

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thompson Middle School Media Center Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 9, 2019
7:00 PM

Attending Members:

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

Absent Members:

Also in attendance:

Melinda Smith, Robert Gentes, Noveline Beltram, William Birch, Steve Knowlton, Megan Parrette, Ian Polun, school employees, members of the public.

I. Call to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Susanne Witkowski led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens' Comments

Jessica Bolte asked if child care can be provided at an on-campus location during Board meetings so more parents can attend. Susan Esons read a letter to the Board regarding her thoughts and concerns regarding the schools.

IV. Committee Update

Thomas Angelo stated that the Alumni Committee met recently to discuss the Holiday Parade. Melinda Smith stated that the Holiday float representing the Thompson Public Schools was a success and everyone involved was thanked. Mr. Angelo stated that he and Ginny Flood will be the curators of the museum and will be responsible for keeping the museum open more often.

V. Educational Up-Date

A. School Board Elections

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Valentine Iamartino, to nominate Kathleen Herbert as Board Chairman.

No other nominations were made. **Motion** to close nominations by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Shawn Brissette.

Motion for appointment is unanimous.

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Donna Godzik, to nominate William Witkowski as Board Vice-Chairman.

No other nominations were made. **Motion** to close nominations by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz.

Motion for appointment unanimous.

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to nominate Donna Godzik as Board Secretary.

No other nominations were made. **Motion** to close nominations by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Jody Houghton.

Motion for appointment is unanimous.

- B. Student Spotlight
- Student Liaison Report: Mariana Garza was nominated for the TMHS Student Spotlight of the month of December.
- C. Superintendent Update
- Enrollment Report – The December enrollment is at 986 students.
 - Welcome New Employees – Melinda Smith welcomed Michael Lessard, Dawne Goodwin, and Paula Ruffo as new teachers to the district.
 - CT Association of School Volunteer Recognition – The school principals recognized their PTO and volunteers for their hard work and dedication to the schools. They were presented with recognition certificates.
 - It Starts at Home – Christmas Initiative – Melinda Smith introduced Jill St. Cyr as the founder of It Starts at Home, a Christmas giving initiative. Ms. St. Cyr briefly described the initiative.
 - Reconfiguration Presentation – Robert Gentes and Melinda Smith gave a presentation on what the costs would be to reconfigure the schools from three down to two. Discussion was held.
 - Data Review – TABLED
 - Portrait of a Graduate Update – Melinda Smith stated that the committee has received over 500 responses from the community members regarding the skills they believe a Thompson graduate should encompass. Final data will be revealed at an upcoming Board meeting.
 - Budget Update – Robert Gentes gave the Board an update on the current budget expenditures and encumbrances. Discussion was held.
- D. Administrator Reports - The administrators gave an update on events that have happened or will be happening in their school or departments.

VI. Action Items

A. Minutes

Regular Meeting – November 12, 2019

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on November 12, 2019 with two minor changes.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Special Meeting – November 18, 2019

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Danielle Carlson, to accept the minutes of the special meeting on November 18, 2019.

Motion – Passes. Donna Godzik and Jody Houghton abstained.

B. Eastconn Board of Directors Appointment

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Jody Houghton, to appoint Kathleen Herbert to the Eastconn Board of Directors Executive Committee.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

C. Education Specifications

Motion by Bill Witkowski, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to approve the education specification for the roof replacement project as presented.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

D. Maternity Leave

Motion by Shawn Brissette. Seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the maternity leave of Jessica Dion, Grade 5 teacher.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VII. Correspondence

None.

VIII. Old Business

Donna Godzik asked for a technology list of inventory. She is wondering that the technology staff is spread out too thin.

Kathleen Herbert would like to have a policy meeting scheduled soon. Melinda Smith will look at some possible dates.

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Donna Godzik, to amend the agenda to approve to restore the last round of cuts of the FY20 budget in the amount of \$55,931 which includes field trips, supplies, middle school spring sports, and a late bus.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to restore the last round of cuts of the FY20 budget in the amount of \$55,931.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

IX. Citizens' Comments

Jessica Bolte asked for some clarification on the roof replacement project as the community is already asking questions about the roof structure. Discussion was held regarding the roof pitch.

Susan Esons asked where the solar project was at. Bill Birch stated that the building committee is still looking at solar options.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to adjourn the meeting at 9:12pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,
Danielle Pederson
Recording Secretary to the Board

Minutes Approved: January 13, 2020