

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Thursday, March 21, 2019
Thetford Elementary School

APPROVED MINUTES

PUBLIC PRESENT: Stuart Rogers, Kate Hill

SWEARING IN OF BOARD MEMBERS: (Tracy Borst, notary public) Megan Snider, Shannon Darrah

Bruce Williams convened the meeting at 6:34 p.m. The following were present: Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey, Shannon Darrah, Megan Snider, School Board; Colin McLaughlin. Interim TES Principal; Bruce Williams, OESU Assistant Superintendent;

BOARD REORGANIZATION: Williams called for nominations. **MOTION:** (Buttrey/Acker) moved/seconded to nominate Darrah as Chair (unanimous approval). Darrah accepted the nomination and resumed the meeting. **MOTION:** (Acker/Snider) moved/seconded to nominate Buttrey as Vice-Chair (unanimous approval). Buttrey accepted the nomination. **MOTION:** (Buttrey/Darrah) moved/seconded to nominate Acker, Buttrey and Snider as OESU representatives (unanimous approval). **MOTION:** (Buttrey/Snider) moved/seconded to nominate Acker as Clerk (unanimous approval). **MOTION:** (Acker/Buttrey) moved/seconded to reappoint Darrah to serve as TA representative (unanimous approval).

MINUTES REVIEW: **MOTION:** (Buttrey/Acker) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2019 Board meeting (Snider abstained; unanimous approval).

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ORDERS: **MOTION:** (Acker/Snider) moved/seconded to approve accounts payable order # 6983, and payroll warrants # 22048 and 6975 (unanimous approval).

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE: Darrah presented a resignation letter from TTSD board member, Kristen Downey. In order to apply for the TES principal position and avoid any potential conflict of interest, Downey is resigning from the board effective immediately. If her candidacy is not moved forward, Downey welcomes the opportunity to resume her work on the school board. Rogers stated for the select board there is a 10 day time period to post a vacancy. Downey's position would be interim until the next election. Discussion followed. Buttrey added that per the Vermont Education Law Book a replacement board member must be appointed within 30 days. The position will be advertised on the listserv. Candidates will be interviewed and appointed by the board, not elected. Rogers added it is a requirement to be a registered voter in Thetford. Williams will post the position in the Valley News and The Journal Opinion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (STUDENT MATTER): MOTION: (Acker/Snider) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:00 p.m. to discuss a student matter, inviting Bruce Williams and parents. Out of executive session at 7:38 p.m. **MOTION:** (Snider/Darrah) moved/seconded to deny the request for designation exception (unanimous approval).

TA REPORT: Darrah reported that several policies were passed. There was discussion of how to spend endowment funds. The resource committee was tasked with making recommendations. There was a lengthy executive session. The Head of School transition and repairs for Slafter Hall were discussed. Incoming Head, Carrie Brennan, will be visiting next week and will be hosting community visiting times at TA. The draft of the new partnership agreement will be reviewed at the next meeting.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Colin McLaughlin): McLaughlin hosted multi-age education consultant, Mary Pat Barlow-Layne, at a recent staff meeting. She is a retired teacher with multi-age classroom experience. The vacant special education para position had been temporarily staffed by para-educator, Pam Fein. McLaughlin has hired Margaret Ficks, licensed special educator, until the end of the school year. Kate Dalpra has accepted the school nurse position and will shadow. Out of about five applicants, Dalpra was the only applicant with school nursing experience. There will be an inservice day on March 22 with Cat Buxton to review the garden program curriculum, including reviewing grade level standards and projects to weave the garden curriculum into the classroom on an ongoing basis. Gym floor resurfacing is due but can wait. It is not in the budget. The estimate is \$18,900 from the same company that installed the original floor. It will have to go out to bid. Darrah suggested McLaughlin discuss this with Jon Brown at TA. Discussion about substitute teacher pay is ongoing. TES pays \$83 per day, which is lower than TA and surrounding towns. TA pays \$90. TES's rate was raised recently. The rate is centralized in the SU. This is a topic for an upcoming OESU Board meeting. McLaughlin revisited the student absence protocol. In the past, there was no follow up between the school and the family to confirm a student's absence. Now, if a parent does not call or email, the school will call to reach the guardian.

PRINCIPAL SEARCH: The position has been posted. Since Downey led the last search and has resigned from the board, it would be good to have a consultant. Discussion followed regarding the search committee. Kate Hill reported the teachers are curious about the committee and the process. Williams suggested Bob Stevens as a consultant. Stevens recently finished searches for Newbury and TA Head of School. Discussion followed regarding logistics for working with Stevens. Acker thinks a new committee should be formed. The last committee had 8-9 members including teachers, paras, specials teachers, community members, parents and board members. Acker agreed to be chair. Snider will represent the board. McLaughlin will reach out to the teachers.

OTHER BUSINESS: MOTION: (Buttrey/Snider) moved/seconded to authorize the board chair to sign the Master Agreement between the TTSD Board of Directors and Orange East Education Association of Thetford Teachers (unanimous approval).

EXECUTIVE SESSION (PERSONNEL): MOTION: (Buttrey /Snider) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 8:29 p.m. to discuss personnel, dissemination of which may place the board at a substantial disadvantage. Williams and McLaughlin were invited to stay. Out of executive session at 8:39 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (Acker/Snider) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 p.m. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS:

03/26/19	Thetford Town School District Meeting	7:00 p.m.
04/02/19	OESU Meeting	6:00 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By:
Amy Bosco, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
Julie Acker, Board Clerk