

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

December 8, 2020 via Zoom

Approved Minutes

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:39 p.m.

PRESENT:

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

Principal: Chance Lindsley

OESU: Emilie Knisley, Bruce Williams, Linda Metcalf, Melanie Elliot

Community: Kara Cushman, Nick Clark (Selectboard)

Staff: Lauren Lacasse, Tippi Oshoniyi, Regina Bradley, Mary Wunderlich, Alex Mathis, Ashley Mousley, Kim Crow, Kate Hill, Laura Sharpless, Phil Chaput, Bette Nunez

Agenda Review: as is

Review and Approve Minutes:

MOTION to approve the minutes of 11/24/20 (Acker/Snider). Unanimous.

Review of Orders:

None received since last meeting. Darrah expects some before break.

Public Comment:

Nunez read a statement to thank the school board for settling their contract on December 1st. The professional staff look forward to working with the school board over the next three years.

Correspondence:

- Darrah received correspondence from Kate Hill.
- Darrah also received correspondence from Nick Clark (Select Board) asking if the school could temporarily take over the duties of the recreation department. Lindley said "no".
- Clark was also wondering if TES wants to participate in the "drive by lights"? Someone is willing to donate lights for it. Hill stated that TESCIA is taking it on.

Reports:

Principal Report

- We've been doing our best to follow the Governor's rules. Kate DalPra has been great in helping TES to navigate.
- Sarah Atherton will be back after break from maternity leave.
- Hoping that after break the math and reading specialists will be back in their positions, while also helping with remote learning as needed.
- Jocelyn Banning will also be in person teaching after break (currently remote teacher).

Discuss of Letters of Interest for Volunteers for Joint Energy Committee and Appoint Members.

No other communication was received. Clark stated they were currently meeting. He jumped over to check. Came back and reported that those currently on the joint committee will try to recruit others to represent the school board.

Review 2nd Draft of FY22 Budget:

Linda Metcalf, OESU Business Manager - she and Lindsley have met to discuss the upcoming budget. Highlights Include:

- 3% salary increase for 2021-22
- Dental the same
- SD assoc. last year budgeted for much lower than the cost.
- Eco Literacy - addition to Cat and education for sustainability
- Books and Periodicals - need more for reading
- 26 more students to TA than this year, but not all from Thetford, Metcalf will check with Linda Magoon to get the correct numbers
- Waiting for final numbers for tech tuition
- Still tweaking benefits
- Caught up with equipment, moved 7,000 to software - security
- Level funded board expenses
- Haven't completed the OESU assessment
- Facilities - meeting tomorrow with John, talking about the bathroom bidding process again, money should come out of the capital fund. Are we adding the grounds onto the TA contract? Shannon will check to see.
- Budget to lessen electricity due to solar array
- Tax rate - don't have info from the state yet, expected third or fourth week of December
- OESU assessment, Buttrey thinks should add 3-5%
- Further discussion ensued

Other Business:

Annual report is coming along quite nicely. High resolution pictures. Mary will send info to the staff of where to send their photographs.

Buttrey asked about COVID money coming in from the Federal Government, it will cover some expenses for the year. Williams thinks we will get some next year. Distribution is an application process. Money doesn't go directly to schools, but to the districts.

Continued General Residency Requirements Discussion:

Buttrey emailed Borst, but she hasn't gotten back to him yet. He feels that if it puts a large burden on her then it shouldn't be done.

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 7:28 pm (Buttrey/Pluta). 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 7:41 pm (Acker/Buttrey). Elliot, Lindsley and Williams were invited to participate. Unanimous. Out of executive session at 7:57 pm.

MOTION to authorize the board chair to sign the memorandum of agreement and subsequent teacher contract (Buttrey/Pluta). Unanimous.

MOTION to adjourn at 7:58 pm (Snider/Pluta). Unanimous.

Minutes Prepared By Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk

FUTURE MEETINGS:

12/29/20 Thetford Town School District Meeting 6:30pm via Zoom