

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thompson Middle School Media Center Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 13, 2019

7:00 PM

Attending Members:
William Witkowski
Shawn Brissette
Linda Jarmolowicz
Valentine Iamartino (via phone)
Thomas Angelo
Donna Godzik

Absent Members:
Kathleen Herbert
Joseph Lindley

Also in attendance:

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

Student Liaisons: Emily Angelo and Cole Coderre

I. Call to Order

William Witkowski called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Benjamin Barbour led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens' Comments

Amy St. Onge invited the Board of Education to an event that the Thompson Republican Town Committee is holding on May 22nd at 6:00pm at Milltown Grille.

TMHS Senior, Spencer Fulone, spoke to the Board and Superintendent regarding how students want to have their high school graduation outside. Melinda Smith and Bill Witkowski will discuss the options and decide soon.

IV. Committee Update

None.

V. Educational Up-Date

A. Student Spotlight – Emily Angelo introduced Kiera O'Brien as the TMHS Student Spotlight of the Month of April.

Aa. Student Liaison Report

Upcoming Events:

- May 14th AP Calculus Exam
- May 15th AP Language and Composition Exam
- May 17th Safe Driving Assembly Auditorium
Prom - Pleasant Valley Country Club - Sutton, MA
- May 24th HS Memorial Day Observance
- May 27th No School (Memorial Day)
Memorial Day Parade 9:00 am

- May 28th HS Memorial Day Observance Rain Date
- May 31st HS Great East Music Festival Competition
- June 3rd HS Senior Walk and End of the Year Celebration
- June 4th HS Grades Close (4th Quarter)
Athletic Banquet Raceway Restaurant 6:30 pm
- June 6th Scholarships and Awards Night Auditorium 6:00 pm

B. Superintendent Update

- Enrollment Update - The May 2019 enrollment is at 979 students.
- Budget Reductions – Melinda Smith made recommendations for budget cuts for the 2019-2020 school year. Her recommendations to meet the \$159,000 cut are to reduce the Building and Repair budget, the elimination of a BCBA position, and not funding the middle school summer school program. Ms. Smith is looking for approval from the Board to make these reductions.
- Lighting Finance Agreement – William Birch stated that the lighting project is to change the lightbulbs in all exterior light fixtures to LED. Cost is around \$89,000. Eversource is to give the school a rebate and the remainder can be finance over years. The agreement is for Board approval.
- FY 18/19 Budget Update – Robert Gentes gave an update on the current school year budget for review. Discussion was held.
- Department of Emergency Services and Homeland Security Award Letter – William Birch stated that this award letter is for the last round of the security grant. The letter will be sent to Mr. Birch within 3 weeks.
- School Security Update – Ben Barbour, school security manager, gave an update to the Board and audience on the new safety and security officers and what their roles will be in the schools.
- Legal Services Interview Update – Interviews were held for Legal Services to represent the Board of Education. The sub-committee will get together to make a recommendation to the full Board.
- Excess Cost Discussion – Melinda Smith stated that the Excess Cost (ECS) was received by the Town and the school district is waiting for the Town Finance Director to release the funds to the school. Discussion was held.

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

D. Bradley Partnership Presentation – Director of Pupil Services, Chris Jones, gave an update on the Bradley Partnership and how the program will benefit the students and school district. A contract will be reviewed by the school attorney before Board approval.

VI. Action Items. Consideration of Approving...

A. *Minutes – Regular Meeting, April 8, 2019*
Tabled.

B. *Budget Reductions*

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to reduce the BCBA position in the 2019-2020 school budget.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

C. *Lighting Finance Agreement*

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Jody Houghton, to accept the lighting agreement from Eversource.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

D. Legal Services Approval

Tabled to the June meeting.

E. Department of Emergency Services and Homeland Security Award Letter

Tabled.

F. Healthy Food Certification

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept the Healthy Food Certification by implementing the healthy food option and to allow food exemptions.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

G. Shipman & Goodwin Waiver of Conflict Approval

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Donna Godzik, to allow Melinda Smith to sign a Waiver of Conflict from Shipman & Goodwin.

Motion – Passes. Thomas Angelo abstained.

H. Resignations

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Jody Houghton, to accept the resignations of Jillian Kuhn, Matthew Gardner-Spencer and Mary Aubin with regret.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VII. Correspondence

An invitation to the Branding Implementation Sub-Committee meeting was sent to the Board members. Bill Witkowski had a letter of intent to resign from The Board of Education from Joseph Lindley. No discussion or action made.

VIII. Old Business

Donna Godzik thanked everyone for the well wishes regarding the recent death of her father-in-law.

Valentine Iamartino asked if a letter was drafted to the Town Finance Director regarding ECS funds. Bill Witkowski will share the letter with the Board. Ms. Iamartino also asked if Senator Mae Flexer gave her a date when the Alliance money would be available. Ms. Smith stated no.

IX. Citizens Comments

None.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to adjourn the meeting at 8:57pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,
Danielle Pederson
Recording Secretary to the Board

Minutes Approved: June 10, 2019