

## THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

August 19, 2020 via Zoom

### Approved Minutes

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

#### PRESENT:

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

**Principal:** Chance Lindsley   **OESU:** Emilie Knisley, Melanie Elliot

**Community:** Bette Nunez, Alexandra Mathis, Laura Sharpless, Mary Wunderlich, Tippi Oshoniyi, Alan Palmer

#### AGENDA REVIEW:

Shannon to add driver's ed conversation to public correspondence and another discussion to school re-opening.

#### REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

**MOTION:** to approve the minutes of June 9, 2020 (Acker/Pluta). Unanimous

**MOTION:** to approve the minutes of July 15, 2020 as amended (Acker/Pluta). Unanimous.

July 23, 2020 review postponed. August 6, 2020 we only have the last 13 minutes of the recording, Acker took notes if needed.

#### REVIEW OF ORDERS:

Payroll was signed.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT /CORRESPONDENCE:

- **Busing:** Darrah received correspondence re: bus #2. There is a student that lives in Stafford but going to TA. The bus used to go to the junction of Sawnee Bean and Barker, and stopped when there was no longer a need. This student has to walk 2 miles to get to a bus stop, and is wondering if the bus can again go to the junction. This would make the walk only a mile. Parents aren't able to drop off or pick up, especially with time changes in TA. Board is for making the change as long as the stop is in Thetford and it is safe for the students.
- **Driver's Ed:** Darrah got correspondence from a parent, who lives in Thetford, but tuitions their child to another school, and would like to know if they can get reimbursed for driver's ed. Private school does not offer it. Knisley said that when they tuition their child to the private school, all obligations of Thetford are gone. If the board wants to consider it they can. The district is not obligated to provide that service.
- **Town Energy Committee:** They have questions that Darrah and Buttrey will address.

## **SCHOOL REOPENING PLANS:**

- **Lindsley:** The school has exhausted all options for maternity leave coverage which has led to some shifting of staff. There was a teacher interviewed that everyone loved, but she can only be a digital school-house teacher due to health concerns. So the possibility of shifting in-house to cover the maternity leave, and filling the digital school house with a second teacher, adds another half year position to what was previously agreed upon. Currently with three classrooms of fifth and sixth graders puts us at 17 students per class. Hiring the digital school-house teachers allows adding another teacher, and allows TES to have two fifth grade classes and two sixth grade classes at 12-14 students per classroom. Bradley (our reading interventionist) is covering third grade. Sharpless will cover the maternity leave and then go back to math coach the second half of the year. In the long run it would be an addition of a 0.9 FTE using the Spanish position to fill in. There are currently 25 students signed up for the Digital Schoolhouse, which will be hard for only one person to cover. Adaptability and flexibility are the name of the game this year. So if this position is approved, it adds adaptability and flexibility for the year. **Motion:** to authorize the superintendent to hire a full time teacher (Buttrey/Pluta). Unanimous.
- **Lindsley:** We are getting the other stuff done, The outdoor classrooms are coming along. Schedule is in progress. The desks won't arrive until November. Looking at how creative we can be, including plexiglass dividers for tables. Entrance and exit procedures are being tuned up. Getting excited for school to start.
- **Buttrey:** What measures are being taken to ensure everyone is wearing a mask? Signs at the entrance of the parking lots? All adults enter through the front door. Children will enter through their classroom doors.
- **Lindsley:** TASP will still be available but in a much more refined way. K-2 will stay together and 3-6 as well. It will function mostly outside, but if pouring, then they will be split up- K-2 in the cafeteria and 3-6 in the gym, or something like that.

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

- **Acker:** OESU emails are now set up, so the board members need to know how to set it up. Kevin Anderson would be the contact. Next meeting we need a larger discussion on how to connect everyone.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION - STUDENT MATTER:**

- **Motion:** to find that the premature general public knowledge regarding this student matter because it would place the board at a substantial disadvantage because it would reveal personal information. (Buttrey/Snider) Unanimous.
- **Motion:** to enter into executive session to discuss a student matter. (Buttrey/Snider) Out of executive session at 7:40 pm. No action taken.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION - NEGOTIATIONS:**

- **Motion:** that the board find that the premature dissemination of information regarding teacher & para negotiations would place the board at a substantial dis-

advantage in so far as it would reveal negotiating strategy. (Buttrey/Snider). Unanimous.

- **Motion:** to enter into executive session to discuss teacher and para negotiations at 7:41pm (Buttrey/Acker). Unanimous. Melanie Elliot and Chance Lindsley were invited to participate.
- Out of the executive session at 8:09 p.m.
- **Motion:** to authorize the board chair to sign the paraprofessionals contract. (Buttrey/Snider) Unanimous.
- **Motion:** that the board advise the teachers negotiating team that we are at impasse. (Buttrey/Pluta) Unanimous.
- **Buttrey:** will cc: Elliot with his notification to teachers, and then Elliot will notify union reps Ted Pogogar, Lance Mills and Bob Raskevitz and take it from there.

**MOTION:** to adjourn at 8:17 pm (Snider/Pluta). Unanimous.

Minutes Prepared By:

Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS:**

September 3, 2020 at 6:30 via Zoom