

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 14, 2021

7:00pm

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

Absent: Valentine Iamartino

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, William Birch, Shannon Grauer, Ian Polun, Heather Burns, Steve Knowlton, Robert Gentes, student liaisons, school employees, members of the public.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Kathleen Herbert called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. All BOE members in attendance except Valentine Iamartino.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Shawn Brissette led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Chairman Update

Kathleen Herbert states that the high school graduation was a nice ceremony.

IV. Citizens' Comments

Jessica Bolte asked when in-person meetings will begin again. Ms. Herbert stated that this will be discussed later in the meeting.

V. Student Spotlight/Report

Important Events:

- The 2021 TMHS Prom went smoothly and everyone was more than excited to be at the Southbridge Hotel for the event. TMHS Juniors, Seniors, and staff who attended were grateful for their opportunity to have a prom this year.
- The National Honor Society conducted their 2021 induction where five new members were inducted for their hard work and dedication. The NHS also finished their Teacher Dare fundraiser where every goal but one was met. The NHS also elected officers for the next school year and has already begun planning for a busy 2021-2022 school year.
- The Music Department hosted the Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction where students from all four grades were inducted into the society. The newly inducted Tri-M students were able to participate in the "Music Rocks" service project where members painted positive messages on rocks and later placed them around the school grounds.
- The Tourtellotte Student Leadership Team finished off the year with an eventful final meeting where the senior members had a special section at the end where they were honored for all their hard work. Please see the TSLT BOE report.
- The Athletic Department hosted their annual sports awards this year and the athletes were awarded for their hard work and dedication throughout the school year. Multiple students received a varsity jacket for their longtime dedication and participation in sports throughout their time at Tourtellotte.
- The Music Department hosted their annual banquet which also included an end of the year concert. The Concert Band, Concert Choir, and Modern Music Ensemble all performed multiple songs that they had worked hard on for the months before the event. Mrs. Anderson and the music officers presented awards to the multiple ensembles.
- After much planning, the seniors were able to enjoy an outdoor senior walk to finish off the school year. The graduates were presented with their cords and various awards earlier in the day at an assembly that was put together and facilitated by the Student Spirit Association (please see the SSA BOE report). The assembly was concluded by the "Senior Walk" where seniors paraded in their robes and cords around the campus of Thompson Public Schools.

VI. Approval of Minutes

a. May 10, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept the minutes of the May 10, 2021 meeting as presented.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VII. Sub-Committee Update

None.

VIII. Superintendent Report

a. Anne Marie Murphy Para Educator of the Year Nominations

Melinda Smith stated that this year, the district participated in the Anne Marie Murphy Para Educator of the Year Program and each school chose one para to represent the Thompson Schools. At Tourtellotte Memorial High School – Kristie DiPasquale, at Thompson Middle School – Rebecca Cody, and at Mary R. Fisher Elementary School – Songkane Nikolla.

The Para representing Thompson will be revealed during Administrative Reports.

b. Enrollment Update

The June 2021 student enrollment is at 940. The number of distance learning students started at 263 students at the beginning of the school year, and is at 110 on June 1, 2021.

c. 2021-2022 School Calendar Revision

Melinda Smith stated that due to intersession, the teachers have requested to move September 8th half-professional development date to September 9th, for planning purposes.

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Jody Houghton, to approve the revised 2021-2022 school calendar which moves a half day from September 8, 2021 to September 9, 2021.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

d. Vision/Mission Statement

The Board recently met with Betty Osga from the Connecticut Center for School Change regarding new vision and mission statements for the Thompson Public Schools. The new statements will be shared with the audience and approved later in the meeting.

e. Revised Re-Opening Plan

Melinda Smith provided a re-opening plan presentation for the 2021-2022 school year. Discussion was held. The plan can be reviewed on the school website.

f. American Rescue Plan/ESSER III Review

Melinda Smith provided an American Rescue/ESSER III Plan presentation. Discussion was held.

IX. Administrator Reports

The administrators and directors gave reports on events happening in their schools or departments. Principal Steve Knowlton recognized Rebecca Cody as the Para Educator Of-the-Year to represent Thompson Public Schools at the State level. Good luck to Ms. Cody!

a. Oil Tank Replacement Completion Approval – Bill Birch

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Jody Houghton, to accept the oil tank replacement project number 141-022CV as complete.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

X. Old Business

a. Healthy Food Certification – Additional Language for Approval

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Jody Houghton, to agree that pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for the sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to

school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

XI. New Business

TPS Vision and Mission Statement

Vision Statement:

The Thompson Public Schools are committed to being a high performing district that graduates students who are knowledgeable, independent and community connected.

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the new Thompson Public Schools Vision Statement as presented.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Mission Statement:

We will meet the challenges of our vision by:

- *Providing dedicated leadership*
- *Encouraging community involvement and support*
- *Hiring and retaining an engaged, enthusiastic, focused, and professional staff*
- *Providing state of the art instruction*
- *Maintaining a safe and caring environment that fosters lifelong learning*
- *Ensuring that social/emotional well-being is a priority*
- *Embracing our differences*
- *Striving to help every student reach his or her potential*

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the new Thompson Public Schools Mission Statement, with two minor grammatical revisions.

Motion – Passes. Shawn Brissette Abstained.

Kathleen Herbert discussed the manner of holding in-person Board of Education meetings beginning in July. Consensus is to have meetings held in person with the availability for the audience to sign in from home. In-person participants will abide by the school guidelines regarding mask wearing. The meetings will be held in the auditorium for sound quality.

XII. Correspondence

a. Thank you letter from Noveline Beltram

Ms. Noveline Beltram sent the Board a thank you letter regarding a gift received in lieu of the passing of her mother.

XIII. Citizens' Comments

Kathleen Herbert stated that there is no choice for students wearing masks when they return to school, unless the mandate is lifted by the Department of Health.

A parent asked about the security gates. Bill Birch stated that gate project is moving forward. The bids went out, the bid has been awarded, and the contract has been awarded. Currently there is a supply shortage for the steel and other materials, but the project is on track for budget.

Jackie Heffernan stated that her son was nominated as the June TMHS Student Spotlight of the Month. Melinda Smith apologized for not knowing that he was nominated and that he will be recognized at the July meeting.

XIV. Adjournment

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Donna Godzik, to adjourn the meeting at 8:56pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Minutes provided by: Danielle Pederson, Recording Secretary

BOE Minutes

6/14/2021