

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, January 31, 2017
Thetford Elementary School Art Room

APPROVED MINUTES

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. The following were present: Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey, Shannon Darrah, School Board; Kevin Petrone, TES Principal; Keith Thompson, OESU Assistant Superintendent

PUBLIC PRESENT: Keith Merrick

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved with amendments.

MINUTES REVIEW: MOTION: (Acker/ Buttrey) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2017 Board meeting as amended (unanimous approval).

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ORDERS: MOTION: (Acker/Buttrey) moved/seconded to approve accounts payable orders # 5754 and 5829, and payroll warrant # 5826 (unanimous approval).

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE: Joette Hayashigawa clarified the history of the the compost responsibilities: For the past six years, Jean Graber has been supervising the 6th graders in composting daily food scraps and taking data. Her dedication has been a cornerstone in the success of the compost system. In order to institutionalize the role for long term sustainability, 5th and 6th grade teachers have stepped up and accepted the shared responsibility of supervising the daily operations. This change will integrate the compost system even deeper into the school's infrastructure.

Darrah has received several questions verbally and via email regarding snow days and plans for the last day of school. TES needs to have 175 instructional days. TTSD does not put extra days on the calendar because if those days are unused and school ends unexpectedly early, that can cause problems for families. Other school districts manage their calendars the same way. There may be some flexibility regarding the last day because TES has 177 instructional days on the calendar. Acker has also received questions, and pointed out the British soccer camp is scheduled at TES for the week of June 19, but school will still be in session. Thompson suggested for next year it might be a good idea to add five snow days to the calendar in addition to the last day of school, clearly marking the calendar with 175th day plus the five additional snow days. Buttrey stated there would be benefit if TTSD vacations could be aligned with the Dresden calendar so that TTSD children can participate in camps. Thompson responded that this year vacations are the same. Buttrey added it makes sense to make vacations the same statewide. Thompson replied the tech centers have a different calendar, in addition to different calendars for NY and NH. Discussion followed.

FINANCIAL REPORT - Sign warning for Town meeting: Thompson shared budget figures for distribution at Town meeting. Buttrey is working on the financial report. He summarized there is a 5% increase in the budget, however that is offset by a larger than 5% increase in revenues, which is driven largely by state funding. State funding is based on an increased ADM, and the CLA has gone up as well. TTSD will pay a penalty. The tax worksheets were discussed by Merrick, with two options: with and without \$50,000 for capital improvement. Buttrey asked, what is the maximum household income eligible for income sensitivity? He would like to include that figure in the report. Merrick does not have that figure but will investigate. Darrah cautioned that even if one is eligible for income sensitivity, it does not mean they do not pay taxes, and income sensitivity only applies to the homestead and the first two acres. Darrah summarized that expenses are up 6.2% with the capital improvement. Capital improvement will be a separate article. Without capital improvement, expenses are up 5.6%. Items that have increased in the budget include special education spending which is up 20%, and pre-K has gone up 50% because more children are participating. Discussion followed. Special education is up 20% not because of staff. There is an increase in TA's tuition for special education students.

Copies of the warning were distributed by Darrah. Acker summarized: The tax rate will be going up 0.6% if the capital improvement article is passed, otherwise the tax rate goes down by 0.7%. Discussion followed regarding wording of the warning. Buttrey speculated that someone will ask how TTSD's per pupil spending compares against other schools in the State. Acker recalled TTSD is #7. Acker reminded the Board to add a list of capital improvements to be reviewed during Town meeting. **MOTION:** (Buttrey/Acker) moved/seconded to sign the warnings which reflect the Board vote during the last Board meeting, approving the budget (unanimous approval).

SCHOOL REPORT PLANNING, DISCUSS TOPICS FOR TOWN MEETING AND PRE-SCHOOL MEETING: Acker had a phone call today with Ben Merrill. Merrill has formatted school reports in the past for other school districts across the state. He is mailing Acker some examples of reports for review. Merrill's company does not have the resources to help TTSD this year, but he is willing to proofread, look for consistency and layout flow at no cost. He will get in touch with TTSD in the Fall to ask if TTSD wants to use his services next year. Merrill gave some suggestions, such as make note of awards given to the principal and teachers; and since TTSD is a town district and tuitions all students to TA, include TA in the report in a meaningful and seamless way. Merrill suggested highlighting Act 77 (the flexible pathways initiative) to illustrate the relationship with TA. TA is responsible for coordinating students' education and helping students achieve their individual goals by implementing personalized learning plans. TTSD has not discussed this much with the Thetford community, and because this is recent legislation, many in our community are not aware of it. Acker would like to ask TA to highlight what they are doing to meet the goals of Act 77. Acker thought this was a good idea and will follow up with TA.

The mailing will have the visuals (charts) of the budget. The budget details will be posted online. Discussion followed regarding requirements for the mailing and pieces of information still needed to complete the report. More discussion followed regarding what information should be posted online vs. hard copy, and where the information will be available. Buttrey suggested to err

on the side of being more transparent, and allow people to ask questions. Buttrey asked if the capital improvement article adds to the excess spending penalty. Yes, per Darrah.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (STUDENT MATTER): MOTION: (Acker/Buttrey) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 8:04 p.m. to discuss a student matter, which is protected by law. Out of executive session at 9:02 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (Buttrey/Acker) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 9:03 p.m. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS:

2/7/17	OESU - Act 46 Meeting	5:30 p.m.
2/13/17	Thetford Town School District Meeting	6:30 p.m.
2/28/17	Pre-town School Meeting	7:00 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By:
Amy Bosco, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk