

Thompson Board of Education

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Thompson Public Schools Auditorium

Monday, December 10, 2018

7:00 pm

In attendance:

Absent:

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

Joseph Lindley

Student Liaisons:

Emily Angelo
Cole Coderre

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, Megan Baker, Noveline Beltram, William Birch, Heather Burns, Robert Gentes, Steve Knowlton, Ian Polun, Laurence Prentiss, Scott Sugarman, members of the public.

I. Call to Order

Chairman William Witkowski called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Scott Sugarman led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens' Comments

Robert Terrell and Lindsey Worster from the TMHS Leadership Team presented to the Board a concern students have regarding half days being held on Wednesdays instead of Fridays. Superintendent Smith will consider the request to change the half days in the next school calendar.

IV. Committee Up-Date

Thomas Angelo stated that there is an Alumni meeting on December 11, 2018.

V. Educational Update

- A. Student Spotlight – Cole Coderre introduced Jessie Trottier as TMHS Student Spotlight of the Month.
- Aa. Student Liaison Report - Cole Coderre reported to the Board a concern that the students have regarding the revised Transportation Policy. He also reported on thoughts surrounding Summit.

Important TMHS Dates:

Dec. 12th HS Clubs and Winter Sports Pictures and Early Release

Dec 17 – 21 Spirit Week

Dec. 18th TMHS Concert Choir will be on WINY in the morning and Caroling

Dec. 21st Pep Rally

Dec. 24th – Jan. 1st Holiday Recess

Jan. 2nd No School Student - Teachers Professional Learning

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Jan. 2nd and 3rd VITA Training
Jan 4th ASVAB 7:30 – Ms. Maliff
Jan. 5th – 6th CMEA All Eastern Music Festival UCONN – Ms. Anderson
Jan. 11th FBLA College Panel – Mrs. Tupaj

B. Superintendent Update

- Coherence and Capacity Audit Report – Dr. Elizabeth Osga from the Connecticut Center for School Change presented a Capacity and Coherence Review from a recent audit of the school district. The report is available on the school Facebook page.
- Enrollment – December enrollment is at 992 students.
- Cafeteria Wage Increases – Melinda Smith asked for salary increases for the cafeteria workers in November and is requesting again. Discussion was held.
- Restraint and Seclusion Policy – This revised policy was reviewed at a recent policy meeting and is up for approval.
- Student Medication Policy – This revised policy was reviewed at a recent policy meeting and is up for approval. Discussion was held.
- Administrator Report - The administrators gave updates to the Board on activities happening in their school or department.
- Naming Right – The policy sub-committee will meet to discuss the Naming Policy and Ms. Erica Groh's recent naming suggestion for the Thompson Middle School Media Center.

VI. Action Items

A. Minutes – Regular Meeting, November 13, 2018

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Jody Houghton, to accept the minutes of the November 13, 2018 meeting as presented.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

B. Cafeteria Salary Increases

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to increase cafeteria workers PT1 & PT 2 salaries to minimum wage of \$11.00 per hour beginning January 1, 2019.

Roll call vote was taken: Thomas Angelo – Yes, Jody Houghton – Yes, Donna Godzik – Yes, William Witkowski – Yes, Linda Jarmolowicz – Yes, Shawn Brissette – Yes, Kathleen Herbert – Yes, Valentine Iamartino - Yes

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Jody Houghton, to increase cafeteria workers PT 3, 4, & 5 to a salary increase of 3% beginning January 1, 2019.

Roll call vote was taken:

VI – Yes, KH – Yes, SB – No, LJ – Yes, WW – Yes, DG – Yes, JH – Yes, TA – Yes

Motion – Passes.

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Kathleen Herbert, to not increase the salary of the Food Services Director at this time.

Roll call vote was taken:

TA – Yes, JH – Yes, DG – Yes, WW – Yes, LJ – Yes, SB – Yes, KH – Yes, VI – Yes

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

C. Restraint and Seclusion Policy

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to accept the updated Restraint and Seclusion Policy as presented.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

D. Student Medication Policy

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the updated policy on Administration of Student Medications in the Schools as presented.

Motion – Passes. Six voted yes, two voted no.

E. Resignation

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Jody Houghton, to accept the resignation of Larissa Bailey, TMHS paraprofessional.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

F. Retirement

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the retirement of Kathy Elloian, MRFES Nurse.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VII. Correspondence

VIII. Old Business

William Witkowski stated that he is still in the process of obtaining answers regarding Alliance. He hopes to have answers soon.

IX. Citizens Comments

Mary Poulin asked the Board how the high school cafeteria furniture, middle school media center, and the painting of the lockers was paid for. She also asked if the middle school part time secretary position and a tech educator position will be full time next school year. She would also like to know of homework help will be available. William Witkowski stated that everything was paid for from the FY18 budget, and the positions have not yet been discussed. Mr. Knowlton will look into the homework help by the next BOE meeting.

Jennifer Fulone stated that the cafeteria workers work extremely hard and they deserve a higher salary than what they have.

Noveline Beltram wished Kathy Elloian a happy retirement, she will be missed.

Christine Murphy stated that the cafeteria workers work like a team and they are involved in the community and volunteer a lot of their time. They go above and beyond and deserve more.

Danielle Carlson stated that her daughter received two college acceptance letters and when the system works, great things can happen for the students.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Valentine Iamartino, to adjourn the meeting at 9:17pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Danielle Pederson
Recording Secretary to the Board

Minutes Approved: February 11, 2019