

# THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Thompson Middle School Media Center Regular Meeting Minutes

**Monday, March 9, 2020**  
**7:00 PM**

**Attending Members:**

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

**Absent Members:**

**Also in attendance:**

Melinda Smith, William Birch, Noveline Beltram, Christopher Jones, Ian Polun, Amy St. Onge, school employees, members of the public.

**I. Call to Order**

Kathleen Herbert called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Parker Ring led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Citizens' Comments**

Jessica Bolte stated that she would like more copies of the budget to hand out at the transfer station.

**IV. Student Spotlight/Report**

Emily Angelo and Cole Coderre shared a High School BOE Liaison Report, and invited the Board members to Integrity Plus on April 22, 2020. They also introduced Tourtellotte Memorial High School Student Spotlight for the month of February: Branson Waldrop.

**V. Approval of Minutes**

a. February 5, 2020

**Motion** by Donna Godzik, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of the February 5, 2020 minutes as presented.

**Motion – Passes. Valentine Iamartino and William Witkowski abstained.**

b. February 10, 2020

**Motion** by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Jody Houghton, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2020 minutes as presented.

**Motion – Passes. Donna Godzik abstained.**

c. February 24, 2020

**Motion** by Donna Godzik, seconded by Jody Houghton, to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2020 minutes as presented.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

d. March 2, 2020

**Motion** by Linda Jarmolowicz, seconded by Valentine Iamartino, to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2020 minutes as presented.

**Motion – Passes. Donna Godzik and William Witkowski abstained.**

**VI. Sub-Committee Update**

- a. Communication Sub-Committee Meeting Update:  
Donna Godzik and Melinda Smith gave a report on the latest communication sub-committee meeting which focused on discussing community outreach regarding promoting the school budget.
- b. Alumni Association Update:  
Thomas Angelo stated that the Alumni had a Corn-hole tournament recently and it went well. More fund raisers are going to be set to raise money for scholarships. The pre-planning stages are in works for a motorcycle and classic car show in town.

**VII. Superintendent Report**

- a. Enrollment Update - The March 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment is at 973 students.
- b. Spelling Bee/Geography Bee Winner Recognitions - Parker Ring was recognized for winning the 2020 Spelling Bee and Andrew DiCicco was recognized for winning the 2020 Geography Bee.
- c. Discussion – Possible Vote – Banners for Athletic Field – Melinda Smith stated that a couple parents inquired about fund-raising opportunities, along with the athletic director. The fund raiser would put banners on the athletic fields. Deb Spinelli is looking into getting an electronic scoreboard with a digital banner for the gymnasium. Discussion was held.

**VIII. Administrator Reports**

- a. The administrators gave their school/department reports.

**IX. Old Business**

- a. Budget Workshops Wrap-up – Kathleen Herbert stated that the Board of Finance will meet every Thursday moving forward until they have gone through both the Town and school budgets.  
March 12: Representatives of the Town budget will need to attend. Representatives of the school budget will **not** need to attend.  
March 19: Representatives of the Town budget will need to attend. Representatives of the school budget may need to attend depending on how far the Board of Finance has gotten.  
March 26: Representatives of both the Town and school budget will need to attend.

**X. New Business**

Healthy Food Certification Approval:

**Motion** by William Witkowski, seconded by Shawn Brissette: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and 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 food and beverage 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 midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

**XI. Correspondence**

- a. TMHS Office of Apprenticeship Training – Melinda Smith read a correspondence from Todd Birch, Apprentice Director of Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board regarding the manufacturing program at TMHS.
- b. Retirements – Melinda Smith recognized Wendy Fusco, Lynn O’Brien and Noveline Beltram of their intent to retire at the end of the school year.

**XII. Citizens’ Comments**

Debra Spinelli stated that the Unified Sports team had a great time and did well in their participation.

Donna Godzik stated that there will be many homes built in Thompson and the school should keep an eye on enrollment and future budget increases. Thomas Angelo stated there are many building permits in Thompson. Discussion was held regarding the mil rate.

Melanie Hatchigan thanked the Board for videotaping the meetings. It is very helpful for busy parents who cannot attend meetings, as they can watch the video online at their convenience.

Jessica Bolte stated that there are four to six lots in town that will produce more homes. She also thanked the Board for allowing childcare at the budget presentation meetings.

Shawn Brissette asked if the BOE could write a letter to the Board of Selectmen as a suggestion that the other town Boards start taping their meetings as well. Discussion was held.

Danielle Carlson would like to have a tri-board meeting to discuss code of ethics. Discussion was held.

### **XIII. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted by:  
Danielle M. Pederson  
Recording Secretary to the Board

Minutes Approved: April 6, 2020