

THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Thompson Public Schools Auditorium
Monday, February 6, 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:

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

Members Absent:

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

Noveline Beltram led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was held for the passing of Norman Babbitt.

III. Citizens Comments

None.

IV. Educational Update

Dr. Jolin summarized where the budget stands. The 2017-2018 budget is at a 1.83% increase. The Board asked for more detailed information regarding the new positions, including restoring 5 full-time paraprofessionals in the elementary school. Health care costs still need to be made which could affect the budget.

Kathleen Herbert asked why the tutor line item has decreased. Scott Sugarman stated that the district had a student who required tutoring every day, but that student will graduate so the need for tutoring services will decrease. The hiring of a Behavior Analyst and a special education teacher could decrease the need for tutors. Ms. Herbert would also like Mr. Breen to look into the bus driver and media center technician salary lines.

Neal Breen stated that he met with Town First Selectman and Finance Director regarding Workman's Comp. CIRMA has asked if the school district could consolidate with the Town to save the Town money. William Witkowski stated that the Town will save money but the schools cost would increase. There will be further discussion regarding this matter.

Joseph Lindley asked if Neal Breen could look into percentages in health insurance.

Jody Houghton would like to know how old the computers in the district are. Dr. Jolin will provide the Board with the Technology Plan which should include this information. Ms. Houghton also asked if the district will be increasing the substitute teacher and para salaries for next year.

The budget presentation was looked over and minor changes were made to some slides.

The next regular Board meeting will be at 7:00pm on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 instead of Monday, February 13, 2017. Another budget workshop may be scheduled for an upcoming weekend.

V. Citizens' Comments

Michael Krogul asked if William Witkowski has a statement regarding the recent meeting regarding the bus RFP's. William Witkowski stated that he does not have a statement now. Mr. Breen has made an analysis of the bids and the attorney is still reviewing. Mr. Krogul also stated that he would like to see a question and answer meeting with board members and citizens to have questions answered.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned by Shawn Brissette, seconded by Joseph Lindley at 8:28pm.

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

BOE approval of minutes: March 13, 2017