

Thompson Board of Education

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Minutes

Monday, September 11, 2017

Thompson Middle School Media Center

7:00pm

In attendance:

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

Absent:

Christopher Eichner
Thomas Angelo

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, Megan Baker, Noveline Beltram, 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

Jordon Sroczenki led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. A moment of silence was held for 9/11 remembrance.

III. Citizens' Comments

None.

IV. Committee Update

- Policy Sub-Committee Meeting – Student Transportation Service, Facility Use Policy, Food Service Charge Policy

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to add Food Service Charge Policy change to Action Item E.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Discussion was held regarding the food service charge policy and collection of funds from parents. The Assistant Food Service Director will be in charge of the collection process.

- Communications Sub-Committee Meeting – The work continues with collaboration between the school and community. A Strategic Plan will be implemented and invitations will be sent out to community members to attend meetings.

- Executive Session – Superintendent goals were discussed in executive session.

Motion by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Kathleen Herbert, to move Superintendent Goals to Action Item F.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

V. Educational Update

A. Superintendent/Administrator Update

- ECHIPS Presentation – Superintendent William Hull from Putnam Schools and Larisa Carr from Eastern Connecticut Health Insurance Program presented the Board with information regarding possible collaboration between Thompson and Putnam for health insurance for employees.
- Enrollment Update – Current enrollment is at 1,013 students overall. Residency letters have been sent to families with students living in Thompson but attending other schools. Tuition payments will be held for students whose family does not provide proof of residency.
- Student Centered Learning – Ian Polun provided the Board with a video on Student Centered Learning.
- Administrator Update – Noveline Beltram thanked everyone for a good first week of school, and Open House was well attended by parents and students.

Christopher Scott - Open House was also well attended and was a great night. Larry Prentiss recognized Mr. Scott for a well-organized and well attended event. NEWA testing has begun recently. September 26th will be an anti-bullying presentation for all grades and parents.

Megan Baker seconded the community involvement during the first week of school and the parent involvement during the summer.

Jordon Sroczenki Student Liaison Report:

- Freshman class officers elections - September 13th
- Senior Prep/College Financial Night – September 14th
- National Peace Day – September 21st
- Homelessness Awareness Assembly – September 22nd
- Thompson Community Day – September 24th
- High School Open House Expo Night –September 28th
- Keith Deltano Anti-Bullying Campaign – September 26th
- Progress Reports go home – September 29th
- High School Career Day and Dance – October 20th
- Tiger Dash – October 27th

Scott Sugarman – Gave the Board members a small update on his report regarding legislative updates.

- Strategic Planning – Melinda Smith reported that the Strategic Planning would begin soon. Martin & Associates have provided a framework over the course of the school year as a guideline for planning.

VI. Action Items. Consideration of Approving

A. Minutes

Regular Meeting, August 14, 2017

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Donna Godzik, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on August 14, 2017, with a small correction.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

B. Approval of Contract between the Thompson Board of Education and Paraprofessionals, Cafeteria Workers/Cooks, and Health Personnel July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020.

Motion by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the contract between the Thompson Board of Education and Paraprofessionals, Cafeteria Workers/Cooks, and Health Personnel July 1, 2017 – June 30, 2020.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

C. High School Graduation Date

Motion by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to approve the high school graduation date for Monday, June 18, 2018.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

D. Resignation – Darlene Snay, Assistant Food Services Director

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept the resignation of Darlene Snay, Assistant Food Service Director.

Motion – Passes. Joseph Lindley abstained.

E. Student Transportation Services Policy

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to change the Student Transportation Policy to reflect a walking distance for all students PreK to 12 be one mile.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

F. Superintendent Goals

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the Superintendent Goals as presented.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VII. Old Business

Shawn Brissette would like better organization process for Board members attending school events. Kathleen Herbert suggested a shared calendar amongst the Board members to assist in the picking and choosing of school events to attend. Heather Burns will look into this.

VIII. Citizens Comments

Jessica Bolte thanked the Board for recording the meeting and wanted to know the associated cost for recording. Melinda Smith stated that the video is for promotional purposes, but is working to get all meetings taped in the future with no cost. Ms. Bolte also asked about the residency letters and if all parents will receive one. Ms. Smith stated that the next wave of residency checks will eventually be sent to all families and a truancy officer could be hired to manage residency issues.

Michael Krogul questioned the new RFP for bus privatization and the recent transportation policy change. Mr. Witkowski stated that the RFP's will reflect the policy change and routes will stay the same.

Jody Houghton asked if policy sub-committees could not be scheduled before 6:00pm as she cannot make early meetings.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion—Passed. Unanimous.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Pederson