

**THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
SPECIAL MEETING**

Tuesday, January 21, 2020
Thetford Elementary School

Approved Minutes

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:31 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board: Shannon Darrah, Charlie Buttrey, Donna Pluta, Megan Snider, Julie Acker

Principal: Chance Lindsley

OESU: Bruce Williams, Keith Merrick

TES Staff: Mary Wunderlich

School and Town Moderator: Sarah Martel (departed 6:45 p.m.)

Agenda Review

Review of Orders payroll signed

Public Comment /Correspondence

Research is ongoing regarding the lights around the building/parking lot.

Review of Final Draft of FY21 Budget and Proposed Warning

- Discussion about town meeting day with all school board members out of town. Community members may not be receptive to not having a meeting on town meeting day. Maybe Chance and Carrie can do an overview of the budget prior to town meeting? Shannon is looking into this.
- Tuesday, February 25, 2020, will be the community meeting about the budget.
- The current budget includes \$50,000 for lunch program, \$50,000 for capital expenses and an additional classroom teacher.
- Recently Chance has had concerns voiced about how teachers are going to fit in all the academics with increase in Art and Music. The proposal to move to full-time art and music will need more discussion with the staff to make successful. Maybe increase the length of the day? Board agrees to keep in the budget realizing it may not happen in FY21.
- Keith has sent a letter to Tim Briglin, Jim Masland and Mark McDonald re: overpayment from last year. The form that was submitted to the state did not include capital and debt service items in the excess spending calculation resulting in an overpayment to the state. Jim replied that we would get it back, likely applied either in FY21 or FY22. Discussion followed on how to explain this to taxpayers. It is easier to keep the overpayment discussion separate. We overpaid in error in FY20, it will work in our favor with a rebate from the state in FY21 or FY22.
- Discussion on \$50,000 for capital funds, will be warned separately to ensure it stays in the capital fund.
- \$8,911,186 budget for FY21 will be warned.
- Hopefully the school portion of town meeting will be able to go at 9:00 a.m. on February 29th. Shannon to follow up with Nick Clark.

- Annual report update: We will have a draft of the report to review by Friday. We need to submit budget pieces as soon as they are complete - will include last year, the new budget, the warning, and explanations of the budget. We currently have 949 on the mailing list. 1000 reports will be ordered. Lahey Press will send them out. Should be out before school vacation.

Adjourn: MOTION to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. (Acker/Buttrey) Unanimous approval.

Minutes Prepared By:
Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk