

# THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Via Zoom Online Meeting Portal

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, November 9, 2020

7:00pm

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

Absent:

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, Christopher Jones, Megan Parrette, Ian Polun, Bill Birch, Bob Gentes, Steve Knowlton, Larry Prentiss, TPS staff and members of the public.

**I. Call to Order**

Kathleen Herbert began the meeting at 7:02 pm.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Cole Coderre led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Chairman Update**

Kathleen Herbert thanked the negotiating team and the teachers union for settling on a contract.

**IV. Citizens' Comments**

**V. Student Spotlight/Report**

Cole Coderre and Zaynep Acun congratulated TMHS Student Spotlight of the Month of October 2020 recipient Yasmine Dumont.

**VI. Approval of Minutes**

- a. Regular Meeting, October 13, 2020

**Motion** by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the October 13, 2020 regular meeting minutes as presented.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

**VII. Sub-Committee Update**

Thomas Angelo and Deb Spinelli stated they are still waiting to see if the Cow Plop fundraiser will happen this year.

Kathleen Herbert stated that she and Melinda Smith are currently working on inserting education information into the revised Plan of Conservation and Development for the Town of Thompson. The plan has not been updated in ten years.

**VIII. Superintendent Report**

- a. Enrollment Update – The November enrollment is at 958 students.  
b. Health Care Insurance Overview w/CT Chip & Health Care Consultants – Larisa Carr, Joseph Spurgeon, Tom Kowalchik, and Kim Quigley were in attendance to provide a Connecticut Collaborative Health Insurance Program presentation.

- c. Portrait of a Graduate (POG) – Melinda Smith gave a short presentation on Portrait of a Graduate and the steps moving forward for marketing POG, including sending home postcards to all families and hanging POG banners in the classrooms.
- d. Snow Day Update – Melinda Smith stated that a letter was recently made to parents regarding the difference between a snow day and a remote learning day. A snow day will have no instruction or learning. A remote learning day will have teaching and learning from home. Ms. Smith will make those calls as needed for inclement weather days.

**IX. Administrator Reports**

The administrators and directors gave updates on events happening in their schools or departments.

**X. Old Business**

- a. Superintendent Goals FY21 – Melinda gave an overview of her 2020-2021 goals.  
**Motion** by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Valentine Iamartino, to accept the superintendent goals for purposes of evaluating next spring.  
**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

**XI. New Business**

- a. FY 2022 Budget Timeline – Robert Gentes  
Robert Gentes gave the committee a 2022 budget timeline for review.
- b. Teacher Contract Update – Possible Action  
The full Board will have a non-meeting or special meeting to go over the contract.  
No action taken.

**XII. Correspondence**

None.

**XIII. Citizens' Comments**

Jessica Bolte asked for clarification for the security gates' timeline and asked what happens if the bonding is not approved on the roof project. Bill Birch stated that there is a plan for where the gates are going, and the RFP should be going out soon for the hardware. The goal for the timing depends on the weather. The plan is to have the job finished by June. Discussion was held. She also thanked the superintendent for having the flu clinic available for Thompson children.

Jessica Bolte also asked if the last fiscal year's overage has been discussed and any repercussions if the BOF does not approve any transfers. Kathleen Herbert stated that we would not know of the overage until the audit was completed. Discussion was held.

Valentine Iamartino asked if there is anything being done for the students who have not been engaged in class since the beginning of school. Melinda Smith stated that there are protocols and processes to reach out to those students and parents. After a series of calls and letters and making home visits, the family is referred to DCF for neglect if contact has not been made.

**XIV. Adjournment**

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to adjourn the meeting at 9:07pm.  
Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Minutes Submitted by: Danielle Pederson, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: December 14, 2020