

Thompson Board of Education And Thompson Board of Selectmen

Special Board of Education Meeting

Minutes

Monday, December 4, 2017

Thompson Middle School Media Center
6:00pm

In attendance Board of Education:

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

In attendance Board of Selectmen:

Amy St. Onge
Steven Herbert
Kenneth Beausoleil

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, Jim Flahive, Neal Breen, John Lenky, Kathy Chaffee, Jane Lebeau, Michael Krogul, Pat Dumas

I. Call to Order

William Witkowski called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

II. Citizens' Comments

Jane Lebeau reviewed the RPF's and had a concern regarding missing information in the Special Education area. Mr. Witkowski said that all concerns are being considered during this process.

Michael Krogul stated that he hopes all the facts are considered before a decision is made.

Jane Lebeau questioned the selling of the buses as being taken as monthly credit over five years. Mr. Witkowski stated that that was in one proposal that has not been accepted yet.

Pat Dumas stated her concern regarding the technology portion of the proposals. She stated the app that parents can download to track students could not work in the correct way.

John Lenky stated that he is at the meeting to observe the bus situation. He would like to see things move forward and have things done correctly.

Kathy Chaffee stated that all the buses have passed inspection but some do need to be replaced. She stated that the current bus coordinator is competent in her position and is doing a good job keeping the department running. The

buses are drivable. The out-sourced companies want to make money and there are always unforeseen expenses that come up. She would like the district to consider keeping control of how bussing is done in the town.

III. Discussion

A. Bus Contract Bids – Parking and Garage Option

William Witkowski began the discussion regarding school bus privatization.

Jim Flahive gave an overview of each bid regarding parking and garage options from each company. Discussion was held.

Discussion was held regarding the cost of the electricity, heating, and rental of the bay.

Valentine Iamartino stated that she reached out to other schools who have recently privatized. She stated there are certainly bumps in the road but those schools are currently satisfied with the decision to privatize. Amount of runs needs clarification because the bids only cover 181 school days, not summer school runs.

William Witkowski would like to meet with the Board of Selectmen to meet to discuss the bus garage options and come up with a plan so the BOE can move forward.

There will be another meeting on Monday, December 18, 2017 with the bus companies in attendance for anyone to ask questions and to possibly approve a contract.

IV. Adjournment

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to adjourn the meeting.

Motion—Passed. Unanimous.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Pederson

BOE Approved: January 8, 2018