

# THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 27, 2020 via Zoom

## Approved Minutes

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:32 p.m.

### PRESENT:

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

**Principal:** Chance Lindsley    **OESU:** Bruce Williams, Melanie Elliott (8:02 pm)

**Community:** Nick Clark

**TES Staff:** Lauren Lacasse, Bette Nunez, Tippi Oshoniyi, John Brown (6:55 pm)

**Agenda Review:** No changes

**Review and Approve Minutes of 10/13/2020:** Acker just sent them out so will wait until the next meeting

**Review of Orders:** Nothing unusual

### Public Comment /Correspondence:

Shannon got an email from the state of VT asking about when Thetford Academy was designated as the public high school. Dan Grossman graciously looked in old town reports and found it was voted on in 1976.

### Reports:

#### Principal Report (Lindsley):

- Lindsley wants to acknowledge Nurse Kate for being able to keep everything together, following all public health guidance, even when sometimes it doesn't make sense.
- New guidance came out yesterday, and the COVID team is meeting tomorrow.
- Staffing remains a big concern - between quarantining and illness we have been low on staffing, but doing the best we can.
- Sara Bailey has really been working on the PBIS program. TES celebrated its first pajama day last Wednesday, and the classes watched movies after reaching the 5000 tickets school-wide goal.
- The goats are on campus and they are very calm and friendly.
- Cat Buxton is running our student council. They were finally able to meet, and we now have student governance.
- Buttrey asked about the screening process for arrival. For the drop off children, the kids hand over a ticket signed by parents, or are asked questions (do you feel sick, have you been around anyone, have you been out of the state, etc), then their temperature is taken. There have been a couple instances of children having fevers and being sent home. For the buses, the children either give their slip to one of the staff monitors or answer the same questions, and then their temperature is taken. There have not been any cases of bus riders having a fever.

### **TA Report (Darrah):**

- Darrah attended the last meeting.
- TA too has been adapting and making things work.
- Screening is going well.
- Parents seem to feel that remote learning is working well.
- They are starting to look at tuition rates for next year, though budget planning happens later than TES.
- Next year's numbers look lower than the current year, smaller rising 6th grade class.
- TA is exploring ways to market to non-sending towns, discussion followed.
- TA board asked about a joint meeting, put off until December when TES has more of an idea for the budget.

### **TES Well and Water Pump Discussion (Brown):**

Good news is that there are no large expenses at this point.

- Late September the cistern was empty, and the pumps were just trickling water in
- Wragg brothers came and the main pump needed to be reset.
- New booster pumps were losing their prime overnight, the foot valve wasn't holding overnight. One of the valves was severely damaged.
- Last week they drained the cistern and went down and fixed the foot valve.
- The total costs are not yet known.
- Thank you, John!

### **Joint Energy Committee Resolution Discussion:**

- Last night the selectboard approved the Joint Resolution to Establish a Joint Thetford Energy Committee (Thetford Academy never got back to Clark, so it has been changed to be between TTSD and the Town of Thetford, with the option of TA to participate) This committee will take the place of the current energy committee, which will be dissolved once the joint committee is formed.
- Interesting fact: Thetford was the first town in Vermont to have an energy committee, established around 2001. With approval of this resolution it will be the first joint energy committee in the state.
- MOTION: to approve the Joint Resolution to Establish a Joint Thetford Energy Committee (Buttrey/Acker). Unanimous.
- It is stipulated on numbers and terms of members, with the option of Thetford Academy to appoint one member, as well as two youth members (students).
- Further discussion ensued on the appointment of members.

### **Update Regarding Status of Window Dressings:**

The local Fire Marshall, Bob Walker, Williams and Lindsley will meet on Thursday, and hopefully it will be a go. At the last meeting it was approved so long as the fire marshal approved the plan.

### **General Residency Requirements Discussion:**

Residency is established when children register, either for kindergarten or as a new student. TES does no other updates during a child's time there. Lindsley spoke with Tracy Borst about how this is verified. There are concerns - if a family moves out of town but does not notify the district, non-resident students could still be attending Thetford schools. It is up to the family to notify, there is no procedure for the district to

ensure that they remain residents. Thetford Academy has parents fill out a form annually and sign it stating that students are legally residents of Thetford. Acker noted that the district has no policy as residency is defined by state law, so verification would be by procedure. Do we need to come up with more consistent procedures? Is it an issue? Buttrey will look into this over the next couple weeks to see what other districts do, if anything. Williams will also check on procedures with OESU.

#### **Other Business:**

The maintenance contract with Thetford Academy is due for renewal. The board had discussed adding grounds maintenance to the contract. Brown thinks that the resources are there, but needs more detail to put together a proposal. Brown states that most expenses will not be line items. Discussion followed.

Darrah will meet with Linda Latigne-Magoon (TA) and Nathan Maxwell to determine numbers for grounds care needs, as well as numbers for TA maintenance crew to continue current contract.

#### **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/Pluta). Unanimous.

MOTION to enter into executive session to discuss a student matter at 7:39 pm (Buttrey/Acker). Williams and Lindsley were invited to participate. Unanimous. Out of executive session at 8:00 pm.

MOTION to authorize the board chair to sign contract with private investigator, not to exceed \$1730.00, to investigate a residency issue (Buttrey/Pluta). Unanimous.

#### **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/Snider). Unanimous.

MOTION to enter into executive session to discuss teacher negotiations at 8:02 pm (Buttrey/Snider). Lindsley, Williams, and Elliott were invited to participate. Unanimous. Out of executive session at 8:45 pm. No action taken.

MOTION to adjourn at 8:45 pm (Pluta/Acker). Unanimous.

Minutes Prepared By Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS:**

**11/10/20** TTSD Board Meeting 6:30 pm via zoom