

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Special Virtual Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 25, 2020

7:00pm

Attending Members: Absent Members:

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

Also in attendance:

Melinda Smith, Robert Gentes, employees of TPS, parents, Thompson citizens.

I. Call to Order

Kathleen Herbert called the meeting to order at 7:01pm.

II. Discussion and Possible Action on Union Contracts and Employment/Salaries During School Closure

The Board of Education shall discuss and possibly take action on the employment and/or salaries of union employees for the balance of the 2019-2020 school year and/or during the time that the Thompson Public Schools are closed due to COVID-19 virus.

Motion by Shawn Brissette: The Board of Education hereby moves as follows: The Thompson Board of Education shall compensate and/or sign available work assignments and directives to the non-certified bargaining unit employees pursuant to the terms of their applicable bargaining unit agreements, up to the last day of school 2019-2020 year. The superintendent shall be delegated with the authority to provide written notice of this decision to the applicable bargaining units, and to enter into any relevant memorandum of agreements if such are deemed necessary. **Motion** seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz.

Discussion was held: Jody Houghton stated that the Board is trying to do all the right things for the employees and students. There is enough work to be done to continue with teaching the students of the Thompson community.

Danielle Carlson stated that everyone will be busy working and learning during the closure.

Shawn Brissette stated that the staff is working hard and believes it is the right thing to pay the non-certified employees.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Kathleen Herbert thanked all who zoomed into the meeting. She stated that the next Board meeting will be a zoom meeting as well, and there will be citizens' comments so questions can be asked and answered.

III. Superintendent's Update Regarding School Closing

Melinda Smith thanked the staff for everything they have been doing throughout the closure; meetings are still being held and online chatting with students continues. The cafeteria workers and Ben Barbour have been working hard getting breakfast and lunches out to students every day. The custodial staff continues to clean the schools. The technology team has also been working hard to make sure all students and staff have laptops or Chromebooks at home.

Kathleen Herbert thanked all of the teachers and Melinda Smith for being prepared for the closure. Other schools in Connecticut were not ready, but Thompson was ahead of the curve.

Valentine Iamartino asked how many Chromebooks has the tech team offered to the students recently. Heather Burns, Technology Director, stated that 45-50 devices were given out today (3/25/2020) and students can contact their teachers if they have any questions on how to use them. Each technology staff member is assigned to specific teachers throughout the district for troubleshooting. Five hotspots were sent out to families.

IV. Adjournment

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Valentine Iamartino, to adjourn the meeting at 7:21pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Minutes Approved: April 6, 2020