

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thompson Middle School Media Center Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 8, 2019

7:00 PM

Attending Members:
William Witkowski
Shawn Brissette
Linda Jarmolowicz
Kathleen Herbert
Valentine Iamartino
Thomas Angelo
Donna Godzik

Absent Members:
Jody Houghton
Joseph Lindley

Also in attendance:

Melinda Smith, Megan Baker, Noveline Beltram, William Birch, Christopher Jones, Robert Gentes, Steve Knowlton, members of the public, members of the press.

Student Liaison: Emily Angelo

I. Call to Order

William Witkowski called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Maryellen Jones led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens' Comments

Laura Kolodziejczak expressed concern regarding having high school graduation on June 12th as there is a conflict with Ellis Tech graduation.

Linda Jarmolowicz also expressed concern regarding the proposed graduation date as she has a personal conflict. Discussion will be held later in the meeting.

IV. Committee Update

Thomas Angelo thanked Melinda Smith and Bill Birch for allowing custodians to be available at events. He also stated that the Alumni Weekend is still being planned with many events.

V. Educational Up-Date

A. Student Spotlight – Emily Angelo introduced Halladay Glode as the TMHS Student Spotlight of the Month of March.

Aa. Student Liaison Report

Upcoming Events:

- April 10th: Eastern CT Student Leader Summit, Early Release and HS Integrity Plus Ryscavage Auditorium 6:00 pm
- April 11-April 13th: CMEA Conference and All State Concert CCC
- April 23rd- 24th: SAT make up Grade 11
- April 24th: HS NHS Induction Auditorium 6:00 pm
- April 25th: NGSS (Science) Testing Grade 11

- April 30th: Soroptimist Field Trip: TMHS's Mrs. LaFlamme is collaborating with Killingly for the fourth year in a row to send 25 girls to the Dream it, Be it Seminar at ECSU in Willimantic. The young women will learn about personal safety, self-defense, social media, and overcoming career obstacles.
- May 1st: Commitment Day Photo Students and Staff
- May 6th: AP Government & Politics Exam
- May 9th: HS Formal Spring Concert Auditorium 6:30
- May 10th : AP US History Exam
- May 13th: AP Biology Exam

B. Superintendent Update

- Graduation Dates – Discussion was held regarding the high school graduation date.
Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Donna Godzik, to set the high school graduation date to June 11th and the middle school moving-up ceremony to June 12th.
Motion – Passes. Unanimous.
- NAEYC Accreditation Recognition – Melinda Smith and Noveline Beltram recognized the elementary teachers who facilitated NAEYC Accreditation.
- Enrollment Update - The April 2019 student enrollment is at 975.
- Best Buddies Program – Christopher Jones gave an update on the Best Buddies Program which will take place in the school system in the 2019-2020 school year.
- Teacher Layoffs – Melinda Smith is recommending to lay-off non-tenured teachers with hopes to hire them back in June.
- Quinebaug Middle College Partnership Update – Melinda Smith gave an update on the agreement with QMC. The discontinuation of the partnership is up for approval.
- Interview or Legal Services Discussion – Melinda Smith stated that the hourly rate for Shipman & Goodwin increases every year and she believes it is time to start looking at other legal firms that could represent the Board of Education. May 1st will be scheduled for interviews with a BOE sub-committee.
- After School Snacks Update – Food Services Director shared an after-school snack program for approval.
Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to add After School Snacks Approval to action item K.
Motion – Passes. Unanimous.
- FY20 Free/Reduced Lunch @ MRFES Discussion – Lisa Durand stated that the Food Services Department would like to pilot a free lunch program for elementary students in the 2019-2020 school year. Discussion was held.
- Bus Change Form – The Leadership Team from the high school approached the superintendent to allow high school students an opportunity to board an alternate bus after school. A form was created and will be added to the Transportation Policy after review from the school attorney.

C. Administrator Reports - The administrators provided updates on events occurring in their schools or departments.

- Motion** by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Thomas Angelo, to add Co-op sports to action item L.
Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

- D. School Security Grant Update – Bill Birch gave an update on the School Security Grant Application that was submitted for FY20. Discussion was held. Action will be taken to send a resolution to the Board of Selectmen to start the grant application approval process.
- E. Discussion of Possible FY20 Budget Cuts – The Board of Finance has not made any budget cuts yet, but they may cut a significant amount. The next Board of Finance meeting is April 11, 2019 and all are encouraged to attend.

VI. Action Items. Consideration of Approving...

A. Minutes – Regular Meeting, March 11, 2019

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Valentine Iamartino, to approve the minutes of the March 11, 2019 Regular Meeting.

Motion – Passes. Donna Godzik abstained.

B. Teacher Layoffs

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Kathleen Herbert, to proceed with layoff letters for non-tenured teachers.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

C. Quinebaug Middle College Partnership

Motion by Thomas Angelo. Seconded by Shawn Brissette, to dissolve the partnership with Quinebaug Middle College.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

D. Graduation Dates

Approved earlier in the meeting.

E. Interview for Legal Services Approval

No action made. Instruction for Superintendent to gather information for interviewing law firms.

F. Bus Change Form

Tabled to next month.

G. Possible Action regarding school security review

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Donna Godzik, to approve resolutions to be brought before the Board of Selectmen as read by Bill Birch: Resolutions: The Board of Education is authorized to apply to the Commissioner of Education and to accept or reject a grant for school security projects at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Thompson Middle School and Mary R. Fisher Elementary School. The Building Committee charge is further expanded to include security projects at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Thompson Middle School and Mary R. Fisher Elementary School. The Board of Selectmen for the Town of Thompson authorizes at least schematic drawings, outline specifications, and cost estimates for security projects at Tourtellotte Memorial High School, Thompson Middle School and Mary R. Fisher Elementary School.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

H. FY20 Free/Reduced Lunch @ MRFES Approval

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Donna Godzik, to allow the Food Services Department to pilot a free lunch program at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School for the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

I. Resignation

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept the resignation of Tara Shea, Special Education teacher.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

J. Retirement

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Valentine Iamartino, to accept with regret, the retirement of Andrea Krensky, teacher at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

K. After-School Snacks

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept the after-school snack program as presented.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

L. Co-Op Sports

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to allow Athletic Director to investigate co-op sports for the district.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VII. Correspondence
None.

VIII. Old Business

Shawn Brissette asked for the status of Alliance. Melinda Smith stated she went to an Alliance workshop recently and she was advised to reconnect with Mae Flexer and Rick Hayes.

IX. Citizens Comments

Megan Baker stated that the TMHS Leadership Team will be hosting a Student Leader Summit on April 10, 2019 in the auditorium.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to adjourn the meeting at 9:29pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,
Danielle Pederson
Recording Secretary to the Board

Minutes Approved: