

AGENDA

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Regular Meeting
Virtual Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 8, 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

I. Call to Order

- a. Kathleen Herbert called the meeting to order at 7:12pm. Roll Call of Board Members – All members in attendance.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Noveline Beltram led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Board Chairman Update

Kathleen Herbert spoke as Board Chairman regarding the recent budget cuts from the Board of Finance and thanked those who supported the Board of Education budget. Ms. Herbert spoke as a citizen regarding the recent racial and discrimination events happening around the globe.

IV. Citizens' Comments

Jessica Bolte asked for clarification regarding statements from the Board of Finance Chairman in regards to the overspending of the special education budget and putting off some bills to the next school year. Melinda Smith stated that the school budget will end in a deficit although the spending was monitored very closely. Ms. Bolte asked if the student classroom supply lists could be updated. She also asked if a survey will be sent out to parents regarding distant learning. Ms. Smith will be sending a survey related to this soon. Discussion was held.

Thomas Angelo thanked Steve Herbert for being a school supporter.

Valentine Iamartino stated that for the past 20 years, there has been no economic development or revenue in the Town. The school budget continues to be cut and that needs to stop.

Shawn Brissette, speaking as a citizen, stated that he is disappointed on how the budget process turned out, despite the efforts of people in town who do care for the school. He also stated there is no continuity with the town leadership.

Amy St. Onge thanked Shawn for his opinion and stated that Thompson does not have industrial parks. This is her priority, to bring industry to the town.

V. Approval of Minutes

- a. May 12, 2020 Regular Meeting

Motion by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Donna Godzik, to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2020 special meeting as presented.

Roll call vote was taken: Linda J – Yes, Shawn B – Yes, Thomas A – Yes, Valentine I – Yes, Donna G – Yes, Jody H – Yes, Danielle C – Yes, Bill W – Yes, Kathleen H – Yes.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VI. Sub-Committee Update

Thomas Angelo stated that the Alumni Association committee is in early discussions of the Hall of Fame.

VII. Superintendent Report

- a. Enrollment Update - The June enrollment is at 975 students, an increase of four students since May.
- b. Dattco Contract Update – Melinda Smith stated that the Dattco contract is being negotiated regarding a percentage the school will fund during school closure. Nothing is ready to sign yet.
- c. COVID-19 Update – Melinda Smith thanked the staff for quickly and safely packing up their belongings from their classrooms. Parents will have a schedule to drop off school items and pick up student belongings and medications before summer vacation.
- d. Graduation Overview – Ms. Parrette & Mrs. Ten Eyck
Ms. Parrette and Ms. Ten Eyck gave an overview of how the high school graduation will occur this year.

VIII. Administrator Reports

The administrators gave their school/department reports.

IX. Old Business

- a. Teacher Recalls

Motion by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Bill Witkowski, to approve to recall the teachers recommended by Superintendent Smith.

Roll call vote was taken: Linda J – Yes, Shawn B – Yes, Thomas A – Yes, Valentine I – Yes, Donna G – Yes, Jody H – Yes, Danielle C – Yes, Bill W – Yes, Kathleen H – Yes.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

- b. Approval of Roof Cost Estimate/Solicitation of Bids

Motion by Shawn Brissette to approve the roof cost estimate and send out an RFP. Seconded by Jody Houghton for discussion purposes.

Motion rescinded by Shawn Brissette.

Motion by Shawn Brissette to approve the final roof plans and cost estimates. Jody Houghton seconded the motion.

Roll call vote was taken: Linda J – Yes, Shawn B – Yes, Thomas A – Yes, Valentine I – Yes, Donna G – Yes, Jody H – Yes, Danielle C – Yes, Bill W – Yes, Kathleen H – Yes.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

- c. Approval of FY 21 Budget Reductions

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Donna Godzik, to approve the budget reductions as recommended by Superintendent Smith.

Roll call vote was taken: Linda J – Yes, Shawn B – No, Thomas A – No, Valentine I – No, Donna G – Yes, Jody H – Yes, Danielle C – Yes, Bill W – Yes, Kathleen H – Yes.

Motion – Passes.

X. New Business

a. Recreation Summer Camp Discussion and Approval

Melinda Smith stated that the Recreation Department reached out to her, asking to use the school as the summer camp location. Ms. Smith read a current letter to the Board of Education from Recreation Director, Leslie Munshower, stating that the Recreation Department will not be using the school due to the associated cost for custodial and cleaning. Leslie stated that the school has been very accommodating for recreational needs, but she will be looking for an alternate location this year.

b. Superintendent Evaluation Extension

A memo from Melinda Smith to Kathleen Herbert was read. The memo stated: “Please be advised that I agree to extend my evaluation timeline to August 31, 2020.” The evaluation form will be sent to the BOE members, and the evaluation will be discussed at a September Executive Session meeting. The Board of Education members agreed.

XI. Correspondence

XII. Citizens’ Comments

Donna Godzik stated that the school enrollment may increase due to St. Joseph’s School closing and new homes being built in town, which may result in an increase of special education costs. She thanked the staff, students, and parents for working harder at home during the school closure. Ms. Godzik thanked Noveline Beltram for her years of service.

William Witkowski thanked the custodians for all their hard work throughout the school year and to enjoy the summer. He also stated that he is going to miss Noveline Beltram.

Kathleen Herbert stated that the announcement of the new Mary R. Fisher Elementary Principal will be announced soon.

XIII. Adjournment

Motion by Donna Godzik, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Submitted by: Danielle Pederson, Recording Secretary