

# THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Via Zoom Online Meeting Portal

Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, May 10, 2021

7:00pm

**In attendance:**

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

**Absent:**

Also in attendance: Melinda Smith, Bill Birch, Heather Burns, Robert Gentes, Shannon Grauer, Christopher Jones, Steve Knowlton, Megan Parrette, Ian Polun, Larry Prentiss, members of the community, and parents.

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Christopher Jones led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Chairman Update**

Kathleen Herbert asked the Board members to let Danielle Pederson know by the end of the week who will be attending high school graduation.

**IV. Citizens' Comments**

MRFES teachers Carol Rossetti and Sarah Furbush stated their opinions on supporting the MRFES PTO project of installing a new swing set at the playground.

**V. Student Spotlight/Report**

**Ongoing Events:**

- Music Mentoring Program: Mrs. Anderson and the music officers have continued the music mentoring program on Tuesdays and Thursdays during F period. The Middle School students are learning scales on percussion instruments and pianos.
- The National Honor Society has two ongoing fundraisers currently which will directly support the TMHS NHS. The NHS is hosting a penny wars where students can win points for their Tourtellotte team and the NHS is continuing the long tradition of Teacher Dare where teachers will do a pre-chosen dare based on the amount of money raised.
- Baseball, Softball, and Boys & Girls Track teams have been enjoying very busy and successful seasons.

**Upcoming Events:**

- 5/10-5/14 - Spirit Week
- 5/12 - AP Language and Composition Exam
- 5/13 - AP Statistics Exam
- 5/14 - AP Biology Exam
- 5/14 - Prom
- 5/17-5/28 - NWEA Testing
- 5/17 - National Honor Society Induction
- 5/19 -AP US History Exam
- 5/19 - Tri-M Music Honor Society Induction
- 5/20 - AP Art Exam
- 5/21 - Student Leadership In-service
- 5/25 - Sports Awards (rain date of 5/26)
- 5/27 - Music Banquet (rain date of 5/29)

- 5/31 - No school/ Memorial Day Parade
- 6/1 - Last Student Council Meeting
- 6/3 - Senior Walk, End of Year Celebration
- 6/7 - Awards and Scholarship Night
- 6/11 - Graduation

Zaynep Acun introduced Trinity Davis as the Student Spotlight of the month of April.

## VI. Approval of Minutes

### a. April 12, 2021 – Regular Meeting

**Motion** by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to accept the minutes of the April 12, 2021 regular meeting as presented.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

## VII. Sub-Committee Update

Thomas Angelo stated that the memorial service for Al Smat is going to be held on the upcoming weekend. Kathleen Herbert stated that a former teacher of TMHS, Glenn Hutchinson, passed away recently. Ms. Herbert also gave an update on the 65 Main Street project.

## VIII. Superintendent Report

### a. Enrollment Update

Melinda Smith stated that the May 1<sup>st</sup> enrollment is at 946 students. Currently, there are 113 students distance learning.

### b. Distance Learning Update

Melinda Smith shared some guidance for remote learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Discussion was held.

**Motion** by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to move to direct the administration to implement an in-person learning program without a 100% remote learning option for the 2021-2022 school year, unless required by the State of Connecticut, or if deemed necessary by the Thompson Board of Education. This does not prohibit the implementation / use of remote learning for emergency situations as directed by the Superintendent.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

### c. TMHS/TMS Cell Phone Issues

The Board discussed student cell phone use and how the current cell phone use policy has not been enforced by administration. Discussion was held. The policy will be reviewed and revised for the June board meeting.

### d. TPS Vision and Mission Statement

Dr. Elizabeth Osga from the Connecticut Department for School Change, provided to the Board, a list of new Thompson Public Schools Vision statements. The Board chose possible options. The new mission statement was also discussed. Melinda Smith is going to contact Dr. Osga to provide clear language for the new statements. This topic will be moved to the June meeting for approval.

### e. MRFES Swing Project

The MRFES PTO proposed a new swing set project for the playground and would like Board permission to move forward with the project. Discussion was held.

**Motion** by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Danielle Carlson, to allow the MRFES PTO to proceed with the swing project as presented.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

## IX. Administrator Reports

### a. Solar Update – Bill Birch

Bill Birch gave the Board an update on solar at TPS. He stated that the Connecticut Green Bank has completed a study of town owned properties to determine the feasibility of solar energy projects. The school complex was the only site identified as feasible. Should the BOE decide to pursue this matter the Green Bank will present their proposal. Discussion was held. Consensus of the Board is to not see a presentation from CT Green Bank at this time.

b. *Security Grant Update – Bill Birch*

Round 4 Security Grant – Bill Birch stated that the final phase of this project has gone out for bid. Bid responses were due on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The grant deadline has been extended through September 30, 2022; however, he expects this to be complete prior to school opening this September.

Round 5 Security Grant - The Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security has announced another round of security grants. The submission deadline is June 30, 2021. Possibilities to take advantage of this opportunity is being explored.

The administrators and directors gave verbal updates on events happening in their schools or departments.

**X. Old Business**

a. *Alumni & Personnel Nomination Form Approval*

**Motion** by Jody Houghton, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the Alumni & Personnel Nomination Form as presented, with one minor change.

**Motion – Passes. Shawn Brissette abstained.**

**XI. New Business**

a. *Approval – New TPS Vision and Mission Statement*  
Tabled.

b. *Historical Society Request for Storage on Administration Building*

**Motion** by Jody Houghton, seconded by Bill Witkowski, to approve the historical societies use of storage space in the 1909 Building/Administration Building as requested.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

**XII. Correspondence**

a. *TMHS Accreditation Letter*

Melinda Smith shared a letter with the Board regarding the continued accreditation at the High School from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. The school is scheduled to host its Decennial Accreditation visit in the year 2026.

**XIII. Citizens' Comments**

None.

**XIV. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Valentine Iamartino, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to adjourn the meeting at 9:33pm.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimously.**

Minutes submitted by: Danielle Pederson, Recording Secretary