

**Thompson Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 13, 2021
Auditorium 7:00pm**

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

Also in attendance: Bill Birch, Heather Burns, Christopher Jones, Kim Granato, Nathaniel Mayo, Robert Gentes, Shannon Grauer, Deb Spinelli, Michelle Giammarinaro (Via Zoom), members of the public.

I. Call to Order

Kathleen Herbert called the meeting to order at 7:04pm

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Valentine Iamartino led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Chairman Update

Kathleen Herbert commented on the 911 presentation that former teacher, George Jewell, the Thompson Middle School staff, and students, put on in the auditorium on Friday, September 10, 2021.

IV. Citizen's Comments

Jessica Bolte stated that there is lack of transportation communication between she and the DATTCO coordinator. She also stated that the afternoon pick-up line in the afternoons are very long and she hopes that this can be rectified.

V. Approval of Minutes

August 9, 2021

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of August 9, 2021 as presented.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VI. Sub-Committee Update

None.

VII. Superintendent Report

a. Welcome – New Employees

Melinda Smith welcomed the new employees to the Thompson Public Schools.

b. Enrollment Report

Superintendent Smith stated that the September 1, 2021 student enrollment is at 940. The numbers should stabilize in October.

Melinda Smith stated that there is a shortage of bus drivers. A waiver has been given to Thompson to remote learn for the rest of the week for the elementary school. Teachers will provide zoom lessons.

c. Parent Survey Results

Superintendent Smith stated that she sent the Board the survey results from the parent survey regarding how parents felt about students wearing masks in school. There were about 68% of parents who stated they will comply with the mandate to have students wear masks.

d. School Calendar Revisions

The school calendar needed to change to add a make-up professional development. A majority of teachers wanted to remove Veterans Day and make it a professional day. This change will not impact students.

e. Nepotism Policy/Staff Appointments

Superintendent Smith stated that she and the Board reviewed the Nepotism Policy and new employees were hired to fill appointments that have been unfilled due to many reasons.

f. Request of Selectmen – Assessment of HVAC to Building Committee

Melinda Smith stated that the HVAC system needs to be assessed. The Board needs to request the Board of Selectmen to ask that the assessment and monitoring be turned to the building committee. This project would need to go out to bid, but the Selectmen need to approve to act on this.

William Birch stated that the HVAC system is in good shape, but due to the age of some of it, the ventilation needs to keep fresh air from running into the building and the assessment is necessary.

g. Request of Board of Finance – Unused FY21 Funds

The end of the year report is complete and the unspent funds from FY 20 is \$174,678. Superintendent Smith stated that she needs permission to request from the Board of Finance that 1% of that be put into the capital or special education account to avoid having a deficit. A formal letter will be written for the Board of Finance for their October meeting.

VIII. Administrator Reports

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

IX. Old Business

Donna Godzik would like to add the discussion of Juneteenth to the October Board meeting.

X. New Business

a. School Calendar Approval

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the school calendar change which includes a Professional Development Day added for teachers on Veterans Day.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

b. Request of Selectman for HVAC system assessment

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to put forward to the Board of Selectmen the \$92,000 assessment of the HVAC system be put to the Building Committee.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

c. *Contract Approval*

Motion by William Witkowski, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to move that the Board of Education hereby moves to provide funding for and to accept and approve the Tentative Agreement between the Board and the Paraprofessionals/Cafeteria employees/Nurses Union. The Board further delegates to the Chair the authority to execute the final Contract document on behalf of the Board.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

XI. Correspondence

None.

XII. Citizens' Comments

Many comments were on the zoom chat and in the audience regarding bus transportation and distance learning. Discussion was held regarding keeping kids in school and how to transport the students moving forward.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Minutes Submitted by: Danielle M. Pederson, Recording Secretary