

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 3, 2020 via Zoom

Approved Minutes

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:31 pm

PRESENT:

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

Principal: Chance Lindsley **OESU:** Bruce Williams

TES Staff: Ben LaRoche, Tippi Oshoniyi, Alexandra Mathis, Laura Sharpless, Kate Hill, Sue Rogers, Ashley Mousley, Lauren Lacasse, Phil Chaput, Mary Wunderlich, Meghan Oliver, Bette Nunez

Community: Sara Cravin, Anne, Ted Pogacar, Lance Mills, Amy Hayward, Venessa Reigler

AGENDA REVIEW: add an OESU report.

REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES: MOTION to approve the minutes of 8/6/2020, 8/19/2020, 7/23/2020 (Acker/Snider) Unanimous.

REVIEW OF ORDERS

Everything going through fine, Acker has been seeing all the COVID related purchases. Viewing the reports seems easier than going through the red book. The report shows all the expenses, which is an easier format than flipping through the invoices. Acker would like to have the SU send the payables register report, and Cynthia can then file the invoices as they are processed.

PUBLIC COMMENT /CORRESPONDENCE:

TES teachers made a statement regarding going to impasse vs. continuing negotiations for the teachers. The teachers are asking to continue negotiations.

Ashley Jamele sent an email.

Allen Stein from the VT Standard sent an email.

REPORTS:

Principal Report on School Reopening:

Lindsley:

- We're doing well. Some shifting has happened along the way.
- Celebrating Rachel Cook for helping to organize, and parents who participated in the parent work party this past Sunday. There are now 12 classrooms outdoors.
- Some digital students are looking to come back to school in person. Lindsley is having to hold them to their choices as staffing is challenging with the current numbers.
- Ordered plexiglass for table dividers and TA lent us desks and so the order for desks has been cancelled. Savings of \$16,000. They were not going to arrive until November.
- Nurse Kate has been phenomenal.
- Staffing is still an issue. Missing a couple paras.

- Roof shingles on the south-east side are blowing off. Lindsley will connect with John Brown.
- Bees have been an issue. They are all around the school. John Brown is planning on taking care of them tomorrow morning.
- Reviewed the drop-off and dismissal plans- all staff saw it today. There will be a lot of staff involved. Duties are a whole new thing.
- The essence of the team is growing.
- Paras will adjust to 8:15-3:15 now. We also have para evaluations.
- Buses drop off at 8:30 am: currently have 10 kids per bus, so thinking about combining runs.
- TASP has no staff, so not running this year.
- Nathan from the Rec department will meet with Lindsley tomorrow about problem solving other possibilities for childcare.
- Breakfast will still be served in the classrooms just like lunch. Lunches will be served before dismissal on Wednesdays.

OESU REPORT:

Snider reported that while all of the other CBA's in the SU have been negotiated, OESU decided to wait to ratify pending the outcome of Thetford's negotiations, which are currently at impasse.

MEAL PRICES:

Bruce recommends setting the lunch price at \$3.05. Lunches are going to be served to all for free. MOTION: to set the annual lunch price at \$3.05 (Buttrey/Snider) Unanimous.

USDA extended the summer food program thru December 31, 2020 or if the funds run out. Lunches will be free, fully funded by the federal government. The advantages are: a) the reimbursement rate will be higher level, about 20% higher. Menu and regulations are much simpler for the lunch program. Simple verification process that you are really providing the meals. Reimbursement based on the number of students served. Provision 2 obligation close to half starting January 2021.

Closed system - feeding just the students of TES. Open system could feed those 1-18 year olds. Currently we are required to feed distance learners as well. After a few weeks we will have the option of feeding others in the community.

ANNUAL REPORT:

The school annual report, we need to decide if we are going to have Ben and Kelly do it again. Cost would be roughly the same, and we budgeted for it. Changes in price would depend on postage. It is a very time consuming task. Board members think it is worth it. Acker will get a contract going. Take pictures!

BOARD EMAIL:

Acker: Board email has recently changed. We had schoolboard@thetfordvermont.us and it changed to schoolboard@thetfordvt.gov. Personal emails were given to the town clerk and the clerk updated the school board email list to forward to them. When the most recent change happened, the responsibility went to the selectboard chair to manage the email distribution list. It is housed on the Thetford town server. OESU has been changing over all the schools and in doing that all of the school boards now have an oesu.org email. These are maintained by the SU for school board business. Acker proposes that we stop using the thetford town list / personal email and migrate

everything over to the SU system. The SU office has the mechanism to maintain the distribution list and they are highly in tune with who's on the board and will keep it updated. It would reduce risk should the board or town be subject to records request, and it's a better business practice. Williams wasn't aware until recently that personal emails are used and highly recommends moving to the OESU email for school business. Acker will follow up with the SU to begin the migration.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

MOTION: to find that the premature general public knowledge regarding teacher negotiations would place the board at substantial disadvantage because the board risks disclosing its negotiation strategy (Buttrey/Snider) Unanimous.

MOTION: to enter into executive session to discuss teacher negotiations at 7:20 pm (Buttrey/Snider). Unanimous. Williams and Lindsley were invited to stay

Out of executive session at 7:41 pm. No action taken.

MOTION: to adjourn at 7:42 pm (Snider/Pluta). Unanimous.

Minutes Prepared By:
Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Acker, Board Clerk

FUTURE MEETINGS:

TBD