

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting

Minutes

Monday, August 9, 2021

7:00pm

In attendance:

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

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, Bill Birch, Lisa Durand, Robert Gentes, Kim Granato, Shannon Grauer, Christopher Jones, Larry Prentiss, members of the community, and parents.

I. Call to Order

Chairman Kathleen Herbert called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Donna Godzik led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Chairman Update

Kathleen Herbert stated that citizens' comments are going to be timed 3 minutes per person.

IV. Citizens' Comments

Jessica Bolte asked about bus stop restrictions and the jump start program and learning loss.
Allison Plante commented about students being in school during the pandemic and how students should not be wearing masks this school year.

V. Approval of Minutes

a. July 12, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Jody Houghton, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting on July 12, 2021 as presented.

Motion – Passes. Donna Godzik abstained.

VI. Sub-Committee Update

Thomas Angelo stated that the Tourtellotte Trust met on July 29th to discuss the window project and funding for Phase 2.

VII. Superintendent Report

a. Enrollment Report - The district enrollment is currently at 906 students. Student enrollment will continue over the rest of the summer.

b. Juneteenth Update – Melinda Smith stated that the 12-month employees have asked for Juneteenth to be a paid holiday. Discussion was held. Kathleen Herbert would like to see how other schools are handling the

holiday before Thompson makes a decision. Melinda Smith will follow-up with the Board regarding this matter at another meeting.

- c. Re-Opening Plan – Melinda Smith gave a presentation on the school re-opening plan for 2021-2022. The recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools is that the district must follow DPH/ CSDE guidelines regarding masks in schools.

VIII. Administrator Reports

The administrators and directors gave reports on event happening in their schools or departments.

IX. Old Business

- a. Healthy Food Certification

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Jody Houghton, so moves that the board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the Page 3 of 3 | Connecticut State Department of Education location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

X. New Business

- a. Student Handbook Approvals

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the TMHS, TMS, and MRFES student handbooks with one small amendment to the MRFES handbook.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

- b. Custodian Contract Approval

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to move that the Thompson Board of Education hereby moves to provide funding for and to approve and accept the Tentative Agreement for a successor collective bargaining agreement with the Custodians’ union for the period of July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2024. The Board further delegates to the Chair the authority to sign the final contract document on behalf of the Board.

Motion – Passes. Donna Godzik and Shawn Brissette abstained.

XI. Correspondence

None.

XII. Citizens’ Comments

Comments were made by citizens regarding either their children wearing masks or not wearing masks when they go back to school. Some Board members also made comments regarding the matter.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, at 9:26pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Minutes Submitted By: Danielle M. Pederson, Recording Secretary