

# THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

November 10, 2020 via Zoom

## Approved Minutes

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

### PRESENT:

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

**Principal:** Chance Lindsley                      **OESU:** Emilie Knisley

**Staff:** Bette Nunez, Lauren Lacasse, Tippi Oshoniyi

**Community:** Laura Covalla, Diane McGovern, Bob Walker (7:05-7:20)

### Agenda Review:

Added discussion on email Darrah received about audit questions

### Review and Approve Minutes:

MOTION to approve the minutes of 10/13/20 (Acker/Snider). Unanimous. MOTION to approve the minutes of 10/27/20 (Acker/Snider). Unanimous.

### Review of Orders:

Acker sent the payables register report out, glad to see that things are labeled COVID. Darrah approved payroll.

### Public Comment /Correspondence:

- Received OESU correspondence with November newsletter and parent holiday travel survey results
- Nick Clark sent info re: Joint Energy Committee
- Gail Maxwell is contemplating retirement at the end of the school year, letter received October 30, 2020.

### Reports:

#### Principal Report- Lindsley:

- Our student government is up and running, and gave the first report at the assembly last Friday. Adult coordinator is Cat Buxton.
- The goats are doing great, they are soothing and friendly, and learning some tricks
- January projections: 176 total students, 17 digital schoolhouse (2 students are leaving the schoolhouse and transitioning back to in-school), and 153 students in-school.
- Working with everybody to keep up with the daily changes, and everyone is doing a good job.
- Met with Linda Metcalf, new business manager, will have something to present at the next board meeting re: budget.
- Emergency response team getting back to meeting regularly.
- Still feel a little bit of the reaction of the pandemic and feel the need to attempt to get ahead of it.

Discussion followed. Buttrey: thinking that there are only 176 students in a school that used to have well over 200, might there be room for Pre-K after COVID ends? Pleased that we are still in school, which says a lot for our community and the guidelines in place.

Lindsley: Nurse Kate is outstanding. New revision of the Strong and Healthy Start, all children must be at least 3 feet apart at all times. The plastic between desks and on the tables doesn't count for 3' so we may have to buy some desks.

Knisley: staff will be able to be tested starting next week, with results by the weekend.

Nunez: pockets of creativity, and frustration having to redo plans and teach well.

#### **Discuss Soliciting Volunteers for Joint Energy Committee:**

Selectboard had extra people last night who are still interested in being on the committee. Should we just ask them? Acker thinks we should post it on the list-serve, and maybe on the Thetford bulletin board on FaceBook and see what kind of response there is. The TA board meeting is Thursday, Darrah could mention it, ask if any students may be interested.

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

Lindsley: the fire marshal approved them, just waiting for the official communication.

Walker discussed with Keiss about how to proceed, and carefully is the word. Due to COVID it may be a slower process than if it were earlier and they were able to work outside. Wants to send communication to parents and the community. They are still short of some of the cost so will need to do some more fundraising.

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

Buttery: No further information at this point, will look into it more before the next meeting. Knisley also asked what schools to the north do to verify residency, and should have some examples from other schools for the next meeting.

#### **Fraud Risk Inquiry:**

Darrah received a form that needs to be completed for the audit. Discussion ensued on how to answer the questions. Darrah will contact Lori at OESU for guidance.

#### **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 and possibly identify a student (Buttrey/Snider). Unanimous.

MOTION to enter into executive session to discuss a student matter at 7:17 pm (Buttrey/Snider). Knisley and Lindsley were invited to participate. Unanimous. Out of executive session at 7:22 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/Snider). Unanimous.

MOTION to enter into executive session to discuss teacher negotiations at 7:23 pm (Acker/Buttrey). Lindsley and Knisley were invited to participate. Unanimous. Out of executive session at 7:27 pm. No action taken.

**Other Business:**

OESU Report: Survey went out to all board members seeking dates for the OESU retreat. Oxbow Unified Union School District budget is up for another vote at the end of November. Discussion followed.

MOTION to adjourn at 7:32 pm (Snider/Pluta). Unanimous.

Minutes Prepared By Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk

**Future Meetings:**

11/24/20 via Zoom at 6:30 pm.