

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, May 16, 2017
Thetford Elementary School Art Room

APPROVED MINUTES

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:34 p.m.. The following were present: Charlie Buttrey, Shannon Darrah, Kristen Downey, Scott MacPhee, School Board; Kevin Petrone, TES Principal; Beth Cobb, OESU Superintendent

PUBLIC PRESENT: Mike Brown (arrived 7:01 p.m.), Jessica Eaton (arrived 7:09 p.m.) Both departed 7:38 p.m.

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved with amendments.

MINUTES REVIEW: MOTION: (Buttrey/MacPhee) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the May 2, 2017 Board meeting as amended (unanimous approval). The minutes will be changed to reflect that in the discussion of Darrah's discussion with Norwich it was not meant to imply that Sharon Academy had issues. The conversation centered around the fact that it seemed like it would be more complex to try to bring the Sharon School District into the conversation given the fact that their governance structure is K-8, choice while Strafford was K-8, designation of TA. Strafford has the most similar governance structure to Thetford and it seemed like it might be a natural conversation at some point.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ORDERS: MOTION: (Darrah/Buttrey) moved/seconded to approve accounts payable orders # 5976 and 5968, and payroll warrants # 5975 and 5970 (unanimous approval).

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE: Buttrey continued correspondence about teacher health care negotiations with Representatives Briglin and Masland. Buttrey had also contacted Lieutenant Governor David Zuckerman and State Senator Mark MacDonald. Neither Zuckerman nor MacDonald responded. Masland and Briglin each called Buttrey. Buttrey does not believe the Ashe Amendment will go anywhere. This is a proposal that called for school districts to find savings by negotiating an 80 school district/20 teacher split to fund the gold consumer driven health care plan and a \$2,400 health care savings account to cover out of pocket costs.

Darrah reported that Acker received an email from Jill Graff, Town Treasurer clarifying that she handles the cash flow for the school district, not the finances. She is willing to come to a future meeting to discuss further.

Cobb presented contracts for Cynthia Odell, administrative assistant, and Linda Sullivan, para educator.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (A Student Tuition Request): MOTION: (Buttrey/MacPhee) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 6:47 p.m. to discuss a student tuition request.

Out of executive session at 7:01 p.m.. (MacPhee/Downey) moved/seconded to approve the student tuition request (unanimous approval).

TA REPORT: After the joint TA/TES meeting, the TA Board discussed the new outdoor education half day class that is going to run all year. A new teacher has been hired to run the outdoor program. He currently works at LL Bean and has rich background in outdoor experiences. There was also discussion regarding the bicentennial celebration in 2019. Possible restructuring of the Lyme partnership agreement was also discussed.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Kevin Petrone): Petrone is continuing to meet with teachers regarding the teacher growth model. Petrone expressed enthusiasm about this evaluation method and stated he would like to share more with the Board in the future. The teachers set goals and examine past work. Teachers are still learning about project based learning. The first PBL exposition will be on June 2 during the school day, starting at noon with an instrument and band assembly. There will not be an arts night this year. The performance will be followed by classroom tours with students present. Petrone expects the brochure to be completed this week to attract the community to attend. There will be summer school at TES this year, which will be offered from 8am to noon 4 days per week. There has not been a huge response yet, perhaps because the letter recently went home. Two students have registered. Last year 15 students were enrolled. There will be academic work as well as learning in TES's outdoor spaces. This year's teachers are from OESU. Grades 3-6 have been working on SBACs. Third grade has finished. The fourth graders took the science NECAP last week. The sixth grade graduation committee, including art teacher Beth McGee and music teacher Christiana Whittington, have met to begin planning. They are discussing new ways to involve the students in the ceremony.

REVIEW BUS AUDIT AND DISCUSS OPTIONS: Darrah asked Butler Bus Service for an audit due to the combined TES/TA routes planned for next year. The audit reported that routes 1 and 2 looked fine. Route 3 is projected to be crowded and to take 70-75 minutes. Bus 3 goes to Strafford and picks up 10-12 students. This is done as a courtesy to TA; TTSD does not receive money from TA or Strafford. Darrah does not know when or why the Strafford busing started. Including the Strafford stop adds an extra 4 miles and 10-15 minutes to the route. If the Strafford stop is removed, that would likely reduce the length of the route and provide more seats. Darrah asked the bus drivers in attendance if it looks like buses 1 and 2 will be ok. Brown answered that bus 2 has one afternoon that more children than usual ride because of an afterschool Peabody library program. Eaton stated she has more riders on her route if there is bad weather and sports have been canceled. Eaton stated the bus has a 77 passenger capacity, which is with three riders per seat, which only works up to ~third grade. With bigger bodies it is really a 52 passenger capacity. The afternoon run will be most crowded; the younger kids will have to triple up.

Darrah stated TTSD may not be able to continue busing Strafford kids into Thetford because of the obligation to Thetford students. Before this decision is made, she wanted to discuss the issue with the Board. Buttrey asked if Hanover buses Strafford students to Hanover. Unknown. TA sends a bus to Waits River and to Hartland. Buttrey suggested investigating adding a fourth bus. Downey questioned how TTSD can justify providing transportation to Strafford students. Darrah reminded the Board the routes are being combined because TA has opted to change their start and end times. Downey acknowledged the delayed start time is the right thing to do for

adolescents. Discussion followed. Buttrey stated he is in favor of busing Strafford students because there is a critical mass. Philosophically, the primary obligation is to bus the Thetford kids, even though there is not a statutory obligation to do so. Eaton added, from a taxpayer's point of view, it is less expensive for bus 3 to do a few extra miles per day as compared with adding a separate bus for the Academy to bus the Strafford students separately. Eaton's route is 50 minutes, and Brown's route takes 45 - 50 minutes. Eaton wondered how many parents' schedules will be disrupted by the new start time and whether ridership will change. Eaton asked, what are the optimum times for drop off at each school? Darrah replied this is not a Board question; the TA administration should be asked. Darrah suggested that Thompson discuss timing with Bugg. Petrone also needs to discuss with Bugg because TA's drop off time affects TES's drop off time. Students currently arrive at TES at 8:15. Petrone prefers that children do not arrive before 8. 7:30 - 8 recess duty is difficult to staff. Eaton asked to review the school bus contract. Cobb suggested Eaton ask Butler Bus Company.

ACT 46 DISCUSSION UPDATE: Darrah reported there is no update from Norwich. Downey reported there is no update from the Sharon, Strafford, Tunbridge group.

INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT RECRUITMENT UPDATE: Buttrey attended the candidate's forum last night. The group voted to hire Sandra Stanley for a 1 year interim Superintendent position, effective July 1. Stanley is currently the director of special education for OESU. Cobb reported there will be a couple of new positions next year, including a curriculum coordinator. Melanie Elliott is moving into the business manager/human resources role; Thompson will remain the assistant superintendent.

BOARD RETREAT PLANNING - PICK A DATE: July is a possibility. A date will be chosen when all Board members are present.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Teacher Negotiation Strategy): MOTION: (Buttrey/MacPhee) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss teacher negotiations, the premature dissemination of which may place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Out of executive session at 8:10 p.m. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Student Matter): MOTION: (Buttrey/MacPhee) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 8:11 p.m. to discuss a student matter. Out of executive session at 8:20 p.m. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Student Matter): MOTION: (Buttrey/MacPhee) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m. to discuss a student matter. Out of executive session at 8:22 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (Downey/MacPhee) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:23 p.m. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS:

6/6/17 Thetford Town School District Meeting
6/13/17 OESU meeting at Oxbow
6/20/17 Thetford Town School District Meeting

6:30 p.m.
6:00 p.m.
6:30 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By:
Amy Bosco, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk