

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Thursday, July 2, 2020 via Zoom

Approved Minutes

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

OESU: Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams

Community: Ashley Jamele, Kate Hill (staff and parent)

Agenda Review:

Buttrey to add a public comment instead of executive session.

Review and Approve Minutes:

None presently available.

Review of Orders:

Yes, just the one accounts payable - People's Bank payment was included.

Public Comment /Correspondence:

Buttrey received a note about continuing negotiations with the paraprofessionals. Pluta is also going to be on the committee. Agreed that negotiations will reconvene.

Discussion re: Plans for School Re-opening:

- Executive team has added some other people, including teachers and paraeducators to the COVID Re-Opening Planning team for going back to school in the fall. The Supervisory Union (SU) team is looking at all the regulations.
- Each school needs to have a COVID team/safety team. School nurses are running them.
- The committee members are working really hard, and there is no sense that they are overwhelmed.
- Nurses from all the schools get together and provide support to each other. Sharing ideas and setting up systems.
- Principals are also meeting regularly on the off weeks of the Executive Team. They too are sharing ideas and systems, and providing support to each other.
- Little Rivers is looking into flu clinics and immunizations.
- Food Service: There will be resources to help with the food service. Individual schools figure out how they will navigate it. Children will eat in their classrooms for snack and lunch times.
- Williams still needs to meet with Sheila about what it will look like serving food. A lot of work still needs to be done.
- Classrooms: New guidance has said that children don't necessarily need to be 6 feet, it can go down to 4 feet if that will get all the students in the room. Students should stay in their classroom, and the adults (specials) will move classroom to classroom.
- Waiting to find out if more furniture, desks, will be needed.

- How will we have kids facing the same way while eating when we have round tables in the lower wing? Williams replied that the safety team is looking at that and determining what needs the school might have for other furniture.
- Buses: When children get on the bus, they will need to pass a screening. The buses will likely need monitors in the mornings to accomplish this. They may get a ticket to show they have been screened. When getting off the bus students will go directly to where their class is, and stay together.
- Agency is strongly encouraging parents to drop off and pick up. They are also getting a little more flexible with the numbers on the bus.
- One of the solutions Butler has suggested having TA and TES on separate runs. It would reduce the number of students on the buses. Something to think about. It is roughly \$75 per day per bus, rough estimate of \$325 per day.
- Bus stops may need to change to keep the numbers low.
- Thermometers are at the school.
- State guidance talks about three steps. Step I was the spring when we stayed home and did remote learning, Step II is keeping everyone together in classrooms, Step III is looser. Regional agencies determine the step. If TES reports cases, then the Agency may decide we need to go to Step I again.
- Cleaning: It is also recommended that classrooms be cleaned three times a day. Williams is looking into it. Can the children help with it?
- Williams has ordered an electro-magnetic cleaner. It is an efficient way to clean school. Most other schools in the Supervisory Union use them.
- Masks: All students and staff will be required to wear masks at all times except when eating. There may be exceptions determined by special educators, in conjunction with the nurse, of why some students will be excluded from this (medical and behavioral issues).
- Will TES need to add a teacher to meet the guidelines?
- Lindsley and team are looking for classroom alternatives.
- Meetings: It is still recommended that meetings happen over Zoom.
- The state has 6.5 million dollars available specifically for HVAC systems. TES doesn't qualify for any funds.
- Start of school: Knisley is looking into getting extra time for staff at the beginning of the year in school.
- There will be no meetings at the SU level.
- Rumor that school for kids may not start till after Labor Day. Has not been confirmed by anyone.

Other Business:

Discuss possibility of switching meeting night/frequency for the summer. Thursdays at 7:00pm works for everyone. Next meeting on 7/23/2020 via Zoom.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:11pm (Snider/Pluta). Unanimous approval.

Minutes Prepared By:

Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, July 23, 2020 via Zoom at 7:00 p.m.