

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

Via Zoom

Approved Minutes

Shannon Darrah convened the remote meeting at 6:32 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

Principal: Chance Lindsley

OESU: Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams,
Melanie Elliott (7:44pm)

Staff: Kate Hill (also parent), Bette Nunez

Agenda Review:

Charlie would like to add the following under other business:

Summer lunch program

Webinar summary

A short executive session to discuss a teacher matter

Review and Approve Minutes of 4/28/2020: motioned and seconded; (Charlie/Julie).
Let the record reflect it was approved unanimously.

Review of Orders:

Nothing unusual. Front office is moving along quite nicely.

Public Comment /Correspondence: None

Reports:

Principal Report

- Celebrate the teachers - Chance has gotten a lot of good feedback from parents and appreciates the ability to be flexible. Also Cindy, Sara, Kate - been meeting frequently.
- Hiring: 2 new 3/4 teachers Maggie Stoudnour and Lauren Lacasse; music teacher Kathy Hollander
- Parent forum - good discussion, about 8 people attended. Range of responses from overwhelmed and buried to bored and need more to do. Indicative of where we are right now.
- Graduation - plans are coming together for a parade style graduation to maintain distancing. Idea is to meet at parking lot, have 2 rows of cars and have car with child drive through, then maybe drive to TA. Details are still being worked through
- Charlie asked what "Specials" teachers are doing. They have been attending class zoom meetings, Phil (PE) is doing an on-line field day Friday. Jennifer (music) is doing a remote Talent Show, while also posting on line, as is Alex (art).
- Was asked if an Elmer Brown memorial bench could be put out front under the apple tree. All agreed.
- Been in touch with admin and the state.

TA Report:

Three new trustees have been elected.

New Strafford rep, Sarah Root, who is also the new chair of the Strafford board. Strafford is still designating TA as High School, but the Partnership Agreement has expired. A new agreement is being worked on, though it is not required.

Graduation - ideas so far are: the awards ceremony and graduation on Facebook live. After the graduation ceremony, the graduates will drive around town to be greeted and congratulated by townspeople. On Saturday students have designated time slots to drive up to get their diplomas.

Discussion re: Water Pump Estimates:

Need to make a decision from the estimates received, which were each under \$15,000, except one. Four different estimates came in. John is comfortable with ARC, a little over \$15,000, not including electrical. They are familiar with TES. Motion: (Charlie and Megan) to accept John Brown's recommendation to hire ARC mechanical (\$15,500)
Catch basin work needs to be finished (unanimous approval)

Superintendent Report**COVID Financial Update/Legislative Report:**

Emilie has not heard anything about having to re-approve the budget - that is good news. Large amount of money coming from CARES, but doesn't know what the allocation is yet. Federal money may fill in the hole in the education fund, and make up for allocations for next year. They adjusted the yield a bit which would help tax rates.

Ending the 19-20 School Year:

OESU applied for a waiver from the Secretary of Education so that TES students wouldn't have to make up snow days. The teachers' snow days are being converted to Professional Development time. The waiver was approved. We don't know what the fall will look like, it is dependent upon how the virus continues. Emilie has a meeting Friday. AoE will be looking at it. So much we don't know. What happens if parents (who are teachers) have different school days than their kids? May see a rise in home-schooling if we still have to continue as we are.

20-21 School Year Preparation and Planning:

There is so much to think about. If we can go back to school, there may be extended closures if the virus amps up. It's hard, and traumatic for people. There will be planning that needs to happen. Don't want to have staff spend an enormous amount of time and energy planning for one way of teaching, and then finding out they have to do another. Important to document what is working, and what is not, and what needs tweaking. Is there a central place where teachers can document that? One thing that is being done - Admin team to send out a survey of that info, and then will meet to determine what could be the next step. Further discussion ensued. We are doing the best we can. And will continue to let people know what direction we are going.

Lori Blood (OESU Business Manager) requested a vote to let Shannon sign the tax anticipation note that we take out while waiting for the tax revenue check to come in. We have had to use it at times. Funds paid back when the revenue check comes in. Motion: (Megan and Charlie) To allow Board Chair to sign the TAN for 2020. (Unanimous approval).

Other Business:

Charlie talking about the summer program that was in the planning stage. Casey Huling will run the program and needs to present to the trustees of the town trust fund - he also will need access to the building. Hot lunches will need to be picked up between 11-2:00.

Bruce discussed that the current lunch program funding is good thru June 30th, and will continue to be delivered by the buses. TES may have a waiver to continue throughout the summer. Hopeful to get the waiver from the Federal Government. Megan described the current program. It will probably go to twice per week instead of three times it runs now. If we get the Federal Waiver the buses would continue to run all summer.

Charlie attended a VSBA Webinar on open meeting law and executive sessions. Executive Session it is self-proving and it is recommended that a two-step process be used: Step 1 - to "move that the Board find that premature general public knowledge regarding [the matter] would put the board at a substantial disadvantage because discussion of [the matter] would reveal confidential information that the Board is not at liberty to disclose". The board should agree that is the case, then Step 2- to "move to enter into executive session to discuss [the matter]."

The board will need to schedule a separate meeting to discuss the TES bathroom renovation, 6/3/20 works for everyone. Discussion followed.

Executive Session:

Motion: (Charlie/Megan) to find that premature general public knowledge regarding a teacher matter would place the Board at a substantial disadvantage because discussion of the matter would reveal confidential information that the Board is not at liberty to disclose. (Unanimous approval).

Motion: (Charlie/Julie) enter into executive session to discuss a teacher matter at 7:44 pm. Knisley, Williams and Lindsley invited to participate, and Melanie Elliott joined the meeting. (Unanimous approval). Out of executive session at 7:59 pm. No action taken.

Motion: (Megan/Donna) to adjourn at 8:09 pm. (Unanimous approval).

Minutes Prepared By:

Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk

FUTURE MEETINGS:

6/3/2020 Theftord Town School District Zoom Meeting, 6:30 pm.