

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Thompson Public Schools Auditorium
Tuesday, January 17, 2017
7:00 P.M.
Special Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

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

Members Present:

Thomas Angelo
Shawn Brissette
Kathleen Herbert
Jody Houghton
Donna Godzik
Linda Jarmolowicz
William Witkowski

Members Absent:

Christopher Eichner
Joseph Lindley

Also present were:

Dr. Jolin, Megan Baker, Noveline Beltram, William Birch, Neal Breen, Ian Polun, Scott Sugarman, members of the public, employees of the Board of Education and a representative from the press.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Susanne Witkowski led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens Comments

None.

IV. Educational Update

Dr. Jolin presented the 2017-2018 budget and first presentation to the Board of Education and audience members. The budget is available on the school website and in the superintendent's office.

Discussion was held. Kathleen Herbert had a few minor cosmetic suggestions to a few pages of the presentation. She would like to see state average for out-of-district placements.

Jody Houghton proposed to consider how the board will look into servicing advanced students.

The assistant principal position in the middle school was discussed. The existing half-time assistant principal could turn to full time, and a half time hire would be necessary in the elementary school.

Thomas Angelo thanked Dr. Jolin and the administrators for putting together a budget as it is not easy. However, he feels he needs more information regarding the new positions before he agrees with the budget increase.

William Witkowski asked Bill Birch if the maintenance budget has what it needs to keep the building maintained.

Mr. Birch explained that yes, it does, but long-overdue improvements cannot be touched without more funding.

Jody Houghton would like Mr. Birch to make a list of his recommended top three improvements that need to be completed.

Donna Godzik asked about the heating in the school, as students and teachers complain about the cold classrooms.

Mr. Birch explained that the school is set at a temperature of 65 degrees. This temperature was approved by the Board of Education years ago, but perhaps the Board could re-visit the topic.

V. Citizens' Comments

Christine Campbell would like to see full-time paraprofessionals in the kindergarten classrooms. William Witkowski stated that those positions are a priority however nothing has been decided yet. Rhonda Rooney asked about the culture of the school district. The school vision and mission statement are on page 2 of the presentation. Ms. Rooney stated that she is pleased to see the high school graduation rate is at 97.3%. Ms. Rooney also had questions regarding the high school and what it has to offer. Dr. Jolin gave Ms. Rooney a TMHS view book that has been recently printed to highlight the high school's activities and academics. Michael Krogul stated that he would also like to see full-time paraprofessionals in the kindergarten classrooms. Thomas Angelo asked if budget workshops can be held during weekends. Kirstin Creighton stated that it would be great to have a full-time assistant principal in the middle school and that Mr. Christopher Scott is doing a great job as principal. Ms. Creighton stated that a student can be gifted and talented and also be in special education and would like that to be considered if hiring new teaching positions. She also stated that her daughter is interested in going to Tourtellotte for the music program.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz at 8:10pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Danielle M. Pederson
Recording Secretary, Board of Education

BOE approval of minutes: March 13, 2017