

# THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Via Zoom Online Meeting Portal

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, March 8, 2021

7:00pm

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

Absent: Jody Houghton  
Bill Witkowski

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, Bill Birch, Heather Burns, Robert Gentes, Christopher Jones, Steve Knowlton, Megan Parrette, Richard Porter, Ian Polun, Larry Prentiss, members of the community, and parents.

## I. Call to Order

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

## II. Pledge of Allegiance

Linda Jarmolowicz led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## III. Chairman Update

Kathleen Herbert thanked everyone involved in the budget process and thanked those who attended the public hearing.

## IV. Citizens' Comments

## V. Student Spotlight/Report

### High School BOE Liaison Report

#### Ongoing Events:

- NHS Ear Saver fundraiser

#### Upcoming Events:

- March 2021- Music in Our Schools Month
- March 12- TSLT in-service meeting
- March 13- NHS Food "Drive"
- March 31- Distance Learning for all students
- April 6- Student Council Meeting

Cole Coderre introduced Alexander Nachtigall as Senior Spotlight of the Month of March.

## VI. Approval of Minutes

a. *Regular Meeting, February 8, 2021*

**Motion** by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Thomas Angelo, to approve the minutes of the regular meeting on February 8, 2021 as presented.

**Motion – Passes. Donna Godzik abstained.**

b. *Budget Workshops, February 11, 2021, February 22, 2021, and February 25, 2021*

**Motion** by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Donna Godzik to approve the minutes of budget workshops on February 11, 2021, February 22, 2021, and February 25, 2021 as presented.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

c. *Special Meeting, March 1, 2021*

**Motion** by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of the special meeting on March 1, 2021 as presented.

**Motion – Passes. Donna Godzik abstained.**

**VII. Sub-Committee Update**

Donna Godzik stated that the Policy Sub-Committee met recently to review the Naming Policy. The committee will regroup on March 23<sup>rd</sup> to discuss a memorial wall in the auditorium foyer.

Thomas Angelo stated that the window replacement project for the 1909 Building will begin soon. Bill Birch stated that the restoration company will be on site tomorrow morning.

**VIII. Superintendent Report**

- a. Enrollment Update – Melinda Smith stated that the current district enrollment for March 1<sup>st</sup> is 946 students.
- b. COVID-19 Update – Melinda Smith stated that the first Moderna vaccine was given to staff and town employees on March 2<sup>nd</sup>. The second vaccination clinic will be held on March 30<sup>th</sup>, and March 31<sup>st</sup> will be a remote learning day.
- c. Early Release Fridays – Melinda Smith stated that she would like half days on Fridays to end on April 16<sup>th</sup> and have Fridays after April vacation as whole days for the remainder of the school year. Discussion was held.

**Motion** by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to extend half days on Fridays to April 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Motion – Passes. Shawn Brissette abstained.**

The half days on Fridays after April vacation will be discussed at the regular Board of Education meeting on April 12<sup>th</sup>.

- d. Intersession/Summer Learning - Melinda Smith stated that she is working with building principals regarding a development of a summer program in the last month of the summer which will integrate with the middle school high school intersession. This will give opportunities to earn credit in courses not provided by the program of studies. Plans are in place to close the learning gap and learning loss. Details are still to come.
- e. Health Care Providers – Kathleen Herbert stated that the Board of Education already decided to leave CT-CHIP. The Board needs to vote on joining the state health plan. Discussion was held.

**Motion** by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Thomas Angelo, to adopt the state partnership health plan.

**Motion – Passes. Donna Godzik and Shawn Brissette abstained.**

**IX. Administrator Reports**

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

**X. Old Business**

**XI. New Business**

**Motion** by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Thomas Angelo, to add as item XI.b. to the agenda for approval of retirement account signatory updates.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

- a. Approval of Spring Sports –

**Motion** by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Donna Godzik, to implement spring sports for Tourtellotte Memorial High School and Thompson Middle School.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

- b. **Approval of Retirement Account Signatories**

**Motion** by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to approve the change of the Plan Sponsor Authorization signatories to Superintendent Melinda Smith and Business Manager Robert Gentes (retirement account with Charles Schwab).

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

**XII. Correspondence**

**XIII. Citizens' Comments**

Valentine Iamartino asked if any students have negative lunch accounts. Melinda Smith stated “no” because all lunches are free this year.

**XIV. Adjournment**

**Motion** to adjourn the meeting by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Donna Godzik, at 8:40pm.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

Minutes submitted by: Danielle M. Pederson, Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved: April 12, 2021