

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, May 28, 2019
Thetford Elementary School

APPROVED MINUTES

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:32 p.m. The following were present: Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey (arrived 6:40 p.m.), Shannon Darrah, Megan Snider, School Board; Colin McLaughlin. Interim TES Principal; Bruce Williams, OESU Assistant Superintendent

PUBLIC PRESENT: Hillary Dudenhoeffer

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved with amendments.

MINUTES REVIEW: MOTION: (Acker/Snider) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the May 14, 2019 Board meeting as amended (unanimous approval).

REVIEW OF ORDERS: Orders have been reviewed and signed.

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE: Hillary Dudenhoeffer explained her family currently lives in Corinth and is planning to move to Thetford. Their house is on the market and they are looking to rent or purchase in Thetford. Their oldest child is 5, attends Caring community Preschool, and would enroll as a kindergartener at TES in the Fall. Dudenhoeffer is present in case establishing residency does not happen before the start of school. She wants her daughter to attend TES next year even if they do not sell their house. McLaughlin reviewed the policy, which indicates enrollment is contingent upon establishing residency or paying tuition. Darrah added that historically tuition is not paid up front. Instead the principal evaluates space and considers if an additional student would require hiring another teacher. The principal makes a recommendation to the Board, and the Board approves or disapproves the request. Discussion followed. The non-resident policy provides for proration of tuition on a per diem basis if residency falls through. McLaughlin recalled tuition is approximately \$14,000. McLaughlin stated there is space for an incoming Kindergartener. McLaughlin has met with Dudenhoeffer already but not the child. Kindergarten visiting day has already happened. Dudenhoeffer wants to know the process – what does she need to do if she ends up being a non-resident in the Fall. Buttrey suggested making a formal request in writing to the Board and copy the principal, Superintendent and Darrah. Acker suggested checking in with the Board in August because the Board has to agree to the principal’s recommendation and the non-resident tuition agreement. If in August the family does not have Thetford residency, then there needs to be a more formal application. Payment arrangements would be worked out. If rental or purchase agreement has a date later than the start of school, then that is a different policy and there would likely be no tuition charged. If residency is established very late in the school year, then perhaps tuition would be prorated.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Colin McLaughlin): It is field trip season. Students will be visiting the Montshire and Treasure Island in a few weeks. Students are spending more time outside in the gardens and outdoor spaces. There have been a lot of interviews and movement with the para-educator openings. McLaughlin has been working on next year's master schedule. A couple of teachers attended a Multi Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) workshop and brought back recommendations for master schedule design for student support services. A group met today to outline priorities for scheduling, focusing on intervention and planning times, and instructional blocks for interventionists to work with various groups of students. Kindergarten visitation day was last Friday. The projected kindergarten enrollment is ~mid 20's. It is a boy-heavy class again. This year there are 27 Kindergarteners. Music and arts night was held last week with a performance by the strings program and the halls decorated with art work. Williams reported a representative from the state gave a presentation on mentoring for OESU. On June 19, 20, and 21, teachers Kate Hill, McLaughlin, and Betty Nunez are taking a "Mentoring Matters" workshop. Darrah gave an update about a clause in the TA Partnership Agreement related to fees for late tuition payment to TA. 60 days is the agreed upon grace period. **MOTION:** (Acker/Snider) moved/seconded to authorize Darrah to sign the partnership agreement with TA, which starts July 1, 2019 through spring of 2024 (unanimous approval).

Darrah reported there is \$30,000 in the budget for technology, but nothing for website maintenance. Discussion followed. McLaughlin stated he is unsure if Hastings or the librarian will be responsible for website maintenance, but Hastings should be paid for what she has done to date. Williams will check with OESU regarding experience with stipends to help decide upon an appropriate amount. Dudenhoefter suggested finding out the typical hourly rate for website design and suggested erring on the side of generosity in order to keep a well qualified person.

BOARD PLAN FOR UPCOMING YEAR; RETREAT: Regarding support staff and teacher negotiations, Buttrey stated TTSD should indicate TTSD is ready to negotiate. Snider is available to participate in negotiations. Usually two Board members participate. A member of the public could also participate. Pluta might want to as well, but she is away until June 16. Buttrey will work with Pluta and Snider on the para and teacher negotiations. Discussion will continue in July to be sure Pluta is available. Darrah stated she intends to get a facilities plan from John Brown. Acker suggested work on the strategic plan is needed. Collaborations with other school districts can be revisited during the summer retreat.

PLAN FOR POLICY REVIEW: Acker is on the OESU policy committee and reported OESU has new policies that may not be the same as TTSD's. She suggested the Board begin with reviewing the policies that OESU has already passed, such as the firearms policy. Williams stated OESU has reviewed all of the legally required policies. The committee debated a few policies, being very careful about the wording for legal reasons. By the Fall there will be a set of policies that OESU will adopt, and then bring them to the individual boards. These adoptions will rescind all previous policies, but each school district may amend them for special circumstances specific to each district. The newly merged district has to adopt their policies by July 1.

SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE: Darrah invited incoming principal, Chance Lindsley, to attend the next meeting on June 11 even though he does not start his position until July 1. He did sign his contract. The Board aims to meet once per month in the summer. OESU is encouraging boards to meet monthly. This can be discussed at a Board retreat. Discussion followed about Board members' summer schedules.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Support Staff Contract / Personnel): MOTION: (Acker/Snider) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:44 p.m. to discuss a contract that may involve material that had been previously discussed in executive session that can not be disclosed publicly. Out of executive session at 7:56 p.m.

MOTION: (Snider/Acker) moved seconded to authorize Buttrey to respond to Union's request. (unanimous approval).

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Teacher Contract / Personnel Matter): MOTION: (Buttrey/Acker) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:57 p.m. to discuss a teacher contract resulting in a personnel matter. Out of executive session at 8:11 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (Acker/Buttrey) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:12 p.m. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS:

07/02/19	Thetford Town School District Meeting	6:30 p.m.
08/13/19	Thetford Town School District Meeting and Retreat	TBD

Minutes Prepared By:
Amy Bosco, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
Julie Acker, Board Clerk