

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thompson Middle School Media Center

Monday, December 12, 2016

7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman William Witkowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Members Present:
Thomas Angelo
Shawn Brissette
Christopher Eichner
Kathleen Herbert
Jody Houghton
Donna Godzik
Linda Jarmolowicz
Joseph Lindley
William Witkowski

Members Absent:

Student Liaison:
Jordon Sroczenski

Also present was:

Dr. Jolin, Megan Baker, Ian Polun, Noveline Beltram, Neal Breen, William Birch, Christopher Scott, members of the public, employees of the Board of Education, members of the press.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mary R. Fisher Elementary School students Allie and Anthony Benoit led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens' Comments

Megan Baker recognized Jolie Wilber as the Tourtellotte Memorial High School Student Spotlight of the Month for December.

IV. Committee Report

The Finance Sub-Committee met prior to the regular meeting. The committee will recommend a budget transfer to be approved later in the meeting.

The Budget Sub-Committee met prior to the regular meeting. Discussion was regarding the budget packet which will be in the same format as last year with worksheets and explanations. Request were made by the administrators for new positions which should be justified as to why they are being proposed.

Joseph Lindley stated the railroad collection committee are finishing up some projects.

V. Educational Update

The enrollment for December 2016 is at 994 students, down one student from November 2016.

Superintendent Search Committee – William Witkowski stated that the Board met as a search committee a few times and reviewed proposals from search firms. A search firm will be approved at a special meeting on December 20th.

Student Liaison Jordon Sroczenski: The latest NEASC report recognized Tourtellotte Memorial High School as still being accredited. The graduation rate for 2016 Tourtellotte students is at 97.3%.

Events:

- December 6th – Successful high school holiday concert
- December 13th – Westview visit for chorus
- December 16th – Progress reports
- December 22nd – Pep Rally
- January 6th - FBLA college panel
- January 6-7th - CMEA All Eastern Regional Music Festival

Megan Baker stated that she is proud of Jordon for giving a wonderful report.

Christopher Scott – Middle School basketball and cheerleading has begun. A pep rally will be on December 22nd, half-day pajama day raised \$250 for the Connecticut Children’s Medical Center. The faculty celebrated a milestone regarding the PBIS checklist.

Noveline Beltram gave 2 handouts to the Board. One regarding the new “Buddy Bench”. The bench is a special bench where students can sit if they are feeling bored or lonely at recess. Students can go to the bench and ask students sitting on the bench if they want to talk or play. The idea of the bench is to eliminate loneliness and foster friendship. Her second handout was regarding a fundraiser for TEEG. MRFES collected 242 pairs of pajamas, 94 sets of mittens and gloves, and many hats for children and adults.

VI. Action Items

Minutes

Motion by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2016 Special Meeting, with a minor change to a name.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous. Thomas Angelo abstained.

Motion by Christopher Eichner, seconded by Jody Houghton, to approve the minutes of the November 14, 2016 Special Meeting.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous. Thomas Angelo abstained.

Communications Plan

No motion necessary.

Selection of Superintendent Search Firm

Tabled.

2017-2018 Budget Calendar Re-Approval

Motion by Christopher Eichner, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the 2017-2018 Budget Calendar as presented.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Budget Transfer Requests

Motion by Kathleen Herbert, seconded by Donna Godzik, to transfer \$36,500 from maintenance property services - \$30,000 to category supplies within the facilities budget, and \$6,500 to category salaries within the facilities budget.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

VII. Correspondence

A letter to Debra Spinelli from Jewett City Savings Bank was mentioned, regarding a grant for \$1,700 for a new defibrillator to be used at sporting activities.

A NEASC letter was also received by the Board regarding the continuation of accreditation in the high school.

VIII. Citizens' Comments

Megan Baker mentioned a regional development NEWA professional development activity in which the high school hosted recently went very well. Tourtellotte will host more regional professional development activities in the future. Ms. Baker also mentioned that the student scholarship awards are already being posted on the school website.

Joseph Gould brought up an issue regarding his son's grades being potentially altered by his teacher. Mr. Gould would like to know what to do as he went to the principal and the superintendent with the issue and he is unsatisfied with the results. William Witkowski will meet with Mr. Gould after the meeting.

Theodore Smith asked if the high school can be grouped homogeneously, stated there should be an internal curriculum evaluation every 3 years, and would like to see a gifted program in the high school. The curriculum director will share this information with Mr. Smith after the meeting. Mr. Smith also shared with the Board a list of suggestions which may improve the district. The list is 20 years old but he thought the BOE would benefit from some of the suggestions. Mr. Smith would like to add to the list to have academic competition from grades 7-12.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Christopher Eichner, seconded by Jody Houghton to adjourn the meeting.

Motion—Passed. Unanimous.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:04p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle M. Pederson
Recording Secretary to the Board

BOE Approval of Minutes: January 9, 2017