

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, June 11, 2019
Thetford Elementary School

APPROVED MINUTES

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:33 pm. The following were present: Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey, Shannon Darrah, Megan Snider, School Board; Colin McLaughlin, Interim TES Principal; Bruce Williams, OESU Assistant Superintendent; Chance Lindsley (incoming TES principal)

PUBLIC PRESENT: Ginny Balch, Mary Beth Zach, Linda Gerlach, Bette Nunez. Sue Rogers, Cynthia Odell, Kathy Bemis, Michele Hastings, Annie Coulter, Stuart Rogers (arrived 6:46); Bridget Veracka (arrived 6:58)

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES OF 5/1/19 and 5/28/19: MOTION: (Buttrey/Snider) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the May 1, 2019 Board meeting (unanimous approval). MOTION: (Acker/Snider) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the May 28, 2019 Board meeting (unanimous approval).

REVIEW OF ORDERS - All orders have been approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE: Darrah had more correspondence with Hillary Dudenhoefter to inform her of the tuition figure (\$13,900). She will keep in touch over the summer. An email was received from Michele Hastings informing the Board she will not be returning to TES for the next school year. McLaughlin stated there is a large applicant pool.

TA REPORT: Darrah reported the TA Board elected a new trustee and said goodbye to four trustees, Peter Boyd, Therese Linehan, John Stableford, and Bob Christensen. They approved a couple of policies. The Board said goodbye to outgoing Head of School, Bill Bugg. The incoming Head of School, Carrie Brennan, joined part of the meeting by phone. Darrah was asked what TTSD would like to see in a new Head of School. TTSD would like to see continued collaboration and relationship with TA, and sees many opportunities to build on the partnership. The partnership agreement with TTSD was signed. Acker suggested notifying the public of the renewal and highlighting the process and the few changes to the agreement. The agreement will be on the TTSD website and will be present at TES. Projected enrollment is around 300, but is very fluid right now as some students are undecided. Odell asked for an update about Strafford middle school students attending some classes at TA. Darrah was not sure of the status of that decision, but believes that TA is open to the idea of middle schoolers coming over for elective classes. Sharon Academy has been offering scholarships to Strafford middle school students, who attend and then decide to stay for high school.

OESU REPORT: Buttrey, Snider and Acker attended the last OESU Board meeting. Buttrey reported the composition of the Board will change as of the next meeting. Since the new Board will have representatives from four districts instead of six, TTSD will have more of a voice.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Colin McLaughlin): The school year is winding down and it has been nice to see all the special events around the school. Field day is coming up. McLaughlin thanked the Board, teachers, and the town for the opportunity to serve as principal. He has felt huge professional growth this past year and is excited to take his new knowledge back to the classroom. He is very grateful to be part of the Thetford Community. The Board reciprocated his thanks. Tuesday, June 18 is the last day of school and will end with sixth grade graduation and celebration of staff who are leaving the school. Assembly begins at 10 and will last about 45 minutes before transitioning outside for the bridge run at 11. It will be the last run on that bridge. Acker would like to stay in touch with the town about repurposing the bridge for part of the bike trail. Darrah, received a septic repair estimate from Stuart Rogers. A 50% deposit is required. McLaughlin will follow up. Rogers wants to meet with Lindsley and McLaughlin about the sidewalk project, which starts June 24. Williams stated the State is moving aggressively to test water for lead. TTSD has to pay for the testing. The first step is a tap inventory throughout the school and sending samples to the state. Test kits have to be ordered. McLaughlin spoke to the water system operator about the inventory and has discussed the testing with John Brown.

SUPPORT STAFF CONTRACT WITH ANTICIPATED EXECUTIVE SESSION: Darrah explained a question has been raised regarding a clause in the para educator/support staff contract regarding the service award and severance package. Buttrey and Darrah met with the support staff bargaining unit to hear their concerns. Then Darrah returned for more information to delve into possible solutions, as well as discussed with Melanie Elliott at OESU and TA. The custodial staff is covered under the para contract. If custodial services are contracted out and as a result an employee loses his/her position, he/she receives a severance package. If an employee retires before the position is eliminated, he/she is eligible for a service award but not severance because he/she retired. This is in the para contract (provision 11.5). Severance and service awards are taxed the same. Discussion followed. **MOTION:** (Buttrey/Acker) moved/seconded to go into executive session at 7:20 pm (unanimous approval). The bargaining unit, Chance Lindsley, Bruce Williams, and Melanie Elliott were invited to stay. Out of executive session at 7:40 pm. **MOTION:** (Buttrey/Snider) moved/seconded to rescind the Board's acceptance of Barbara Wilson's letter of intended retirement (unanimous approval).

DISCUSS STIPEND FOR WEB DESIGN: MOTION: (Buttrey/Snider) moved/seconded to appropriate \$1,500 to Michele Hastings for web design (unanimous approval).

VOTE ON SIGNATURE OF TAX ANTICIPATION NOTE: MOTION: (Buttrey/Snider) moved/seconded to authorize the Board Chair to sign the necessary documentation for approval of a current expense note (\$300,000) in case TES needs cash before June 30th; and a tax revenue

anticipation note (\$1,449,544), which will provide cash to TES for the next fiscal year 2020 (unanimous approval).

OESU business and finance director, Lori Blood, is planning to stay on as manager. Rogers reported the town has moved banking services to Mascoma Bank. Rogers suggested investigating the rates at Mascoma.

DISCUSS POTENTIAL TOPICS FOR JOINT MEETING WITH TA IN JULY: Test scores of Thetford students attending TA; the transition from TES to TA; TTSD is a sending district and would like the same attention as given to other sending schools; new TES principal and new TA Head of School.

DISCUSS PLANS FOR BOARD RETREAT IN AUGUST: Retreat will be held August 13, at 5pm. Discussion followed regarding location and remains undetermined. Topics for consideration include the strategic plan, policy discussions, and moving to monthly meetings as suggested by OESU.

DISCUSS DATE AND LOCATION FOR JULY BOARD MEETING DUE TO CONFLICT: OESU Board meeting is the same night, July 2 at 6. TTSD will meet beforehand at 5. The meeting is at Riverbend (Oxbow).

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Personnel): MOTION: (Buttrey/Snider) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 8:13 pm to discuss personnel. Out of executive session at 8:21 pm. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (Buttrey/Snider) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS:

07/02/19 Thetford Town School District Meeting at Oxbow/Riverbend 5:00 pm.
08/13/19 Thetford Town School District Meeting (Board retreat) Location and time TBD

Minutes Prepared By:
Amy Bosco, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
Julie Acker, Board Clerk