

# THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Thompson Middle School Media Center Regular Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, November 12, 2019**  
**7:00 PM**

**Attending Members:**

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

**Absent Members:**

**Also in attendance:**

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

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Newly elected First Selectman Amy St. Onge led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Citizens' Comments**

Emily Sousa, a parent and Mary R. Fisher Elementary School teacher, is saddened by the recent budget cut of the middle school spring sports and would like to know if there is anything that parents can do to help. Bill Witkowski stated that all parents are welcomed to attend upcoming Board of Finance meetings to express their concerns. Amy St. Onge invited Ms. Sousa to the next Board of Selectmen meeting on Tuesday, November 19, 2019.

**IV. Committee Update**

TMHS Alumni Update: Career Day, the Alumni Concert, cow plop, and sporting events all went well. Bill Witkowski stated that Joe Lindley was an all-around great person and he will truly be missed.

**V. Educational Up-Date**

A. Student Spotlight

- Student Liaison Report: Cole Coderre was nominated for the TMHS Student Spotlight of the month of October.

**Upcoming Events:**

- 11/13/19 – Early Release
- 11/16/19 – CMEA Auditions – Manchester High School
- 11/20/19 – Mandatory Winter Sports Meeting at 7pm
- 11/22/19 – TGT Show 6:30pm
- 11/26/19 – Annual Powder Puff Game 12:30pm
- 11/27 – 11/29/19 – Thanksgiving Break
- 12/4/19 – Winter Concert 6:30pm

B. Superintendent Update

- Enrollment Report – The November enrollment is at 984 students.

- Melinda Smith gave certificates to those students who are receiving the 2019 Superintendent Award in December.
- World Affairs Seminar Sponsored by Putnam Rotary – TMHS Students Lindsey Worster and Robert Gatzke presented an overview of the World Affairs seminar they attended in Wisconsin regarding social media.
- Election Results – William Witkowski thanked Matthew Polsky for serving on the Board of Education for the past few months. Mr. Witkowski welcomed Danielle Carlson to the Board.
- Graduation Survey Results – The high school parents and staff were surveyed on when graduation date should be set. The results came out to be the first Friday after the 180<sup>th</sup> school day.

**Motion** by Jody Houghton, seconded by Kathleen Herbert, to add graduation date to action item G.  
**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

- FY2021 Budget Timeline – Robert Gentes provided a budget timeline to the Board for review and approval.
- Naming of Facility Appointment – The naming policy will be revised again to include small donations.
- Superintendent’s Goals FY20 – Melinda Smith gave the Board a list of her goals for the school year.
- Removal of Textbooks from Inventory – Melinda Smith presented textbooks that need to be removed from the Thompson Middle School media center inventory.

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

## VI. Action Items

### A. Minutes

*Regular Meeting, October 15, 2019*

**Motion** by Donna Godzik, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept the minutes of the October 15, 2019 regular meeting.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

### B. FY 2021 Budget Timeline

**Motion** by Donna Godzik, seconded by Kathleen Herbert, to accept the budget timeline with a minor change.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

### C. Naming of Facility Appointment

**No action.**

### D. Superintendent’s Goals FY20

**Motion** by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the Superintendent’s Goals for the 2019-2020 school year.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

### E. Removal of Textbooks from Inventory

**Motion** by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Valentine Iamartino, to approve the removal of the textbooks as presented by Keri Procko, TMS Media Center Specialist.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous**

### F. Resignation

**Motion** by Donna Godzik, seconded by Jody Houghton, to accept with sincere regrets, the resignation of Jonathan Fontaine, MRFES Physical Education teacher.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

### G. Graduation Date

**Motion** by Matthew Polsky, seconded by Shawn Brissette, approved to mark the high school graduation date on the first Friday after the 180<sup>th</sup> day of school for the 2019-2020 school year.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

**Motion** by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Kathleen Herbert, to set the high school graduation date every year moving forward to the first Friday after the 180<sup>th</sup> day of school.

**Motion – Passes. Linda Jarmolowicz, Bill Witkowski, and Valentine Iamartino abstained.**

**VII. Correspondence**

None.

**VIII. Old Business**

Donna Godzik asked how the roll out of the Chromebooks has been since the start of the school year. Melinda Smith stated that all staff in the technology department are constantly working on upgrading and managing the Chromebooks. Matt Polsky asked if the high school students can assist in the department. Tracy Bachand stated that she worked with students over the summer.

Shawn Brissette asked if the Board can look into a social media ethics policy that can be followed by all the members. Board Ethics policy will be reviewed at the next BOE meeting.

The Board has instructed the Superintendent to send a letter to the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Finance requesting the funds be reinstated for the purposes of sports, field trips and supplies.

Thomas Angelo would like a meeting with all of Boards to kick off the budget season.

**IX. Citizens' Comments**

None.

**X. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Valentine Iamartino, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to adjourn the meeting at 9:06pm.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by,  
Danielle Pederson  
Recording Secretary to the Board

Minutes Approved: December 9, 2019