

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 25, 2021 via Zoom

Draft Minutes

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

PRESENT:

School Board: Shannon Darrah, Charlie Buttrey, Donna Pluta

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

Community: Stuart Rogers, Laura Covalla

Staff: Lauren Lacasse, Ashley Mousley, Sue Rogers, Sarah Atherton

Agenda Review: Buttrey would like to talk about meetings in the fall.

Review and Approve Minutes: MOTION (Buttrey/Pluta) to approve the minutes of 5/11/21 as is. Unanimous.

Review and Approve Orders: none.

Public Comment /Correspondence: none.

Reports:

Principal Report:

- Lacasse's class made a video to share with the school board regarding building a greenhouse near the blueberry patch- a 15x9 hoop house. Buttrey- how did the idea come about? Lascasse- the reading of "Omnivore's Dilemma". The board says go ahead and build it.
- COVID vaccinations have happened for the 12 year olds. Nurse Kate DalPra was instrumental in getting it done. She is a wonderful addition to the staff.
- Kindergarten registration occurred last Friday, there are currently 26 children. Confirmed that two families have, or will be moving out of Thetford by the fall.
- Puberty education has wrapped up, run by Nurse Kate and Sara Bailey.
- The gardens are getting started.
- Lindsley would like to clarify about grounds and maintenance, and how it would be very helpful if John Brown and his team were responsible for both. The SU is looking to possibly get someone to help with that as well.
- Buttrey added that the 6th graders were very enthusiastic and did a great job at the car wash on Saturday, and cleaning out his wallet.

TA Report:

- Elected 5 new trustees at the last meeting, a few alumni as well as someone who is not at all involved with TA.
- The trustees moved and approved a policy for a scholarship to be offered. The trustees need to come up with an amount that is available each year. Darrah told them they also need to assure the townspeople that the money is by no means coming from their taxes. It will be from TA's endowment, or fund.

- Modified graduation happening.
- Looking at getting back to in person learning next year.
- Strafford has a representative, and looking at getting some type of agreement between TA and Strafford.

Sixth Grade Graduation Gift Discussion:

- The 6th grade has estimates for the basketball court refurbish between \$4,300- \$7,900. They are looking to replace a couple of the backboards.
- They earned \$2,500 at the car wash.
- They have also submitted a grant request to the Byrne Foundation.
- The TES board feels it would be helpful to be asked a specific amount towards the project.

Tentative Discussion of Bathroom Project Add-ons:

- Darrah heard back from Brown about questions the board had:
- The add-ons are basically aesthetic.
- Buttrey suggested that it may make more sense to use the money for carpets in classrooms vs. aesthetics in the bathroom.
- Buttrey - Is the window more energy efficient, and would it save money in the long run? If so, should they go for the window? Pluta agreed. The same goes for the baseboard, if it is saving money in the long run that would also make sense, if not, skip it.

Substitute Rates:

- Melanie had sent some recommended rate changes. Increasing the school nurse sub rate by \$20.00/day to \$140.00/day. Also note that the food service sub rate is higher in Thetford compared to the rest of the SU, though the board may not want to reduce that rate.
- Buttrey does not want to decrease food service sub rate, Darrah and Pluta agree to keep as is. The nurse increase is valid.
- MOTION (Buttrey/Pluta) to approve the recommended school nurse sub rate effective July 1, 2021. Unanimous.

Other Business:

- Buttrey will be in Boston T, W or Th for school next fall. He is wondering if meetings could change to Monday nights? Knisley thinks at the moment meetings may still be via Zoom, but also thinks that Monday nights may be okay as most committees avoid it, waiting to see what the fall OEA guidelines are in June. If the meetings are not by Zoom, or on Monday nights, Buttrey may not be able to stay on the board.
- Stu Rogers brought up that the selectboard meets the first and third Mondays, so if a night change is considered, it would be better to do the second and fourth Mondays of the month.

Adjournment: MOTION (Buttrey/Pluta) to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Unanimous.

Minutes Prepared By:

Ginni Balch, Minutes Clerk

These minutes are not official until approved by the School Board.

FUTURE MEETINGS:

06/08//21

Thetford Town School District Meeting

6:30pm