

## THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Approved Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Zoom Meeting

**Meeting Convened** at 6:32 p.m. by Shannon Darrah

### **PRESENT:**

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

**Principal:** Chance Lindsley

**OESU:** Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams

**Community Members:** Gail Slider

**TES Staff:** Kate Hill, John Brown (6:51 pm)

**Agenda Review** no changes

### **Review and Approve Minutes:**

- 02/25/20 (Buttrey/Acker) motioned and approved (unanimous by roll call)
- 03/10/20 (Acker/Snider) motioned and approved (unanimous by roll call)

**Review of Orders:** Julie has been signing orders and payroll, there have not been a lot. Charlie asked about state funds and if they have all been dispensed yet, Emilie believes there is another payment coming.

**Public Comment and Correspondence** none received

### **Reports**

#### **Principal Report**

- First of all thanks, to teachers who have done an incredible job with just days to prepare. They are doing an awesome job.
- Paras are involved in a book study group. There have been very rich discussions.
- Attendance is evolving, little tweaks being done. Blanket rules don't always work for families.
- Chance is meeting with TES-CIA every Friday and plans for those meetings to continue.
- Charlie wondered how the school is reaching kids with no internet, or maybe only one computer and parents are working from home. Chance explained that for some children they are getting paper packets of school work. Although Thetford seems to be very lucky as there appears to be good internet.
- Special Education - each individual situation has been accounted for with the help of Alison Kidder and Bernice Mills.

Others at the meeting talked about how this pandemic is influencing their kids and education:

- Kate Hill acknowledged that this has been one of the hardest things she's done in her teaching career, and in parenting. She has been working around the clock as a parent and a teacher as her husband is still working out of the house. Her 1-2 class has been using Zoom a couple times a week to maintain the social aspect of seeing each other and sharing what they have

been up to. Also using the new app Seesaw for classroom work.

- Another discussed the disappointment of not being able to do hands-on parts of learning. Also not having a set schedule can be tough on children that benefit from structure.
- While yet another parent with two children that don't necessarily get along, are together 24/7, and it is not going well.

#### **TA Report:**

- Shannon reported that the TA board is still plugging along. The student numbers look stable for next year, but the year following the numbers look lower. They are looking at how to increase numbers. There is a question about the International Student program, will the kids be able to come here?
- Looking at how to celebrate the seniors for graduation in June.
- They are also looking for new board members.

#### **Capital Projects for the Summer Discussion with John Brown**

- The primary end boys bathroom renovations are still a top priority. It is a big project, a wall and collapsed pipes need to be removed, upgrade plumbing. The plan is to renovate it so that it has the same fixtures as the bathrooms near the gym. The job needs to go out to bid. Approximately \$50,000.
- Other projects are more esthetic — painting, replacing worn rugs, etc. John discussed that there are colors that are known to stimulate learning, and the school needs an update. Discussion ensued.
- Pump Controls: John got three bids for the job. It will be roughly \$15,000. It involves replacing in kind so no permits required. ARC provided a good bid, and they have done good work in the past.

#### **Building Security**

- The building was just re-keyed. It had not been done in many years and the list of who had keys was not maintained.
- Looking into getting key fobs set up for five additional doors. Electronic entry has much more control, John will be able to respond to requests and control access from his computer. Bruce will be putting this out for bid.

#### **Other Business:**

- Discussed the "Window Dressers" from the last meeting. Mary Bryant talked with John about them. John thought there was a good chance that it will happen by fall.
- Julie Acker said thank you to Emilie, Bruce, Chance, teachers and paras; to everyone that has been involved in educating the children of Thetford.
- OESU is still in the process of moving to the Copeland building, so far things are still on track. They need to be out of the current building by June 30, 2020.
- Chance has been thinking about how the school might change its response should the distancing restrictions be extended into the next school year. Emilie noted that the state issued strict guidelines, and she expects that would be the case again. Discussion followed,

perhaps the board could use its annual retreat / strategic planning time to brainstorm.

**Executive Session:** Motion to go into executive session at 7:36 p.m. to discuss Teacher Negotiations, the premature dissemination of which could place the board at a substantial disadvantage. Out of executive session at 7:43 pm. No action taken.

**Adjournment:** Motion (Snider/Buttrey) to adjourn at 8:07 pm (unanimous)

Minutes Prepared By:  
Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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Julie Acker, Board Clerk

FUTURE MEETINGS:

May 13, 2020 6:30 pm Zoom