

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Tuesday, June 23, 2020 via Zoom

Approved Minutes

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board: Shannon Darrah, Donna Pluta, Megan Snider, Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey (7:20)

Principal: Chance Lindsley **OESU:** Bruce Williams, Nicole Bell

Staff: Phil Chaput, Kate Hill (also community member), John Brown

Agenda Review:

Nothing to add

Review and Approve minutes of 6/9/2020:

Postponed

Review of Orders:

Nothing has been passed on, maybe due to OESU moving.

Public Comment /Correspondence:

None

Reports:

Principal Report

The PBIS team has been meeting via zoom. It is coming together with language and the consistency of expectations.

Lindsley attended a conference put on by Community Engagement Lag, about thinking outside the box. Talking with Vermont Futures - provided six clear projects with school reopenings, including environmental justice and social justice.

Chaput brought up that he thought Nurse Kate Dalpra should be given a stipend with the amount of work she will be doing this summer. Williams said he thought that would happen as it seems the nurses will be the point people in schools for how we will return to school.

Bathroom Renovation (Lower Wing) Discussion

Williams will talk with Lori Blood tomorrow about getting a waiver as soon as possible as there is still only the one bid (Estes & Gallop \$75,878). The schedule E & G proposed

for the work was 7/6/2020-9/24/2020. Williams is not sure how long it will take to get the waiver, but likely over two weeks.

If further work was needed (if asbestos was found, for example) it would take longer. If the project waited until next year, it would be put out to bid March 2021. Further discussion ensued.

Some concerns if work was done while kids were in school included: the bathroom is back to back with a classroom, having to send littles to other bathrooms while we are trying to socially isolate. Hill asked about why both bathrooms are not being done? Brown says it includes both.

Other discussions regarding maintenance needs.

Flooring is another option to pursue this year instead of the bathroom renovation. Brown had estimates from two companies to put in new hallway rugs in the East (upper end) and West (lower end) wings - Valley Floors and Byron Floors. Valley Floors was the less expensive of the two with cost estimates of E- \$13,790 and W- \$5,500.

There are several faucets that need replacing. Brown doesn't have time to do it this summer so would have to hire out to complete. Faucets will cost approximately \$2,000.

Another project that needs doing is installing plexiglass for certain areas due to COVID, including the office.

After discussions of the above, it was decided that both the faucets and flooring will be done over the summer, and the bathroom project will be put on hold, going out to bid again next March in hopes of getting more bids.

Strategic Planning in the Face of COVID-19

Williams, Lindsley, Brennen (Head of TA) and Acker met. Brennen said that the TA strategic plan has been very helpful in looking forward. TES had put the strategic planning committee off first due to Act 46, and now because of COVID-19. Should the strategic planning committee resume as it could help provide guidance in this time of uncertainty? Discussion ensued.

- Pluta - the committee was well on their way, but not far enough on their way to have it be effective. Maybe scale it back some.
- Lindsley - maybe contact Community Engagement Lab. They organize strategic plans, and it may be a way for teachers to get credits.
- Hill - also thinks good progress has been made. She reviewed the four big goals: Culture, Academics, Community Engagement and Communication.
- Acker - maybe get together again. Might not be the right group for the fall reopening discussions, but do not want to lose the work that has been done.
- Buttrey - we need a strategic plan!

- Hill - there are people on the committee that are already so overwhelmed, Lindsley and Bailey in particular and should we expect any more from them?
- Williams - how we treat the COVID crisis, look at it as an opportunity versus a crisis. Look through a new lens includes getting outside of ourselves, and rethinking the practical ideas.
- Bell - still happy to help. In times of crisis is when you need the plan the most.
- Lindsley - can't hurt to have more broad input. Would encourage the work to continue. How do we avoid letting COVID trap us. Dalpra should be part too, as well as guidance counselor. Space is a huge issue.
- Williams - PPE will be purchased by OESU, but each school will need to have their own COVID team
- Hill - doesn't want too many requests on teachers as they too are trying to recover from remote teaching and had a very rough spring, and really need rest before fall comes along
- Pluta - teachers and Lindsley are vital to the strategic plan and others who work in the system, as they gave the most input

Is it possible to have just one more meeting over the summer?

- Chaput - Reminder that school employees would need to be compensated.
- Hill - one meeting seems ok, but it would not get finished. Really need to set a reasonable timeline.

Further discussion ensued.

Pluta will start the process of getting one more meeting scheduled.

Theford Town Meal Program starts this Thursday:

Rosie Krouger emailed Lindsley and Williams as she wants to use TES for a major food distribution center. It's a statewide based program. She may not realize we already have two programs going already.

Summer meetings may be on Wednesdays instead of Tuesdays? Shannon will talk with Emilie next week to see if it will work for her.

MOTION: to adjourn at 8:40 pm (Pluta/Snider). Unanimous approval.

Minutes Prepared By:
Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
Julie Acker, Board Clerk

NEXT MEETING: 7/2/2020 via Zoom