

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thompson Middle School Media Center Special Meeting Minutes

Thursday, August 1, 2019

7:00 PM

Attending Members:

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

Absent Members:

Also in attendance:

Melinda Smith, William Birch, Robert Gentes, Lisa Rice, Michele Roy

I. Call to Order

William Witkowski called the meeting to order at 7:05pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Matthew Polsky began the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Educational Up-Date

A. Superintendent Update

- Enrollment – Melinda Smith gave an update on the current district enrollment. The numbers will fluctuate throughout the rest of the summer.
- Farm to School Grant – Melinda Smith stated that the school recently obtained a competitive grant for \$81,848.00 for an aquaponics after-school program. Discussion was held.
- Budget Reduction Recommendations – Melinda Smith stated that due to the referendums not passing, the BOF reduced the BOE budget and she has made recommendations to the Board for discussion and approval.

B. Teacher Layoff Rescissions

IV. Action Items. Consideration of Approving...

- #### A. Budget Reduction Recommendations: The BOE made the following actions regarding the reduction of the 2019-2020 education budget:

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Thomas Angelo, to reduce one late bus for the after-school programs (\$3,162).

Motion – Passes. Kathleen Herbert and Linda Jarmolowicz opposed.

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Donna Godzik, to eliminate the TMHS furniture (\$5,577).

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to eliminate the Teacher/Sped TMS position (\$73,367).

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Kathleen Herbert, to eliminate 2 permanent substitute position (\$87,516).

Motion – Passes. Donna Godzik and William Witkowski opposed.

Motion by Shawn to move action item E to B. Seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz.

B. Retirement

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept with regret the retirement of Charlie Poirier, TMHS teacher.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

C. Teacher Layoff Rescissions

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Matthew Polsky, to recall teachers Lauren Howard, Jennifer Bessenaire, and Jill Pirie, based on Superintendent’s recommendation.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

D. Healthy Food Certification

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Jody Houghton, to accept:

1. **Healthy food option (page 2):** 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 of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. This certification shall include all food offered for 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, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.
2. **Food exemptions (page 2):** The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards 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 location of the event; and 3) the food 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 the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.
3. **Beverage exemptions (page 4):** The board of education will allow the sale to students of 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 location of the event; and 3) the beverages 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. The “school day” is the period from the midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the beverage sales.

Motion – Passes. Unanimously.

E. Resignations/Rescind

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept to rescind the resignation letter from Jillian Kuhn, Speech and Language Pathologist.

Motion – Fails. 8 to 1 for a No vote.

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Valentine Iamartino, to accept the resignation from Amy Maloney, School Psychologist.

Motion – Passes. Thomas Angelo opposed.

F. Superintendent Contract Extension

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Matthew Polsky, to extend the Superintendent’s contract one year to the current contract.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

V. **Adjournment**

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to adjourn the meeting at 8:31pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,
Danielle Pederson
Recording Secretary to the Board

Minutes Approved: September 9, 2019