

# THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 21, 2021 via Zoom

## Approved Minutes

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

### PRESENT:

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

**Principal:** Chance Lindsley

**OESU:** Linda Metcalf, Bruce Williams

**Community:** Michael Kiess

**Staff/Community:** Tippi Oshoniyi

**Agenda Review** as is

**Review and Approve Minutes of 12/29/20 and 1/7/21 MOTION** (Acker/Buttrey) to approve the minutes of 12/29/20 and 1/7/21. Unanimous approval.

**Review of Orders** Acker sent around today, nothing unusual.

### Public Comment /Correspondence

- Question about correspondence and if it should be read to the public. Waiting to hear back from VSBA.
- Acker wants to thank “Darn Tough Socks” for sending socks to all school board members in the state.
- The board received an email from Gail Maxwell that she is NOT retiring next year.
- Form from Sherri setting our annual announced tuition at \$13,957.
- Chris Hebb sent an email and would like to represent TES on the Joint Energy Committee, and will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
- Noting a question on the listserv asking about open seats, and are there people planning on running again.

### Principal Report

- Has not asked about the TASP contract, will have that for the next meeting. They have started and are taking safety precautions very seriously. It is open for essential workers first, and then others if space.
- Lindsley talked to Butler’s Bus, and the COVID positive bus driver was a driver for Hartford/TA, no contact with TES drivers/students.
- The goats were photographed walking on their back legs.
- Started a research team for literacy instruction best practices, more systematic approach to literacy. Lauren Lacasse is heading that up.
- Due to the digital schoolhouse being decreased to one teacher, the other (Jocelyn Banning) is now an in-person teacher (1st grade) and Sarah Atherton (3rd grade) returning from maternity leave, so both our reading and math specialists have returned to their roles. Also an opportunity to look at MTSS, being able to get equitable services for all students.

## **Review Final Draft of FY22 Budget and Tax Worksheet**

Tax rate is 2.25%, which is no change from the last meeting. It has been a tough year for everyone, and this seems good.

## **Vote to Approve Budget and Warning**

- Kiess says the warning looks like it has all the needed elements.
- MOTION (Buttery/Snider) to submit to the town Article 1 as it appears on the screen:  
*ARTICLE 1: Shall the voters of the Thetford Town School District authorize the Board of School Directors to borrow money in anticipation of revenues for school expenses?*  
Unanimous approval.
- MOTION (Buttrey/Pluta) to submit Article 2 as it appears on the screen:  
*ARTICLE 2: Shall the voters of the Thetford Town School District approve the school board to expend nine million, one thousand, seven hundred five dollars (\$9,001,705) which is the amount the school board has determined to be necessary for the ensuing fiscal year? It is estimated that this proposed budget, if approved, will result in education spending of \$18,676 per equalized pupil. This projected spending per equalized pupil is 2.03% higher than spending for the current year.*  
Unanimous approval.
- The warning is approved, it will be sent around for the board members and town clerk to digitally sign. Metcalf will let Sherry know.
- The town is going to have a remote informational meeting, and the school will follow on February 23, and then all voting will be on Tuesday. Kiess will pass on more information as he knows it.
- The board agreed to mail ballots to all registered voters with the town ballot. Darrah will follow up with Tracy Borst.

## **Legislative Update – Jim Masland**

Postponed.

## **Discussion re: Informational Meeting and Town Meeting Preparation**

- The informational meeting will be done by Zoom on February 23, 2021, at 6:00 pm. TA will be asked to be a part of that.
- Kiess brought up that there will be a digital copy of the meeting booklets available, but that hard copies will also be sent out. Knowing that Zoom is not the best for everyone, people will be asked to look at the books and formulate any questions they may have so there will be answers to questions. These will be posted on the listserv.
- Ballots will be mailed to everyone after February 10, 2021. There will also be a pre-town meeting to meet the candidates and run through the articles. On the Saturday before, there will be another informational meeting, and a second chance to have questions answered. That is the plan for the town.
- The school board will do an informational meeting on February 23, 2021 and on Saturday, February, 27th, at 1:00 pm as well.
- Due to having both meetings, the warning needs to be amended to update the meeting dates and links. MOTION (Buttrey/Snider) to change the informational meeting to Saturday, February 27, 2021 at 1:00 pm, and have the Tuesday meeting be a school board meeting. Unanimous.
- Chat moderator needed for the info meeting.
- Further discussion of details ensued.

**Executive Session – Student Matter**

MOTION (Buttrey/Pluta) 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. Unanimous.

MOTION (Buttrey/Pluta) to enter into executive session to discuss a student matter at 7:48pm. Williams and Lindsley were invited to participate. Unanimous. Out of executive session at 7:59pm. No action taken.

Pluta and Snyder will not be available for the 2/9/21 meeting.

MOTION (Pluta/Snyder) to adjourn at 8:03 pm. Unanimous.

Minutes Prepared By Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**

2/9/21	Thetford Town School District Meeting	6:30pm
2/23/21	Thetford Town School District Meeting	6:30pm
2/27/21	Annual TTSD Budget Informational Session	1:00pm