

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 6, 2020 via Zoom

Approved Minutes

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 7:02 pm

PRESENT:

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

Principal: Chance Lindsley **OESU:** Bruce Williams, Melanie Eliot

Community: 17 community members logged into the meeting

Review and Approve Minutes of 7/15/20 and 7/23/20: Postponed

Review of Orders: Nothing unusual to report

Public Comment /Correspondence: The board received correspondence from Rain Flanagan, Melanie French, Vanessa Allen, and Megan O'Dell. Darrah also received correspondence from Mary Bryant re: energy committee.

School Re-Opening Plans: Lindsley gave an update on the reopening plan for Thetford Elementary which was sent to parents last week. TES will offer in-person and a digital schoolhouse option. In person learning will be M-F from 8:30 am - 3:00 pm with an early release on Wednesdays to accommodate for extra cleaning and planning time. Outdoor spaces are being configured and resources are being moved around. Discussion followed.

Busing for Next Year: Darrah reported that Thetford Academy is looking for guidance from the board on busing Thetford students. Their hybrid re-opening plan as it stands changes the school day start and end times. Would the board consider adding a second bus run for the TA students? Williams estimated the cost to be ~\$225.00/day. Discussion followed. Acker asked if TA could provide more details on their needs. Buttrey noted that transportation is critical for many families, and that splitting up the bus runs would reduce the number of students on the bus at one time. Darrah will get more information from TA.

Food And Food Distribution for Next School Year: The school should try to get as many people as possible to sign up for free or reduced lunch as that ratio of free and reduced lunches and previously paying customers is locked in for four years for grant funding purposes.

Buttrey to Lindsley - What do you do to encourage families to apply? The school sends out the form and let families know we need it back. It is important for everyone to know they will get free lunch, but this a chance for us to get reimbursed. Maybe include a stamped envelope, or can it be done online? Maybe on Infinite Campus. Williams will write a letter explaining and encouraging people to fill it out.

If we need to go fully remote again due to COVID the summer lunch program can be started immediately.

Laura Covella commented that she thinks the wording on the letter is crucial to getting people to sign up. Williams will be a contact person.

Rachel Cook brought up that some parents are not getting emails since we migrated to oesu.org. Williams will look into it.

Financial Update: The \$30,000 surplus is very preliminary. It applies only in the development of the next budget. Food service has a larger deficit during March, April and May as there was food going out but no money coming in.

Executive Session – Teacher/Para Negotiations:

MOTION: that the board find that the premature dissemination of information regarding teacher & para negotiations would place the board at a substantial disadvantage in so far as it would tend to uncover our negotiating strategy. (Buttrey/Snider). Unanimous.

MOTION: to enter into executive session to discuss teacher and para negotiations (Buttrey/Acker). Unanimous.

Melanie Elliot, Bruce Williams and Chance Lindsley invited to participate.

Out of executive session at 8:51 pm. No action taken.

MOTION: to adjourn at 8:51 pm (Snider/Pluta). Unanimous.

Minutes Prepared By:
Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Acker, Board Clerk

FUTURE MEETINGS: August 19, 2020 6:30 pm via Zoom