

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

Thompson Middle School Media Center

Monday, March 14, 2016

7:00 P.M.

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chairman William Witkowski called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm.

Members Present:

Members Absent:

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

Student/Board Liaisons:

Also present was:

Dr. Jolin, Megan Baker, Tina Chahanovich, Barbara Macauley, Noveline Beltram, Laurence Prentiss, members of the public, employees of the Board of Education, members of the press.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mary R. Fisher Elementary School students Haley Newell and Madyson Koziak led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens' Comments

Joseph Ptaszynski asked if any future Board budget workshops can be advertised in other ways.

Tourtellotte Memorial High School students from the TMHS music department gave an update on events. The Board members were invited to a spaghetti dinner at the Knights of Columbus on Saturday, March 19, 2016.

Noveline Beltram invited all Board members to the Ice Cream Social and Art Show on Friday, March 18, 2016 from 6 to 8pm.

Tina Chahanovich shared a Healthy Eating brochure in which the 6th grade health class created and is also shared with T.E.E.G.

Killingly Agriculture Committee Update – Danielle Lefebvre and Ken Couture provided an update on the Agricultural Education program. Students Sharlene Martin and Alexandra Lamontague updated the Board on their experiences in the program.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Goals Sub-Committee – The committee met at 6:00. Dr. Jolin will revise and modify his current goals and will bring them back to the full Board for possible approval.
- B. Finance Sub-Committee – The committee met at 6:30. Financial report was reviewed. The current budget freeze will be lifted with caution.

V. Educational Up-Date

- Enrollment and Update - The enrollment has increased to 1,021 students in March from 1,020 in February.
- Communications Outreach Update – Dr. Jolin stated that Justin Martin has been doing more significant work on social media.
- Walk-through Update – Members of the Board of Finance and Board of Selectmen, along with citizens, were guided on the walk-through with the school principals and Mr. Dean Wilga. Dr. Jolin thanked Dean Wilga for his guidance.
- Student Liaison Report – No report made.

VI. Action Items

Minutes

Motion by Christopher Eichner, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2016 Regular Meeting.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Motion by Christopher Eichner, seconded by Donna Godzik, to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2016 Special Meeting.

Motion – Passes. Shawn Brissette and Jodi Houghton abstained.

Motion by Christopher Eichner, seconded by Jody Houghton, to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2016 Special Meeting.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Motion by Christopher Eichner, seconded by Kathleen Herbert, to approve the minutes of the February 25, 2016 Special Meeting.

Motion – Passes. Thomas Angelo abstained.

Motion by Christopher Eichner, seconded by Donna Godzik, to approve the minutes of the February 29, 2016 Special Meeting.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Bus Drivers Contract Approval

Motion by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to move that this Board accept the Tentative Agreement between the Thompson Board of Education and CSEA SEIU Local 2001 and to authorize the Superintendent of Schools to execute a collective bargaining agreement on behalf of this Board that incorporates the terms of the Tentative Agreement.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Maternity Leave Request – Heather Burns, Technology Director

Motion by Christopher Eichner, seconded by Jody Houghton, to approve Maternity Leave request for Heather Burns, Technology Director.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Retirement – Thomas Caffelle, TMS Teacher

Motion by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Donna Godzik, to approve with extreme regret, the retirement of Thomas Caffelle, TMS teacher.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

Larry Prentiss read on behalf of Thompson Middle School:

It is with the sincerest of regret that we, as a district, bid farewell to Mr. Thomas Caffelle. Tom was one of the initial teachers that opened TMS in 1977. For many years, Tom coached each of the three seasons in the district. In doing so, he fostered a love for athletics in young people, forged long-lasting relationships and most of all taught student athletes that you can have a passion to be the best individual and team you could be and do so with integrity. To this day, he remains in contact with former players that looked up to him as a father figure, whether

it was his TMS “Hogs” baseball team of the late seventies/early eighties, high school girls basketball teams of the 80’s, or his extremely successful and competitive HS girls softball teams of the 90’s. I have had the wonderful opportunity to work at every level in the district and you would be hard pressed to find any educator as dedicated, professional, well liked and as kind as Tom. He possesses an incredible understanding of youngsters and what makes them “tick.” His students, to this day, continue to find both him and his classes engaging and fun and that is directly related to the wonderful rapport he possesses with them coupled with his masterful classroom teaching style. On a personal level, Tom has been my mentor, colleague and best friend in the district for sixteen years. He mentored me as a young teacher and taught me what is was to be patient with students as well as imparted to me the necessary skills to have a successful career. To simply say that he will be missed is an understatement. He is the embodiment of class and respect. 38 years...in the blink of an eye....we’ll never forget you! On behalf of TMS, good luck!

VII. Correspondence

A letter from the Tourtellotte Memorial High School Alumni Association was read regarding the use of facilities policy and a recent scheduling issue with the Hall of Fame event. The policy sub-committee will meet in April to review the policy and this matter.

VIII. Citizens’ Comments

Megan Baker stated the percentage of high school students who are both involved in AP classes as well as athletics is 83%.

IX. Adjournment

Motion by Christopher Eichner, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to adjourn the meeting.
Motion—Passed. Unanimous.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 8:18p.m.

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

BOE Approval of Minutes: April 12, 2016