

**THETFORD ACADEMY BOARD OF TRUSTEES and THETFORD SCHOOL BOARD MEETING MINUTES**  
**THURSDAY, May 19, 2016**  
**7:00-10:00 P.M. • THETFORD ACADEMY LIBRARY**

**Present:**

**TA Trustee Members:** Tom Yurkosky, Jon Stableford, Carrie Wells, Therese Linehan , Shannon Darrah, Hilary Linehan, Robert Christensen, Kate Hesser, Zoe Keller, Bill Weyrick, Bob Bauer, Andy Welch, Donna Steinberg, Gio Bosco, Peter Boyd, Ann Bumpus, Bob Bauer, Lindsey Klecan, Curtis Richardson (7:30), Jim Wilson (8:00)

**Thetford School Board Members:** Shannon Darrah, Kristin Downey, Charlie Buttrey, Julie Acker

**Thetford Academy Administration:** Bill Bugg, Torrelee Fisher-Sass

**Thetford Elementary School Administration:** Kevin Petrone

**State Representative:** Jim Masland

**Combined Board Agenda Items:**

**1) Presentation about Thetford Academy's Outdoor Education Initiative/ Programs**

- a) Rose Dedham presented the outdoor initiatives
  - a. Received an initial grant of \$50K which may be renewable for 5-6 years if progress is made toward the goals
  - b. Initiatives include:
    - (1) Class Projects
      - (a) Student designed aquaponics with Tilapia
      - (b) Advance Bio Aquatics
      - (c) Incorporate environmental and outdoor education in STEM classes
    - (2) Extracurricular clubs and initiatives
      - (a) Nordic ski group
      - (b) Climbing club
      - (c) Maintenance of park
    - (3) Facilities
      - (a) New bridges on the trails
      - (b) Sculptures with professional artist
      - (c) Review of waste management program
    - (4) Stipend for Program Coordinator
  - c. Strategic plan developed
    - (1) Development of leadership skills
    - (2) Outdoor learning and environmental education be embedded in curriculums of main-line classes as an option.
    - (3) 21<sup>st</sup> century skill in a non-technological way.
    - (4) Senior project with emphasis on outdoor and environmental education
  - d. 2016-2017
    - (a) Construction of a timber frame structure for outdoor classroom and community events
    - (b) Include more faculty
      - (i) Consider ways to provide time, stipend and collaboration for educators to incorporate in curriculum
        - 1. Summer group planning
    - (c) Summer program with
      - (i) Opportunity for older students teaching younger students
      - (ii) Partner with local camp
    - (d) Course in outdoor leadership
- e. 5 year plan

- (1) Classes leading to a “diploma with emphasis”
- (2) Purchase of a Van
  - (a) Solve transportation challenges
- (3) After 5 years the program needs to be self-sustaining and part of the budget
  - (a) Attracting more students, camp revenue, adult classes

## **2) Update and Discussion, Act 46**

- a) Decisions will be made by other districts in the next month that will provide guidance for Thetford’s direction. More clarity will be available for the June meeting.
- b) One possibility is a new SU in an alternative structure with Thetford, Strafford, Sharon and possibly Norwich or Tunbridge.
- c) Hartland may not move to other options and might be interested in a partnership.
- d) Another possibility is for Thetford to stay in the current OESU
- e) We could also join other exploratory committees.

Adjourn Joint Meeting

## **Thetford Academy Board Meeting Agenda:**

### **1) Approval of April 14, 2016 meeting minutes**

Motion: Approve the Minutes of April 14, 2016 with corrections provided and comment that the Board will be posting minutes compliant with the open meeting laws.

Moved: Donna Steinberg

Second: Tom Yurkosky

Abstentions: Curtis Richardson, Peter Boyd, Kate Hesser, Bob Bauer

Motion passed.

### **2) Food Service**

- a) The overall reduction of force would be .7 FTE.
- b) A presentation and opinions of the impact of the current status was provided

### **3) Motion:** That a State-certified academic high school graduation diploma be conferred on the students recommended by the Faculty at their meeting June 9, 2016

Moved: Lindsey Klecan

Second: Jon Stableford

Motion passed unanimously

Graduation will be on June 10. Both indoor and outdoor locations will be set up.

### **4) Staffing Consideration**

Special education and drug and alcohol counseling needs are increasing. The rate of increase will be growing with incoming students. Enrollment for next year is projected to be 330 students resulting in some surplus in the budget. . Administration would like to see some of the surplus used toward additional Special Education Resources. A detailed plan will be presented at the June meeting.

Motion: Take the Counselor position from .8 to 1.0 FTE and fund the Student Assistance Professional position at the current level.

Moved: Curtis Richardson

Second: Tom Yurkosky

Motion passed unanimously

### **5) Heads Report**

Was distributed. There was no discussion at the meeting.

### **6) Finance Report**

Was distributed. There was no discussion at the meeting.

### **7) Executive Session.**

Motion: Move into executive session at 9:15 pm.

Moved: Bill Weyrick

Second: Carrie Wells

Motion passed unanimously

Out of executive session at 10:45

Motion: Adjourn at 10:45

Moved: Cameron Cudhea

Second: Ann Bumpus

Motion passed unanimously

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bill Weyrick