

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, September 10, 2019
Thetford Elementary School

APPROVED MINUTES

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:33 p.m. The following were present: Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey, Shannon Darrah, Donna Pluta, Megan Snider, School Board; Chance Lindsley, TES Principal; Emilie Knisely, OESU Superintendent
Public Present: Nicole Bell, OESU Curriculum Coordinator, Stuart Rogers (6:40 p.m.), Kate Hill (7:00 p.m.)

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved as amended.

MINUTES REVIEW: MOTION: (Snider/Acker) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2019 Board meeting (unanimous approval, Buttrey abstained). MOTION: (Buttrey/Pluta) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the August 13, 2019 Board meeting (unanimous approval).

REVIEW OF ORDERS: Orders had been approved. Discussion followed regarding Thetford Academy (maintenance) and Green Mountain Power invoices.

PUBLIC COMMENT / CORRESPONDENCE: The Board received correspondence from Patricia Norton, Melissa Krzal, and 2 letters of interest for the strategic planning committee.

PRINCIPAL REPORT: Lindsley reported that TES currently enrolls 194 students, 39 of which have IEP's, 18 students are in literacy intervention. There are 26 professional and 11 para professionals employed. There are currently 3 paraprofessional openings. TES has lost 8 paraprofessionals since last year. Discussion followed on wages, Thetford wages are not competitive with neighboring districts. Lindsley had the first safety meeting of the year with Deputy Fire Chief Mariah Whitcomb and Police Chief Mike Evans and they plan to meet monthly. They discussed grant opportunities for PA systems and key card / swipe access for the building doors. Lindsley is participating in ALICE (Alert Lockdown Inform Counter Evacuate) training. Lindsley has been in each classroom and is starting to evaluate instruction. He is enjoying getting to know the kids. Lindsley reported that a homeschool family in Strafford contacted him wondering if they could tuition their children for music, art, and PE. The board was in agreement that tuition could be negotiated provided that Lindsley felt that the school had the capacity to accommodate. Lindsley acknowledged the hard work teachers have been putting in at the start of the year, and specifically recognized the professional development efforts of Laura Sharpless, Mary Shaine, Sue Rogers, Bette Nunez, Kathy Bemis, Mary Beth Zack, Ashley Jamele and Phil Chaput.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The FY19 audit is currently underway. Knisley distributed an unaudited Financial Report for the district. TTSD is still paying down the deficit from several years ago. It is estimated that the FY21 budget will have \$141,724 remaining deficit to cover in the General Fund. The Food Service fund is in good shape and will likely not require a transfer in FY21. Discussion followed on budget planning.

SCHOOL DROP OFF TIME DISCUSSION: The board received correspondence from a parent inquiring about the school drop off time and if it could be adjusted to an earlier time. The current time of 8:00 a.m. can be difficult for working families. Discussion followed on the history of the time change, contractual obligations, start times at other schools, and the difficulty staffing the early time. Ideas discussed included having parents coordinate a program similar to TASP to supervise time before school.

TRAILHEAD AND PEDESTRIAN PROJECT UPDATES: The parking lot was ready for students on the first day of school, but there is still some work to be done to complete, including painting/markings in the front and lighting work. This work will occur after school hours, and will require a weekend closure for painting. Discussion followed on timing. The pedestrian walkway will require a 5 day closure of the library bridge and parking lot for the installation of the new bridge. A temporary evacuation location will need to be identified since the library lot will not be available. Ideas for the safe transport of students to the library after school were discussed. Lindsley will look into options.

STRATEGIC PLANNING NEXT STEPS: Darrah received letters of interest from community members Patricia Norton and Leif LaWhite. Both Norton and LaWhite have served on other school related committees and the board was pleased that they each volunteered their time. Pluta is the board representative, Darrah will put her in touch with Delia Clark who will facilitate the process. Bell is the OESU rep. Discussion followed on TES teacher/staff representation, student reps, and possibly recruiting a community member that has an interest in the preschool population. Lindsley will get back to Darrah with volunteers from TES.

ANNUAL REPORT PLANNING: Acker summarized the process and timeline for producing the district's annual report. The board agreed to contract with Ben Merrill and designer Kelly Collar to again produce the 2020 booklet. Acker will continue to coordinate. Ideas so far include introducing Lindsley and Brennan, facilities update, and the maintenance partnership with TA.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: MOTION: (Buttrey/Snider) to enter into executive session to discuss a personnel matter at 8:04 p.m. (unanimous approval). Out of executive session at 8:27 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (Snider/Pluta) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS:

09/10/19 Thetford Town School District Meeting 6:00 p.m.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk