

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Virtual Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 10, 2020

7:00pm

In attendance: Kathleen Herbert
William Witkowski
Jody Houghton
Linda Jarmolowicz
Shawn Brissette
Valentine Iamartino (joined meeting at 7:22)
Donna Godzik (joined meeting at 7:22)

Absent: Danielle Carlson

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, Megan Parrette, Steve Knowlton, Laurence Prentiss, Amy St. Onge, TPS employees, parents

I. Call to Order

Kathleen Herbert called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Thomas Angelo led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Chairman Update

Kathleen Herbert stated that there will be a policy sub-committee meeting, followed by an executive session on Monday night, August 17, 2020.

IV. Citizens' Comments

None.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. July 13, 2020

Motion by Bill Witkowski, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2020 Regular meeting as presented.

Roll call vote was taken: Thomas A – yes, Jody H – yes, Shawn B – yes, Bill W – yes, Linda J – yes, Kathleen H – yes

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

b. July 22, 2020

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2020 Special meeting as presented.

Roll call vote was taken: Linda J – yes, Thomas A – yes, Jody H – yes, Bill W – abstained, Shawn B – yes, Kathleen H – yes

Motion – Passes.

VI. Sub-Committee Update

None.

VII. Superintendent Report

- a. Enrollment Update – Melinda Smith stated that the total student enrollment is at 990, and there are still more registrations that need to be added to the system.
- b. Re-opening Update – Melinda Smith gave an update on re-opening. The school is planning on entering full time, and data from parents is still being collected. Discussion was held.
- c. High School Sports Update – Deb Spinelli stated that student physicals were completed. The CIAC committees are meeting soon to discuss school sport safety. Games are being scheduled until more guidance is released.

VIII. Administrator Reports

The administrators and directors gave an update on what has been happening in their schools or departments over the summer.

IX. Old Business

X. New Business

- a. Middle School Fall Sports Discussion and Possible Action

Motion by William Witkowski, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to postpone Middle School fall sports and review season to season.

Roll call vote was taken: Donna G – yes, Valentine I – yes, Jody H – yes, Thomas A – No, Shawn Brissette – yes, William Witkowski – yes, Linda J – yes, Kathleen H – yes

Motion – Passes.

- b. Approval of Student Handbooks

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Donna Godzik, to approve the student handbooks (MRFES, TMS, TMHS) as long as the superintendent has reviewed them.

Roll call vote was taken: Donna G – yes, Linda – abstained, Thomas A- yes, Jody H – yes, Shawn B – yes, William W – yes, Valentine I – yes, Kathleen H – yes

Motion – Passes.

XI. Correspondence

None.

XII. Citizens' Comments

April Levesque stated that the Thompson schools are working hard to get everyone back in safely.

Jessica Bolte asked if hand sanitizer will be allowed in the school. Sanitizer is available in the schools and there is a specific type of sanitizer that is allowed, due to alcohol content.

Sandra Cox commented regarding new hires in Killingly schools; it is due to the number of retirements.

NBC 30 reported that CIAC committee is recommending to postpone football until the spring. Melinda Smith stated that it is not official.

Megan Parrette followed up regarding the hand sanitizer and ingredients. Shannon Grauer stated that you can review what is safe or not safe on the FDA website. Discussion was held. Jessica Bolte asked if there is correspondence received from the Board of Finance about the overage from last year, and if it doesn't get approved, what does it do to the school budget moving forward. She also thanked Melinda Smith and the Board for being transparent during the school closure and bringing students back, and that parents are there to support in any way possible.

Valentine Iamartino stated that she is concerned that the Board of Finance is not listening to the Board of Education meetings. She also asked if the executive order lifts in September, does the school need to submit another back-to-school plan. Melinda Smith stated no, and there are 5 addendums that are available since the plan was submitted. Valentine Iamartino asked if mental health coverage will be available when students return to school. Melinda Smith stated that the schools will reach out to TEEG for assistance.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:23pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Minutes Submitted by:
Danielle Pederson
Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: