

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Thompson Public Schools Auditorium
Monday, January 30, 2017
6:00 P.M.
Special Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Chairman William Witkowski called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

Members Present:

Members Absent:

Shawn Brissette
Kathleen Herbert
Jody Houghton
Joseph Lindley
Donna Godzik
Linda Jarmolowicz
William Witkowski

Thomas Angelo
Christopher Eichner

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

Megan Baker led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens Comments

Joe Ptaszynski commended Neal Breen for the information he has provided to the Board and would like the same information to be shared with the citizens.

Steve Herbert stated that it may be helpful to see if there would be a potential savings to the district if out-of-district students stayed in-house.

IV. Approval

TMHS Program of Studies – Change to Honor Courses in Music

Motion by Jody Houghton, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the amendment to the TMHS Program of Studies as presented.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

V. Educational Update

Dr. Jolin presented the Board with three scenarios for adding new positions to the budget.

Scenario 1: 1.0 Special Education Teacher
 1.0 Math Interventionist
 1.0 MIS Tech/Systems Admin
 % increase over FY 17 = 0.00%

Scenario 2: 2.0 Special Education Teacher
1.0 Math Interventionist
1.0 MIS Tech/Systems Admin
2.0 Social Worker
1.0 Reading Specialist
% increase over FY 17 = 1.60%

Scenario 3: 5.0 Paraprofessionals
1.0 MIS Tech/Systems Admin
% increase over FY 17 = 0.39%

Kathleen Herbert stated that in scenario three, she would like to add a Social Worker, BCBA, Math Interventionist and a Reading Specialist.

Dr. Jolin stated that he would like to see scenario one, and add \$200,000 for out-of-district tuition. Discussion was held regarding out-of-district placements and the pupil services budget.

The kindergarten paraprofessionals were discussed. Noveline Beltram stated that years ago, the students did not have the support in the kindergarten classrooms and there was a drop in CMT scores. William Witkowski asked if there is a reading program in the elementary school. Ian Polun stated that there is a new program which started this school year. He also stated there are intervention programs being used as well.

Consensus of the Board to add the following positions to the FY 18 budget:

- Make part-time kindergarten paraprofessionals full time
 - Make half-time technology tech to full time MIS Tech/Systems Admin
 - 1.0 Social Worker
 - 1.0 Board Certified Behavior Analyst
 - 1.0 Special Education Teacher
 - 1.0 Math or Reading Specialist
- % increase over FY 17 = 1.83%

Shawn Brissette stated that the budget presentation to the Board of Finance needs to be top notch as a budget of needs. Bill Witkowski stated that more discussions need to take place in the next few weeks.

Substitute teacher and paraprofessional daily rate of pay was discussed. The district does need substitutes and the rate of pay should be increased to attract more into the district. Neal Breen stated that the budget has already accounted for an increase.

A meeting with Attorney Ryan will be scheduled for Monday, February 6, 2017 for school bus RFP discussion. William Witkowski would like Dr. Jolin to get a rate for Attorney Ryan, and the fee for our health care consultant.

Another budget meeting will be on February 6, 2017 at 7:00pm in the auditorium.

VI. Citizens' Comments

Jessica Bolte asked why the bus consultant is taking so long to give an analysis regarding the RFP's. Ms. Bolte stated that she would like to have budget meetings held on Saturdays as she feels more parents will be able to attend.

Rhonda Rooney asked if the bus decision will be made before the budget goes out.

Susanne Witkowski stated that meetings used to be held on weekends and there wasn't much turnout, but does think it would be worth trying again.

VII. Adjournment

Motion by Joseph Lindley, seconded by Shawn Brissette, to adjourn the meeting at 7:29pm.

Motion – Passes. Unanimous.

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

BOE approval of minutes: March 13, 2017