

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Virtual Meeting
(BOE Members in Auditorium)

Monday, September 14, 2020
7:00pm

Minutes

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

Absent:

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, Bill Birch, Christopher Jones, Robert Gentes, Larry Prentiss, Megan Parrette, Ian Polun, Steve Knowlton, school employees, parents, community members

I. Call to Order

Kathleen Herbert called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Linda Jarmolowicz led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Chairman Update

IV. Citizens' Comments

None.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. August 10, 2020

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the minutes of the August 10, 2020 meeting.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

b. August 17, 2020

Motion by Danielle Carlson, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept the minutes of the August 17, 2020 meeting.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

c. August 25, 2020

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the minutes of the August 25, 2020 meeting.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VI. Sub-Committee Update

Minutes BOE
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Donna Godzik gave an update on the policy sub-committee meeting that was previously held. The new COVID-19 policy was discussed, and a first round of revisions was completed. The Board will review and discuss the policy later in the Board meeting.

VII. Superintendent Report

- a. Enrollment Update – The September 1st enrollment for the district is at 990 students. Of these, 268 students are distance learning. There are currently 27 home-schooled students which is not included in the 990.
- b. School Opening Update – Melinda Smith stated that school has reopened successfully, and so far, there are no signs of COVID-19 in the district. Ms. Smith thanked all involved in this success. Bus ridership is significantly down, and there is an increase in parent drop-off and pick-up.
- c. Sports Program Update – Debra Spinelli stated that high school sports are going to begin using a cohort system with smaller athletes in groups. Students are already signing up for soccer, football, and cross country. Discussion was held.
- d. Retirement – Melinda Smith stated that Margaret Smith will be retiring from Mary R. Fisher Elementary School in October. Ms. Smith thanked her for the many years she dedicated to the school.
- e. Preschool Tuition Payments - Melinda Smith stated that parents of preschool students have been contacting the school regarding their tuition payments. Superintendent suggestion:
 - Preschool students attending school in person will be charged tuition based on the income scale established by TEEG. Parents are required to submit payment monthly.
 - Students accessing the distance learning program will be charged tuition based on the income scale established by TEEG. Parents are required to submit tuition payments monthly.
 - Parents who withdraw their child from the preschool program will be required to pay for tuition up to the date of withdrawal.
 - Preschool students who withdraw will not have access to the distance learning program.
 - Parents may request that their child be placed on the preschool waiting list to re-enroll their child when on-site learning resumes.

Danielle Carlson asked what happens to the tuition of those who cannot or do not pay the tuition. Melinda Smith stated that they are referred to her office to discuss options.

- f. Superintendent Contract Approval – Kathleen Herbert stated that the Board discussed to add an additional year to the existing contract with Superintendent Smith, with a 2.75% salary increase for FY21.

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the Superintendent of School contract by one more year and a salary increase of 2.75%.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VIII. COVID Policy - First Read

Donna Godzik stated that the COVID-19 policy was reviewed at a policy sub-committee meeting. Some changes to the policy were made. The policy will be reviewed again and for approval at the October Board meeting.

IX. Administrator Reports

The administrators gave verbal reports on their schools or departments.

X. Old Business

None.

XI. New Business

Valentine Iamartino asked if there are any students that do not have internet at home. Melinda Smith stated that the school has given out 12 hot spots to students who needed internet connection.

XII. Correspondence

None.

XIII. Citizens' Comments

Bill Witkowski congratulated Paula Coderre on her 40 years as a teacher at Thompson Public Schools.

Danielle Carlson asked Bill Birch where the improvements are related to the security grant. Bill Birch stated that the projects are approximately 30% completed. When COVID-19 hit, many projects were put on hold.

Thomas Angelo stated that a Tourtellotte graduate was recently hired as a Thompson Public Schools nurse. He stated that it is nice to see a graduate enter the nursing career in Thompson.

Jody Houghton commented on the reopening of school and how Thompson pulled it off. Many other Connecticut districts were surprised that it happened. Similar comments were made.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to adjourn the meeting at 8:21pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Minutes Submitted:

Danielle Pederson, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: