

# Thompson Board of Education

## Regular Board of Education Meeting

### Minutes

Tuesday, October 10, 2017

Thompson Middle School Media Center

7:00pm

**In attendance:**

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

**Absent:**

Christopher Eichner  
Jody Houghton

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, Megan Baker, Noveline Beltram, Bill Birch, Neal Breen, Heather Burns, 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 7:04pm.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mary R. Fisher Elementary School students led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held for the tragedies that have happened in our country and in our town over the past few weeks.

**III. Citizens' Comments**

None.

**IV. Committee Update**

- Policy Sub-Committee Meeting - Shawn Brissette stated that the policy manual is in the beginning stages of being revised and will continue working with the attorney until completion.
- Alumni Association Update – Thomas Angelo stated that the Alumni career fair is approaching, along with alumni soccer games and a concert. Tiger dash, cow plop, and Hall of Fame will be held on Sunday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Tourtellotte Board of Trustees - Joseph Lindley stated that most projects are completed, and he will be giving a senior tour on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.

**V. Educational Update**

**A. Superintendent/Administrator Update**

- Enrollment Update – October 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment is at 1,012 students. Kindergarten numbers are at 95 students and will be up for discussion later in the meeting.
- Superintendent Goals – The Superintendent brought four goals to the Board:
  - #1 – Develop a district three-year Strategic Plan that will support the vision and goals of TPS.

- #2 – Develop a three-year district Technology Plan that aligns with the vision and goals of the TBOE and supports the implementation of the district’s Strategic Plan.
- #3 – Implement the vision and goals of the Communication Plan developed by the TBOE.
- #4 – Conduct a full assessment of staffing in each school and department to ensure that personnel are assigned appropriately to meet the vision and goals of the TBOE.

- Student Interest Survey Results: Charlie Poirier gave a presentation on the recent Student Interest Survey and results.
- Website Accessibility: Andy Brown gave an update to the Board regarding the school website and how it will soon have access to people with disabilities.
- Administrator Reports –

Ms. Beltram:

1. Squid night was successful. 60 students plus their parents attended. Thank you to grade 4 teachers, Ellen Pratt, and Mrs. Connolly.
2. Vision screening grades K, 1, 3, & 4 Regulation does not require grade 2 but any teachers that felt there was a question on vision sent students to be screened. In all 31 vision referrals were ‘red flagged’ for parents to follow up with their doctor. Our thanks to Tom Kohl, member of Killingly Lions Club.
3. Community Day- a wonderful performance by our grade 4 Fortezza group singing 53 pages of Disney songs! Mrs. Rossetti is to be commended for all her extra time practicing with this talented group. They also performed on WINY Monday, October 9<sup>th</sup> at 7:00am!!

Mr. Scott:

1. Community Day – Awesome turn out and terrific job to all of the music groups and thank you to Justin Leclerc and Carol Rossetti.
2. Keith Deltano provided an anti-bully task force presentation, and a follow-up assembly will be in January.
3. Science Night “squid night” – great turn out, very positive experience!

Ms. Baker:

1. Thanked the administrators and Thompson residents for attending Community Day.
2. She also thanked the Alumni Association for their community support as well.
3. Mrs. Tupaj started a credit opportunity program through Nichols College and thanked Ms. Smith for her support.

Mr. Sugarman:

1. Additional new students within district (30 new students with IEPs). High Fliers and how that is aligned with the additional self-contained classroom. Ended school year with 130 students, currently at 150; we exited 8 students from an IEP and 2 students with IEPs left district.
2. Title Allocations and Title Grant Completion
3. Co-Teaching PD and district roll-out. Federal Goal 80% of SWD are educated 80% of the time in a Gen Ed setting. State currently at 60%; National Average at 64%; Thompson currently at 68%-GOAL of 75% by EOY.

#### B. Student Liaison Report:

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month: TMHS is wearing pink every Wednesday

October 11<sup>th</sup> - PSAT - Juniors

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|-----------------------------|--|
| October 12 <sup>th</sup> -  | Hospice coordinator Suzon Warner has asked for our Modern Music Ensemble to perform at the Celebration of Life event taking place at 5:30 pm at the Cornerstone Baptist Church in Danielson. |
| October 18 <sup>th</sup> -  | Class of 2018 - Senior Tours of Thompson and Tourtellotte Museum   |
| October 20 <sup>th</sup> -  | High School Career Day and Homecoming Dance 7:30   |
| October 21 <sup>st</sup> -  | Soccer Games: TMHS Team games, Alumni girls 2 pm/ boys 3:30 pm<br>Student/Alumni Concert 6 pm  |
| October 22 <sup>nd</sup> -  | Tiger Dash 5k, Cow Plop Raffle, Hall of Fame Induction   |
| October 27 <sup>th</sup> -  | TMHS National Honor Society - Homelessness Awareness Overnight   |
| November 1 <sup>st</sup> -  | First marking period - Quarter 1 closes  |
| November 6 <sup>th</sup> -  | Report Cards   |
| November 2 <sup>nd</sup> -  | College Info Night 6:30 – 8:00 pm  |
| November 3 <sup>rd</sup> -  | Peer Point Training  |
| November 3 <sup>rd</sup> -  | Cheerleading/Football Senior Night   |
| November 10 <sup>th</sup> - | No School – Veterans’ Day  |

C. Gifted and Talented Guidebook and Procedures – Scott Sugarman and Ian Polun created a Gifted and Talented Guidebook for the Board of Education review.

D. Middle School Moving-Up Date – The date will be set at the April 2018 BOE meeting.

E. E-Rate Online Contract

**Motion** by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Kathleen Herbert, to authorize the superintendent to enter the contract for E-Rate Online.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

F. Adding .5 Technician – The superintendent recommended that the part time technician be approved to full time due to the increase of technology in the district. Technology Director Heather Burns and Curriculum Director Ian Polun expressed the need for an increase in technology staff.

G. Truant/Residency Officer – Melinda Smith would like to enter into a contract with Eastconn to hire a truancy/residency officer to help with those matters in the district. This person would be on an as-needed basis for the school year.

H. Development of a Self-Contained Multi-Aged Special Education Program at Elementary School (1 Special Education Teacher and 1 Paraprofessional) – Mr. Sugarman expressed the need for the program.

**Motion** by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to move items F, G, and H, to Action Items D, E, and F, and to add Action Item G – Resignation.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

## VI. Action Items.

### A. Minutes

*Special Meeting, September 6, 2017*

**Motion** by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting on September 6, 2017 with one minor change.

**Motion – Passes. Thomas Angelo abstained.**

*Regular Meeting, September 11, 2017*

**Motion** by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of the Regular meeting on September 11, 2017.

**Motion – Passes. Thomas Angelo abstained.**

*B. 2018 Board of Education Meeting Calendar*

No action made.

*C. Increasing Kindergarten Paraprofessionals to Full Time*

**Motion** by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Thomas Angelo, to increase the part-time kindergarten paraprofessionals to full time.

**Motion – Withdrawn.**

**Motion** by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Thomas Angelo, to discuss all additional positions.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

**Motion** by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Donna Godzik, to increase the part-time kindergarten paraprofessionals to full time.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

*D. Adding .5 Technician*

**Motion** by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Joseph Lindley, to increase the .5 technician to full-time.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

*E. Truant/Residency Officer*

**Motion** by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Donna Godzik, to approve the superintendent to enter into contract with Eastconn to hire a Residency/Truancy Officer.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

*F. Development of a Self-Contained Multi-Aged Special Education Program at Elementary School (1 Special Education Teacher and 1 Paraprofessional)*

**Motion** by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to move to hire a special education teacher and one paraprofessional for the development of the Self-Contained Multi-Aged Special Education Program.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

*G. Resignation – Stefanie Doktor, MRFES Paraprofessional*

**Motion** by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Thomas Angelo, to accept the resignation of Stefanie Doktor, MRFES paraprofessional effective October 20, 2017.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

**VII. Old Business**

Shawn Brissette would like the shared calendar to work properly. The technology department will look into this.

**VIII. Citizens' Comments**

Joe Ptaszynski asked for enrollment numbers for the last schools year. Enrollment was at 986 students in June 2017. He would also like to see financial statements on a monthly basis. Mr. Ptaszynski also commented on the new positions approved by the Board of Education.

Strategic Planning session – Saturday, October 14, 2017

William Witkowski thanked Michael Joyce for his work in obtaining the Perkins Grant.

**IX. 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 9:42 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Pederson

BOE Approval: November 13, 2017