

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 22, 2020 via Zoom

Approved Minutes

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

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

TES Staff: Bette Nunez, Tippi Oshoniyi, Kim Crow, Lauren Lacasse, Kate Hill, Ben LaRoche, Ashley Mousley, Laura Sharpless, Meghan Oliver, Regina Bradley, Mary Wunderlich

Community: Lance Mills, Lucas Stepno, Jessica Tuttle, Sara Cavin, Amy Emerson, Ted Pogacar

Agenda Review:

Acker to discuss new oesu.org emails for the board

Review and Approve Minutes: of 9/3/20 postponed to the next board meeting as they just went out.

Review of Orders: the board will start getting the payables register instead of having to review each invoice.

Public Comment /Correspondence:

Bette Nunez read a letter from the teachers regarding negotiations.

Stuart Rogers sent an email that will require some research before responding.

Reports:

Principal Report (Lindsley):

- Celebrating Bridget and Cynthia who have been very steady keeping things going along effortlessly in the office.
- Friday Assemblies are being done through zoom, celebrating the kids.
- PBIS team has really been working really hard. Sara has really been great. Tickets, language and expectations are clear: Kind, Safe and Responsible
- Outdoor classrooms are going well, environmental stewardship
- Teachers are really making the outdoors a community
- Para meetings are occurring during the early release Wednesdays, which is helping to save money.

- We are having a hard time staying fully staffed. Staff are staying home either because they are showing, or their kids are showing symptoms of congestion, runny noses, fevers, headaches, etc, which are also symptoms of COVID and need to be taken seriously. We are staying on the side of safety with symptoms and asking people to stay home.

TA Report (Darrah):

- Enrollment is at or around 289, which is just about what they were expecting. There are three students from Hanover tuitioning in.
- There have been other questions about accepting middle school tuition students or offering scholarships or a discounted rate. It will need more discussion since Thetford kids get no discount or scholarship going to other schools.
- Students are on campus either 2 or 4 days, and Wednesday is remote for all. When at school they are in pods, but working independently.

School Reopening Progress:

- Williams: We were able to get Thetford Academy to be a qualified site for being able to distribute free lunches through Dec 30, 2020.
- The state announced today the move to step 3, allowing for use of gyms and cafeterias starting next week.
- School athletics may also begin. Recreational sports have been ongoing. Students that travel to red zones for sports (e.g. Lightning Soccer), will have to quarantine for 14 days before returning to school. Discussion followed.

Budget Timeline:

- Darrah: Who is developing the timelines? Williams: Suggests discussing this at the next meeting and asking Lori or Emilie join us.
- Annual report planning: Acker sent out a proposal from Ben and Kelly to board members. Not all have received it. It roughly the same as last year, billed in thirds, and the variability will be with postage. The design cost is \$200 more than last year, but still within budget.
- **Motion** to authorize Acker to the sign the proposal (Buttrey/Snider). Unanimous.

Strategic Planning:

- Currently on hold due to COVID, and people not having the time to be able to give it their best.
- Hill: Keeper of the notes, willing to share where they got to and a few goals that had been set up.

School Board Emails (OESU.ORG):

- Acker: The board will be switching to oesu.org emails for best practices. Acker is working with Kevin Anderson (oesu) and Nick Clark (town) to ensure we don't miss

anything in the transition. Everyone received a link to sign in to their new accounts, and according to Anderson, all board members have done that. Individuals need to set up their mail apps to receive the OESU.org emails. Contact Anderson as to how to do this.

- Acker would like to phase out all other emails by the end of the year. Acker will also move all of the board related documents to the OESU google account. The board will benefit from the security and common use of calendar, docs, and other features.

Executive Session (Principal Contract):

Motion to find that premature general public knowledge regarding the principal contract will place the board at a substantial disadvantage because it could both reveal personal information and negotiating strategy (Buttrey/Snider). Unanimous.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss the principal contract at 7:18 pm (Buttrey/Snider). Lindsley and Williams were invited to participate. Unanimous. Out of executive session at 7:38 pm. No action taken.

Executive Session (Teacher Negotiations):

Motion to find that the premature general public knowledge regarding teacher negotiations will place the board at a substantial disadvantage because it could reveal negotiating strategy (Buttrey/Pluta). Unanimous.

Motion to enter into executive session to discuss teacher negotiations at 7:39 pm (Buttrey/Snider). Lindsley and Williams were invited to participate. Unanimous. Out of executive session at 7:50 pm. No action taken.

Motion to adjourn at 7:51 pm (Snider/Pluta). Unanimous.

Minutes Prepared By:
Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Acker, Board Clerk

FUTURE MEETINGS:

10/13/20 Thetford Town School District Meeting 6:30pm via Zoom

10/27/20 Thetford Town School District Meeting 6:30pm via Zoom