

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 13, 2020 via Zoom

Approved Minutes

Charlie Buttrey convened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

PRESENT:

School Board: Charlie Buttrey, Donna Pluta, Megan Snider, Julie Acker
Principal: Chance Lindsley **OESU:** Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams
Staff: Bette Nunez, Kate Hill, Lauren Lacasse, Laura Sharpless
Community: Mike Kiess, Bob Walker

Agenda Review

No changes

Review and Approve Minutes

MOTION to approve the minutes of 9/03/20 and 9/22/20 (Acker/Snider) Unanimous.

Review of Orders

Tuition payment to TA completed

Public Comment /Correspondence

Nunez, teacher at TES for 31 years and third year of negotiations. Stated she is confused why teachers can't sit and talk numbers with the board instead of going to mediation.

Window Dressing Discussion – Bob Walker

The board received communications from Walker which included a lot of research on safety of the inserts. Walker met with Williams today. All of the window frames are wood so the inserts should be easy to connect. Fire marshal still needs ok, as well as insurance company. Some windows will need to be able to open. Amounts of wood and plastic are small compared to other things in the school.

Williams talked with VSBIT, and they have little knowledge of using window inserts.. They would like the fire marshal to weigh in. The state fire marshal would like the local fire marshal to look at and make a decision.

So the decision is either to wait a couple of weeks until the local fire marshal makes a decision, or make a contingent decision. There is still the unanswered question from John Brown about storage.

Hill questions having volunteers coming into the building to install. Dalpra, Walker and Brown have been communicating and discussed doing it over the Thanksgiving break. Each window takes 5-15 minutes to install. Efficiency Vermont would like to do a blow test before and after to see the results.

The board agreed to proceed with the project pending approval from the fire marshal.

TES Well Discussion - John Brown

This discussion will be tabled until Brown is available.

Principal Report - Chance Lindsley

- Brown and Williams have been very helpful and real team players with the water issues.
- We still don't have all our computer/iPad devices, they are backordered, due to arrive by November.
- Erica Young, digital schoolhouse teacher, has given an update to Lindsley.
- Sharpless also has ideas about pairing students with each other.
- Communication is challenging, overall we have done really well with coping.
- Increased social justice awareness.
- Lindsley is part of a regional Vermont Principals Association group that meets once a month, that has been helpful.
- The installation of the PA system is complete.
- New grades 5 and 6 school government run by Cat Buxton

Nominate Voting Delegate to VSBA/VEHI Meetings

Each year the board sends a delegate to the Vermont School Board Association and Vermont Education Health Initiative annual meetings. Discussion followed. MOTION to nominate Buttrey as Thetford's voting delegate to the VSBA/VEHI meeting (Acker/Snider). Unanimous.

Budget Timeline

Town Meeting is Tuesday, March 2, 2021. Working backwards the board drafted the first budget timeline with Knisley.

Other Business

Williams reported that the USDA food program is extended through June, 2021.

Executive Session - Student Matter

MOTION to find that the premature general public knowledge regarding a student matter would place the board at a substantial disadvantage because it would reveal confidential information (Buttrey/Snider). Unanimous.

MOTION to enter into executive session to discuss a student matter at 7:31 pm (Buttrey/Pluta). Knisley, Williams, and Lindsley were invited to participate. Unanimous. Out of executive session at 7:39 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 7:40 pm (Buttrey/Snider). Lindsley, Knisley, and Williams were invited to participate. Unanimous. Out of executive session at 7:49 pm. No action taken.

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 confidential information and negotiating strategy (Buttrey/Snider). Unanimous.

MOTION to enter into executive session to discuss the principal contract at 7:49 pm (Buttrey/Snider). Lindsley, Knisley, and Williams were invited to participate. Unanimous.

Out of executive session at 7:57 pm.

MOTION to authorize the board chair to sign the addendum to the Principal Contract (Acker/Snider). Unanimous.

MOTION to adjourn at 7:59 pm (Snider/Pluta). Unanimous.

Minutes Prepared By Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk

FUTURE MEETINGS:

10/27/20 6:30 pm via zoom