Thomaston High School Honor Roll List Quarter Four

5.2. Kathleen Freimuth – Resignation as Vice-Chairperson and member of Thomaston Board of Education

5.3. Policy 9221 – Bylaws of the Board – Filling Vacancies

Vote to fill unexpired term of Kathleen Freimuth

Anne Petrucci moved and **David Colavecchio second** to fill the unexpired term of Kathleen Freimuth.

Discussion: **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** stated that after the agenda was published the Board had a further review of Policy 9221 regarding the vacancy of a Board member and on the advice of the Board attorney, the Board will not be refilling the vacancy during the July 11, 2016 Board of Education meeting. **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** requested that the motion be tabled and call a Special Meeting to take up the action at that time.

Anne Petrucci stated that the position will not be filled at tonight's meeting, but will be filled within the thirty days.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer agreed that was correct.

Superintendent Coss clarified that in Policy 9221 there are two sentences that lead to a nebulous definition of what the act should be. The first sentence says - Such vacancies will be formally announced to the Board at one of its regularly scheduled meetings.

Superintendent Coss said that would be this meeting because this is the first meeting occurring after the resignation, after the vacancy was announced. But the second sentence says - At the next regularly scheduled meeting, the vacancy will be filled by majority vote of all members of the Board of Education who are present and the action shall be recorded in the minutes of that meeting. **Superintendent Coss** stated that it is a bit confusing as to whether the next scheduled meeting is talking about the meeting where the announcement is made, or if it is the next meeting after the resignation is posted. So until the Board can clarify the policy, it is advisable for the Board to have a separate meeting because the last sentence in the policy says - If there is no regularly scheduled meeting within thirty days of a vacancy, the Board may call a special meeting.

Alex Lee motioned and **Anne Petrucci seconded** to postpone the vote of the unexpired term of Kathleen Freimuth and that the Board Chairperson schedules a special meeting within the thirty day threshold per policy 9221.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

5.4. Policy 9120 – Bylaws of the Board – Officer and Auxiliary Personnel

5.5. Policy 9122 – Bylaws of the Board – Office of the Vice-Chairperson

Vote to fill unexpired term of Vice Chairperson

Alex Lee motioned and **Anne Petrucci seconded** to postpone the vote of the unexpired term of Vice-Chairperson.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

6. Superintendent's Report

6.1. State Board of Education Memorandum – 2016/2017 Administration of the Reading Survey Requirement for K-3 Teachers

6.2. CAFE/CAPSS Leadership Documents

6.2.1. Leadership Documents Letter

6.2.2. School governance Position Statement Fall, 2015

6.2.3. Success Strategies Leadership Team Evaluation

6.3. CAFE/CAPSS 2016 Convention/November 18-19, 2016

Superintendent Coss stated that the Convention is November 18 and November 19, 2016. The District of Thomaston has presenters at the CAFE/CAPSS Convention this year. There will be representatives from Thomaston High School talking about the advisory program. The representatives were selected from many applicants across the state. Board members and Superintendents from across the state and close by states attend this convention annually. **Superintendent Coss** suggests that the Board members, if they are available, attend the convention especially the day of the presenters. There is also an event the day before. If the Policy Committee decides to put an item or policy on the CAFE/CAPSS agenda, for future legislative policies and CAFE/CAPSS decides that they would like to put the policy in place state wide, then Thursday would be the meeting that Thomaston Board of Education members are encouraged to attend as well.

6.4. CT Teachers' Retirement Board – Guidance in the Form of Questions and Answers Reemployment of Retired Teachers

Superintendent Coss explained this is a letter describing pension and the definition of a teacher who is retiring and coming back to teach. The law had changed recently and this is information from the Teacher's Retirement Board so the Thomaston Board of Education can be compliant.

6.5. Connecticut Water – Water Lead Testing in Thomaston Schools

The Thomaston Board of Education asked Connecticut Water Company to test the water in our schools for lead. Connecticut Water Company offered quite extensive testing. **Superintendent Coss** stated that they went from building to building and tested different areas to see what the levels of lead were. Thomaston Public Schools did not exceed any levels that would be considered unhealthy. There is one water fountain in the district that did register above zero. So the Board is going to do a second set of tests on that water fountain after running the water as suggested by the Connecticut Water Company. The level is still a healthy level, but the Board of Education wants to look at it. Then the Board can look at any repairs if needed. There is no lead in our water supply. The lead would be coming from the pipes in the wall. All the other areas came out zero.

The Thomaston Board of Education also has someone experienced in this area that is willing to come in and explain this to the Board at the August meeting.

David Colavecchio asked which school had the reading above zero.

Superintendent Coss replied that it was one water fountain at Black Rock School. **Superintendent Coss** also stated that the Board will add to the agenda in August to have the experienced person come out to explain the reports and what our next steps will be.

Scott Theriault asked if it would possible to have it tested before the appliance.

Superintendent Coss replied that the Connecticut Water Company tests at the source where the water would come out.

Scott Theriault asked that if the other sources are testing fine, what if they were to test before the appliance?

Superintendent Coss replied that the water company would suggest removing the pipes and putting in PVC and then Connecticut Water Company would retest it.

6.6. Reading Recovery 2015/2016 Annual Report – Black Rock School

Reading Recovery is a program that is just for elementary grade students. The annual report is a report of what occurred this year with the Reading Recovery Program.

6.7. Disposal of Books

6.7.1. *Superintendent's letter – Kristin Bernier, Principal of Thomaston Center School – Disposal of obsolete books*

6.7.2. *Policy 3260 – Business/Non-Instructional Operations – Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies*

Thomaston Public Schools are allowed to dispose of books that are instructional in nature if they are worn out, obsolete, or are unusable. Thomaston Public Schools has asked companies who buy back books to come get them, but they are so obsolete that the buyback company wasn't interested.

6.8. Thank you note – Thomaston Historical Society

6.9. Personnel

6.9.1. *Alisha DiCorpo, Resignation, Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*

6.9.2. *Deborah Sanford, Retirement, Information Technology Senior Support Technician*

6.9.3. *Michelina Shpak, Resignation, Kitchen Manager, Thomaston High School*

6.9.4. *Edward McNally, New Hire, Physics Teacher, Thomaston High School*

6.9.5. *Cecile Mancini, New Hire, Math Teacher, Thomaston High School*

6.9.6. *Eric Martin, New Hire, Director of curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*

6.9.7. *Dylan Krasnowski, Temporary Position, Summer Custodian, Black Rock School*

6.9.8. *Courtney Gendron, Temporary Position, Extended School Year Program, Teacher*

6.9.9. *Donna LaMadeline, Temporary Position, Extended School Year Program, Paraprofessional*

6.9.10. *Terri Rousseau, Temporary Position, Extended School Year Program, Paraprofessional*

6.9.11. *Cynthia Goscinski, Temporary Position, Extended School Year Program, Paraprofessional*

6.9.12. *Debra Green, Temporary Position, Extended School Year Program, Paraprofessional*

6.9.13. *Diane Aniki, Temporary Position, Extended School Year Program, Nurse*

6.9.14. *Shadia Hamzy, Temporary Position, Extended School Year Program, Paraprofessional*

6.9.15. *Theresa Gambino, Temporary Position, Extended School Year Program, Paraprofessional*

6.9.16. *Amanda Serenson, Temporary Position, Extended School Year Program, Teacher*

6.9.17. *Christopher Stanley, Temporary Position, Summer Custodian, Thomaston Center School*

6.9.18. *Kyle Skidmore, Temporary Position, Summer Custodian, Thomaston High School*

6.9.19. *Vanessa Thornberg, Temporary Position, Summer Custodian, Thomaston High School*

Vote to accept/approve New Hires/Temporary Positions/Resignation/Retirements

Anne Petrucci moved and **David Colavecchio seconded** to accept/approve the New Hires/Temporary Positions/Resignation/Retirements as presented.

Discussions: **David Colavecchio** asked if the Board does exit interviews.

Superintendent Coss replied that one individual has already had a face to face exit interview, one individual has not left yet, and one individual left after the school year had ended. So an exit interview will be mailed to that individual.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

- 6.9.20. *Keri Rozzi, Schedule K Position, Grade 5 Team Leader 2016-2017, Thomaston Center School*
- 6.9.21. *Keri Rozzi, Schedule K Position, Web Page Coordinator 2016-2017, Thomaston Center School*
- 6.9.22. *Gail Lascho, Schedule K Position, Grade 6 Team Leader 2016-2017, Thomaston Center School*
- 6.9.23. *Jennifer McAtee, Schedule K Position, Grade 4 Team Leader 2016-2017, Thomaston Center School*
- 6.9.24. *Kathleen Zitnay, Schedule K Position, Band Director 2016-2017, Thomaston Center School*
- 6.9.25. *Kathleen Zitnay, Schedule K Position, Choral Director 2016-2017, Thomaston Center School*
- 6.9.26. *William Dwan, Schedule K Position, Yearbook Advisor 2016-2017, Thomaston Center School*
- 6.9.27. *Aaron Bunel, Schedule K Position, Band Director 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.28. *Aaron Bunel, Schedule K Position, Advisory Coordinator 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.29. *Preston Soeprasetyo, Schedule K Position, Assistant Advisory Coordinator 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.30. *Susan Palomba, Schedule K Position, Yearbook Advisory 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.31. *Benjamin Giorgi, Schedule K Position, Drama Coach, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.32. *Terri Franzi, Schedule K Position, Mock Trial, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.33. *Susan Abbott, Schedule K Position, National Honor Society, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.34. *Preston Soeprasetyo, Schedule K Position, High School Bowl, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.35. *Susan Santovasi, Schedule K Position, GSA Advisor, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*

- 6.9.36. *Aerielle Smith, Schedule K Position, 7th Grade Class Advisor, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.37. *Heidi Laus, Schedule K Position, 8th Grade Class Advisor, 2016-2017, Thomaston, High School*
- 6.9.38. *Preston Soeprasetyo, Schedule K Position, 9th Grade Class Advisor, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.39. *Susan Abbott, Schedule K Position, 10th Grade Class Advisor, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.40. *Monica Reed, Schedule K Position, 11th Grade Class Advisor, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.41. *Carol Wright, Schedule K Position, 12th Grade Class Advisor, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.42. *Aaron Bunel, Schedule K Position, Director of Athletics, Shared Position, 2016-2017 School year, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.43. *Alex Sconziano, Schedule K Position, Director of Athletics, Shared Position, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.44. *Sandra Lubans, Schedule K Position, Naviance School Site Manager, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.45. *Michelle Dayton, Schedule K Position, Vocational Coordinator, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.46. *Sandra Lubans, Schedule K Position, Advance Placement Coordinator, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.47. *Tammy Dumas, Schedule K Position, Special Education Program Coordinator, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.48. *Preston Soeprasetyo, Schedule K Position, Web Page Coordinator, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.49. *Stephen Malo, Schedule K Position, Publicity Coordinator, 2016-2017, Thomaston, High School*
- 6.9.50. *Kimberly Guerrero, Schedule K Position, 7th Grade Team Leader, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.51. *David J. Long, Schedule K Position, 8th Grade Team Leader, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.52. *Tammy Dumas, Schedule K Position, 9th Grade Team Leader, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.53. *Susan Abbott, Schedule K Position, 10th Grade Team Leader, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.54. *Richard Wilson, Schedule K Position, 11th Grade Team Leader, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.55. *Alex Sconziano, Schedule K Position, Teacher in Charge, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.56. *Preston Soeprasetyo, Schedule K Position, Athletic Coordinator, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*
- 6.9.57. *Michelle Dayton, Schedule K Position, Communication Technology Coordinator, 2016-2017, Thomaston High School*

6.9.58. Preston Soeprasetyo, FBLA Coordinator, 2015-2016, Thomaston High School

6.9.59. Raphael Varnado, Middle School Track and Field Coach, Thomaston High School

Vote to accept/approve Schedule K Positions/Coaching Positions

Anne Petrucci moved and **Beth Campbell seconded** to accept/approve Schedule K Positions/Coaching Positions as presented.

Discussions: **Anne Petrucci** asked if the Board is still working on the job descriptions.

Superintendent Coss explained that we have job descriptions for any of the major positions that have been updated and when the Board comes back in August the Board won't have a description for one position that is on the agenda, but the Board will have more generic position descriptions for advisor and coordinator.

Scott Theriault asked if the Schedule K Positions are all faculty members that are doing additional jobs.

Superintendent Coss stated that on this particular list, yes they are all faculty. Sometimes there may be coaches or club advisors who are not faculty.

Scott Theriault asked if it is all under Schedule K.

Superintendent Coss explained that it is all under Schedule K. The Board will try to fill the positions with a faculty member first. If no one applies then it would be opened up to someone on the outside.

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

6.10. Field Trips

6.10.1. Michelle Dayton & Carol Wright, Culinary Foods & Digital Media/Arts, Grades 9-12, Museum of Moving Image, & Chelsea Market, Boston, MA, October 20, 2016

6.10.2. Carol Wright, Senior Class, Eastern States Exposition (Big E), West Springfield, MA, September 21, 2016

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

Alexander Lee moved and **Maureen McMahon** seconded to accept/approve Out-of-State Field Trips as presented.

Discussions: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

6.11.Administrator Reports

7. Committee Reports

7.1. Budget/Audit Committee

7.1.1. Reports

7.1.1.1. June Business Report

- Shared Food Service Director with Wolcott Public Schools
Ms. Girgenti is already working with Thomaston Public Schools. She came in and took a tour with the consultants who are out going. Ms. Girgenti is already preparing documents that go home at the beginning of the school year related to Food Service and Free and Reduced lunch.
- Possible End of Year Expenditures
Any funds that were available for spending in discussion with the Board of Education and the Board of Finance Chair, it was encouraged that the Board of Education spend the funds, so as to not ask for funds in the future. If the Board had something that was planned to purchase through capital or that the Board did not have funding for that had to do with safety, security or instruction for the students those items were added to the list.
- Department of Emergency Management & Homeland Security Memorandum – School Security Grant Program Extensions
The state sent the Board of Education a message stating that the Board could ask for an extension. There are two security grants, one is an old grant from 2013-2014, that purchased the locks at Thomaston Center School. The second security grant is for Black Rock School which is for the security wall and some security cameras. The Business Manager will be asking the state for an extension on both of the grants.

7.1.1.2. June Finance Report

- 2015/2016 Budge Projection
- 2015/2017 Grant Report
- June 2016 Expenditure \$1,280,591.56
- June 2016 Transfers \$0.00

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

Alexander Lee moved and Anne Petrucci seconded to accept/approve the Business and Finance Report and Expenditures as presented

Discussions: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

7.2. Policy Committee

7.2.1. Presentations – None

7.2.2. Action Items – None

7.2.3. Read Items – First Read Policy Audit Series 5000

The Policy Committee has been going through the 5000 series and the committee is approximately half way through the series. The committee is hoping to have the series finished by September.

7.2.4. Discussion Items – None

8. 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

Marie Eldridge requested that the Board of Education hold the current Superintendent's contract status quo for the following year. Ms. Eldridge also respectfully requested that the Board not grant any increase in time, or in benefits as the current contract is enforced until June 30, 2018.

John Perrucci, Thomaston High School Principal stated that he respectfully disagrees with Ms. Eldridge's request.

Carol Hanson asked if the survey that was sent out was supposed to be anonymous.

Julie Ingham asked if she emails the Board of Education on the website, who receives the email? Does the whole Board receive it? **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** replied that the whole Board gets the email.

Joseph Tyrian would like the Board to reconsider taking out of district students. Joseph Tyrian would also like to know where the policy is written.

Margaret McCreedy requesting that the Board takes into consideration what has been done historically with fundraisers and not to require planning a year in advance for fundraising. Margaret also stated that only four of Thomaston students applied for the Connecticut Community Foundation Scholarships.

Chairperson Roxy Fainer requested that the public exit the room and for the Board to entertain a motion to move into executive session.

Anne Petrucci moved and **Beth Campbell seconded** to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education Self Reflection. **Superintendent Coss** was invited to stay for executive session

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

9. Executive Session for the purpose of the evaluation of the Superintendent of Schools and the Board of Education Self Reflection

The Board entered into Executive Session at 7:41p.m.

10. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Public Session

The Board exited Executive Session at 10:01 p.m. and returned to Public Session at 10:14 p.m.

11. Term of Contract of Employment

Potential Action Regarding the Contract of Employment – Superintendent of Schools, Town of Thomaston, Connecticut

David Colavecchio moved and **Scott Theriault seconded** that the Board of Education negotiated the terms for the 2018-2019 year of the Thomaston Superintendents of Schools contract at a salary of \$174,078.00. There are no other changes to the terms of the contract.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

12. Adjournment

Frank Treglia motioned and **Scott Theriault seconded** to adjourn the meeting.

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion carried

Yes	No	Abstain
8	0	0

The meeting was adjured at 10:16 pm.