

Thompson Board of Education

Regular Board of Education Meeting

Monday, March 12, 2018
7:00 pm

In attendance: Absent:

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

Student Liasons:
Jordon Scroczenki
Emily Angelo

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, Megan Baker, Noveline Beltram, William Birch, Christopher Scott, Ian Polun, Scott Sugarman, members of the public.

I. Call to Order

Chairman William Witkowski called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Thompson Middle School Students led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens' Comments

None.

IV. Committee Up-Date

None.

V. Educational Update

A. Student Spotlights

- TMHS Student of the Month – Jordon Scroczenki recognized Megan Bates as the TMHS Student Spotlight for the month of February.
- TMS Letters to the Board – Mrs. Groh introduced 6th grade students who wrote and read letters to the Board, inviting them to upcoming school events.

Aa. Student Liaison Report

Mar 14th - TMHS Music Department heads to Broadway
Mar 16th – Student/Faculty Basketball Game
Mar 17th - All HS Spring Sports begin
Mar 28th - ECC Leadership Conference
Mar 29th - College Fair all Juniors and interested Sophomores
Mar 29th - Troop D (faculty/staff) – Student Softball Game

BOE Approved Minutes
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Apr 4th - Report Cards Home
Apr 11th - Integrity Plus – Ryscavage Auditorium
May 19th - Courmoyer Memorial Golf Tournament

- B. Superintendent Update
- March – Board of Education Month
On behalf of the school district, Melinda Smith thanked the members of the Board of Education on their continued hard work and support of the Thompson Public Schools.
 - Enrollment Update – The March enrollment is at 1,009 students, up four students from February.
- C. Accountability Report – Ian Polun presented to the Board an update on the Accountability Report.
- D. Social/Emotional Student Supports - Melinda Smith stated that the social and emotional part of learning is very important in the district. Shawn Brissette asked what is going on in the community, and especially the school, to address social-emotional learning. Mr. Scott Sugarman gave the Board a handout on the steps toward addressing this issue which includes adding a Social Worker into the district, adding Tools of the Mind-Self-Regulation through Purposeful Play and increase staff training.
- E. BOE Sub-Committees – No discussion.
- F. Calendar Update – Ms. Smith noted that the State regulation for the number of school days is 180 per school year. The current TPS school calendar allows for 181 student days. She would like the Board to approve the 181st day as a make-up snow day. This is up for approval under action items.
- G. Administrator Report
- Mr. Scott Sugarman
- From last year to this year, ELA growth targets went up ten points, and Math growth targets for high needs student went up five points.
 - Medicaid and tuition reimbursement numbers are continuing to increase.
 - Out-of-district numbers has decreased from 17 students to 14 this school year.
- Ms. Noveline Beltram
- International Paper Grant- Improve Classroom Libraries through Reading Engagement Project. The first objective of this project is to provide grades 3 & 4 classrooms with books that will foster student engagement. The second objective is to increase student attendance by motivating students to attend school by offering books that would appeal across gender, race, ethnicity, and income while supporting the reading curriculum.
 - Mystic Aquarium Grant- Field Coast Study. One grade to attend Mystic Aquarium- all buses and fees are paid through the grant.
 - MRFES as partner to Thompson Recreation and The American Heart Association, Physical Education teacher Jon Fontaine raised over \$5000 with the Jump Rope for Heart event- \$300 will be given to him to purchase equipment.
- Mr. Christopher Scott
- Anthony Vajcovec, grade 8 student, has qualified to compete in the State level competition of the National Geographic Bee on Friday, April 6, 2018.
 - The elementary/middle school variety show took place on February 16, 2018. Students from both schools showcased their talent which included comedy, dancing, and singing. Thank you to Mr. Leclerc and Ms. Rossetti for coordinating a fantastic evening of student talent.
 - Opportunity for our afterschool boatbuilding students to sail aboard the Schooner Brilliant in June. This opportunity is being made possible through a grant from Mystic Seaport.

Ms. Megan Baker

- Any interested Board members who would like to play in a golf tournament for the Cournoyer Family please contact her.

Mr. William Birch

- There was testing completed for the State on the oil tanks. Funding has been expended so projects have been at a halt until the Board of Finance can approve some funding to keep things going. Mr. Birch thanked his crew, the bus drivers and cafeteria workers for their continued effort on disinfecting touch surfaces every day.

VI. Action Items

A. Minutes – February 6, 2018

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Joseph Lindley, to accept the minutes of the February 6, 2018 Budget Workshop with minor changes.

Motion – Passes. Thomas Angelo and Jody Houghton abstained.

Minutes – February 12, 2018

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the minutes of the February 12, 2018 Regular Meeting with minor changes.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Minutes – February 21, 2018

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the minutes of the February 21, 2018 Budget Workshop with minor changes.

Motion – Passes. William Witkowski and Thomas Angelo abstained.

Minutes – February 26, 2018

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the February 26, 2018 Budget Workshop minutes as presented.

Motion – Passes. Thomas Angelo abstained.

- B. **Motion** by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to act on the superintendent's recommendation to not offer the Director of Finance a new contract after his contract expires on June 30, 2018.

Motion passes. Joseph Lindley abstained.

- C. **Motion** by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to authorize the superintendent to execute with the resignation agreement with a public employee (administrative assistant).

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

- D. **Motion** by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to authorize the superintendent to execute the resignation agreements with public employees (teachers).

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

- E. **Motion** by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to authorize the superintendent to drop the 181st day of the FY18 school calendar to use as a snow make-up day.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VII. Correspondence

Kathleen Herbert received an email from CABE regarding an E-Chip workshop on Tuesday, March 20th at 9:30 at Eastconn. Kathleen and Melinda will be attending.

CABE would like to come to Thompson on Monday, April 2nd for a Board of Education Orientation. This meeting will be set in the middle school media center at 6:30pm.

VIII. Old Business

IX. Citizens Comments

Sandy Cox invited the Board to Bedtime Stories on March 28th at 6:00pm.

Michael Krogul stated that he has requested from the Superintendent and the Board of Education the costs for Ryan & Ryan during the negotiation process. William Witkowski will make sure that gets to him.

Thomas Angelo stated that Tourtellotte Alumni, Kevin Dooley, has passed away.

Donna Godzik stated that the Volunteer Income Tax Program in the high school is a great program and hopes that it continues next year as it benefits the community.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44pm.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Danielle Pederson
Recording Secretary to the Board

Minutes Approved: April 10, 2018