

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thompson Middle School Media Center Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 9, 2019

7:00 PM

Attending Members:
William Witkowski
Linda Jarmolowicz
Shawn Brissette
Donna Godzik
Kathleen Herbert
Thomas Angelo
Valentine Iamartino
Matthew Polsky

Absent Members:
Jody Houghton

Also in attendance:

Melinda Smith, Robert Gentes, Christopher Jones, Noveline Beltram, William Birch, Steve Knowlton, Ian Polun, school employees, members of the public.

I. Call to Order

William Witkowski called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Emily Angelo and Cole Coderre led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens' Comments

None.

IV. Committee Update

None.

V. Educational Up-Date

A. Student Spotlight

Aa. Student Liaison Report:

Upcoming Events:

9/10: Movie after school in the Library commemorating 9/11 (*102 Minutes That Changed America*)

9/11: The first Tourtellotte Student Leadership Team (TSLT) in-service. Early release day

9/12: College and Financial Aid Night

9/19: Homelessness Awareness Assembly, School Pictures

9/26: TMHS Expo Night 5:30-7:30

10/3: Parent-Teacher Conferences 5:30-7:30

Student Voice Forms:

The first student voice forms went out during extended homeroom on Friday, 9/6 and the first Student Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, 9/17.

Overview of the student voice process at TMHS:

At the beginning of every month, the TMHS Student Council solicits input from the student body. Students are encouraged to share their ideas and/or concerns by filling out student voice forms (see form). The student input is then

discussed with administration at bi-weekly Student Council meetings and subsequent relevant action is taken. These meetings are attended by all class officers, BOE Liaisons, at-large TSLT members, TSLT officers, and any member of the staff or student body who wishes to attend.

The Role of the BOE Liaisons: The BOE Liaison's role has been to represent the TMHS student body in their communications with the Board of Education. As we begin a new year, we are interested in getting input from members of the BOE. *Would you like to see our role expand in any way?*

B. Superintendent Update

- Enrollment Update – The district enrollment is at 973 students as of September 9, 2019. Discussion was held.
- International Paper Grant Presentation – TJ Billiard and Donna Fournier presented a grant award from International Paper to the Thompson Middle School. The money awarded by International Paper will provide students with high-quality and engaging texts to ensure a culture of reading is built in the school.
- Budget Reductions – Melinda Smith gave a list of recommended cuts to meet the budget reductions to balance the FY20 budget. Discussion was held. Next town referendum will be on September 24, 2019.
- Update Regarding Bullying – Melinda Smith gave an update on incentives and strategies staff and students are taking to prevent bullying in the schools. Discussion was held.
- Non-Certified Staff Salary Increases FY20 – Melinda Smith is recommending a 3% salary increase for the non-union employees.
- New Hire Recognition – Melinda Smith recognized and welcomed the new staff to the 2019-2020 school year.

C. Administrator Reports - The administrators gave an update on events that have happened or will be happening in their school or departments.

Robert Gentes gave a presentation on what the cost would be if the high school was closed. Discussion was held. The presentation will be shared with the Board of Finance.

VI. Action Items

A. Minutes

Regular Meeting, June 10, 2019

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept the minutes of the June 10, 2019 Regular meeting with a minor change.

Motion – Passes. Tom Angelo abstained.

Special Meeting, August 1, 2019

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Matthew Polsky, to accept the minutes of the August 1, 2019 Special meeting with a minor change.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Special Meeting, August 27, 2019

Motion by Valentine Iamartino, seconded by Matthew Polsky, to accept the minutes of the August 27, 2019 Special Meeting with a minor change.

Motion – Passes. Tom Angelo abstained.

B. Budget Reductions

Tabled.

C. Non-Certified Staff Salary Increases FY20

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Donna Godzik, to give the non-union employees a 3% salary increase for the 2019-2020 school year.

Motion – Passes. Shawn Brissette opposed. William Witkowski abstained.

D. Resignations

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept the resignations of Marybeth Murdock, school nurse, and Kerri Nadeau, paraprofessional.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VII. Correspondence

None.

VIII. Old Business

Shawn Brissette asked about co-op courses with Putnam. Melinda Smith stated that the Farm to School Grant will cause some cooperative groups with teachers from both districts. Robotics will also be introduced to the district which will compete with schools in the area. Discussion was held.

IX. Citizens' Comments

Danielle Carlson stated that a lot of parents are getting tired of the cuts, however, parents are not going out to vote. Those parents who do vote are frustrated. She believes the security program is great and is wondering if the town could pay for the manager position.

Jessica Bolte asked if there is any follow up with vo-ag students staying on track with their curriculum. Ms. Smith stated that she does request student transcripts for review. Ms. Bolte asked if there are any restrictions parents have when advocating for the school budget. Mr. Witkowski stated that parents can do what they want. Ms. Bolte asked if the Bradley program has other districts paying tuition into the program. She also asked about the security guards and if someone is on day duty. Ms. Smith stated that there is someone on campus during the day who interacts with students.

Charlene Langlois feels encouraged to have correct information because wrong information is being put out in the public. She feels all positive information regarding the town and the school should be posted on everyone's Facebooks pages so everyone sees it and could run the negative out.

Claire Walsh stated that the Fun Run is going to be held on October 10th from 8:30am to 12:00pm and hopes everyone can make it.

William Witkowski reminded Board members to sign in the school office if they are visiting the campus.

X. Adjournment

Motion by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to adjourn the meeting at 9:53pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted by,
Danielle Pederson
Recording Secretary to the Board

Minutes Approved: October 15, 2019