

Thompson Board of Education

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Minutes

Monday, August 14, 2017

Thompson Middle School Media Center
7:00pm

In attendance:

Kathleen Herbert
Donna Godzik
Jody Houghton
Shawn Brissette
Thomas Angelo
Linda Jarmolowicz
Joseph Lindley
William Witkowski

Absent:

Christopher Eichner

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, Megan Baker, Noveline Beltram, Bill Birch, Scott Sugarman, Christopher Scott, Laurence Prentiss, Neal Breen, members of the Board of Education.

I. Call to Order

William Witkowski called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Thomas Angelo led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens' Comments

Michael Krogul apologized to the Board regarding a statement he made at a previous meeting. See attached statement for the record.

IV. Committee Update

- Communications Sub-Committee Update – Donna Godzik updated the Board regarding a communications plan which will be implemented for the school year.
- Joseph Lindley updated the Board with the Tourtellotte Trustees window replacement project. Painting will begin in the Tourtellotte building, restoration of the staircases and floors are continuing.
- Alumni Association meeting will be held on August 15th at the Thompson Public Library. October 19th begins alumni weekend which will include soccer games, concerts, hall of fame inductions and a banquet.

V. Educational Update

A. Superintendent/Administrator Update

- Enrollment Update – Melinda Smith gave the Board an update on the enrollment. Grade 9 and kindergarten enrollment keeps fluctuating. A full report will be at the September meeting.
- Administrator Update:

Megan Baker updated the Board with new staff members in the high school. August 19th is the warrior dash, a memorial golf tournament will be held at the Thompson Golf course on May 19th and TMHS open house is on Monday, August 21st.

Noveline Beltram stated that Camp Fisher was successful and thanked Judy Fairley, Polly Dean and all teachers for their hard work. Ms. Beltram also thanked Bill Birch and his crew on the new elementary bathrooms. Ms. Beltram welcomed Ryan Jennings as the new MRFES physical education teacher.

Christopher Scott updated on the summer learning academy. New enrichment opportunities will be implemented in the middle school for the school year. On September 26th there will be an anti-bullying assembly for students and parents.

Student tour for incoming 5th graders or new TMS Students will be on August 24th and an Open House on September 7th which will include a pasta dinner.

Scott Sugarman reported on updated guidebooks and a gifted and talented update will be shared at the next Board meeting.

William Birch stated that all summer cleaning and repairs will be completed by the first day of school.

Deb Spinelli stated that the football season has begun.

- Possible Substitute Teacher/Para Pay Increase
Melinda Smith went over current substitute teacher pay in Thompson and surrounding schools. A school budget will need to be set before raising the prices.
- Universal Breakfast Program
Melinda Smith commended Lisa Durand for her hard work over the summer regarding earning grants and creating new school lunch programs. The Universal Breakfast program will begin in the elementary school pending Board approval.

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Donna Godzik, to move Universal Breakfast Program to Action Item J.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

- Website Overview – Justin Martin and Andy Brown gave the Board a presentation on the new school website which will be launched before school begins.

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to add to Action Item I, resignation of Brittney Lowe, MRFES Paraprofessional.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VI. Action Items. Consideration of Approving

A. Minutes

Special Meeting, June 12, 2017

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Kathleen Herbert, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on June 12, 2017, with a small correction.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Special Meeting, June 20, 2017

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on June 20, 2017.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Special Meeting, July 5, 2017

Motion by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on July 5, 2017.

Motion – Passes. Jody Houghton abstained.

Regular Meeting, July 10, 2017

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 10, 2017.

Motion – Passes. Jody Houghton abstained.

B. School Lunch Rates

Melinda Smith recommended to the Board an increase in school lunch prices. Grades Pre-K to 4, \$2.65 to \$2.85 and grades 5-8, \$2.75 to \$3.00.

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept the increased lunch prices as presented.

Motion – Passes. Jody Houghton voted no.

C. Amended 2017-2018 School Calendar

Melinda Smith recommended to the Board a change to the district calendar where the half day on October 20th should be moved to October 27th to accommodate Career Day on the 20th.

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Thomas Angelo, to accept the revised 2017-2018 school calendar as discussed.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

D. School Handbooks

Motion by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Kathleen Herbert, to accept school handbooks with proposed corrections.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

E. Tree Filter Program

Judy Rondeau from the Eastern Connecticut Conservation District gave a presentation regarding the French River Watershed-Based Plan and Stormwater Management Project. The Conservation District would like to install a tree filter system at the elementary school.

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Joseph Lindley, to move forward with the Tree Filter Program as discussed.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

F. Food Charging Policy

No action made.

G. General and Special Education Bus RFP's

No action made.

H. PERKINS Grant Application

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Kathleen Herbert, to accept the Perkins Grant application.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

I. Resignations

- a. Erin Longino, MRFES Teacher
- b. Kathlyn McCarthy, TMS Teacher
- c. Karen LeBlanc, TMHS Administrative Assistant
- d. Brittney Lowe, MRFES Paraprofessional

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept all resignations as presented.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

J. Universal Breakfast Program

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Joseph Lindley, to approve the Universal Breakfast Program for the elementary school as a pilot program.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VII. Citizens' Comments

High School graduation date may be set at the September meeting.

Michael Krogul stated that he would like the Bus RFP process be open as much as possible this time around. He stated the bus drivers are willing to help as much as possible and would like to work as a team.

Donna Godzik asked if “old business” could be added to Board agendas. This will start in September.

Thomas Angelo would like to recommend a middle school student to act as student liaison to the Board. The parents of the student should contact the school administrator.

VIII. Adjournment

Motion by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Donna Godzik, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion—Passed. Unanimous.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Danielle Pederson