

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, April 24, 2018
Thetford Elementary School
APPROVED MINUTES

Kristen Downey convened the meeting at 6:34 p.m. The following were present: Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey, Kristen Downey, Scott MacPhee, School Board; Kevin Petrone, TES Principal

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved.

MINUTES REVIEW: MOTION: (Buttrey/Acker) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2018 Board meeting (unanimous approval, Downey abstained).

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ORDERS: MOTION: (Acker/Buttrey) moved/seconded to approve accounts payable orders # 6412 and 6417, and payroll warrant # 6414 (unanimous approval).

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE: The Board received a copy of the last installment of an email exchange between Cindy Perry and Kevin Petrone regarding the special education panel on Wednesday. All are invited to attend the forum.

TA REPORT: (Downey for Darrah) The TA board met with a potential consultant, Bob Stevens, to use for the Head of School search. Stevens was involved in the last search. A committee has been formed. There has been discussion with the faculty regarding the possibility of a faculty member having a seat on the board. The joint TA/TTSD board meeting will be on May 22 at 6:30 at TA. The first hour/hour and half will be devoted to joint matters and then the boards will split up for their own meetings. The NEASC accreditors are visiting at the end of April. Recruitment from Chelsea looks promising. The strategic task force has been meeting. This is a large group including Downey, teachers, and community members, and is led by Melody Burkins.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Melanie Elliott emailed the Board with the TTSD FY18 quarter 3 financial report. TTSD is projected to be approximately \$148,000 over budget at end of FY18. Staff HRAs were over budget because the HRA's in 17/18 were expended. Buttrey suggested that when drafting the next budget it should be assumed that everyone will spend their entire allotment. Special education is also over budget. This will be discussed at a future meeting with Elliott and Superintendent Stanley, because they are concerned this is a continual area of over expenditure.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Kevin Petrone): New phones were installed over the break. Initially they were not ringing, but installers have been responsive trying to make repairs. Parents are

faxing and emailing. Petrone received a letter of resignation from music teacher, Jessie Piermont. The Board wishes her the best. The 0.6 time, 3-day position will be posted tomorrow. She is at the Newton School for the other two days and has resigned from there as well. The two schools cannot advertise the position formally together, but Petrone is working with the Newton School's principal. Tomorrow night TES is hosting a community discussion regarding special education. Professionals on the discussion panel include Ray Chin, PhD, MFA; Rebecca Yukica, DO; Cindy Dale, PhD; Marla Ianello, OESU Early Childhood Program Director, Deb Sanders-Dame, TA Special Ed. Director; Lexi Diamond, Clara Martin; Alison Kidder, OESU Special Ed. Director; Kristen Hansen, TES Special Educator; and Kevin Petrone, TES Principal. The event will be at TES from 6:30 - 8:30pm. On Thursday, a team of teachers is going to the Newton School to observe math curricula, Bridges 2.0 and the middle school program, College Prep Math. The programs are currently being piloted at TES. On Friday, the sixth graders visit TA for a tour during the day and a welcome dance that night. May 30 will be the spring concert (strings and singing) followed by sharing of learning. All classrooms can be visited by any parent.

THETFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WEBSITE DISCUSSION: There is a prototype website that the teachers have built but it needs completion. Para-educator, Michele Hastings, will discuss with Systems Plus consultant. The current website is tedious to use. Many teachers have links to external websites. The Board will decide if they want to allocate resources. Petrone suggested that Hastings attend a meeting to update the Board.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION RE: POSSIBILITY OF HIRING SCHOOL TREASURER: Buttrey reminded the Board that the law says the town treasurer shall be the school treasurer unless the Board votes otherwise. There will be a special election this summer regarding hiring a town manager, and an election for treasurer could also go up for vote at the same time. Downey stated she remains unconvinced that a separate school treasurer is needed. TTSD should continue to use the town treasurer who is already paid by the town. She suggested watching and waiting to see how the newly hired town treasurer does in this role. In addition, many of the treasurer's duties overlap with TES office staff duties. Acker recalled that current treasurer Graff felt a disconnect when signing checks and not knowing the history, and not being connected with the fund balances. Petrone stated that TES office staff, Cynthia O'Dell, cannot be the treasurer because she is an OESU employee. Acker agreed with Downey to wait. Buttrey agreed to reconsider. The Board will confirm this plan with Darrah at the next meeting.

CONTINUED DISCUSSION RE: BUSING FOR NEXT SCHOOL YEAR: Buttrey stated the amount TA would receive in tuition from new Chelsea students ripples down to TTSD, and adding another bus may make sense. If another bus is added and TTSD reroutes current bus routes, it may end up being more efficient for TTSD students. TA would pay for adding/changing routes. There is a shortage of bus drivers though. Petrone is still waiting to hear back from Butler about capacity and routes. The Board cannot make a decision until more information is received from TA and from Butler. Petrone will follow up again.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Para-educator negotiations): MOTION: (Buttrey/MacPhee) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:17 p.m. to discuss para-educator negotiations, the premature dissemination of which may place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Out of executive session at 7:31 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (Acker/Buttrey) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS:

05/08/18	Thetford Town School District Meeting	7:00 p.m.
05/22/18	Thetford Town School District / Thetford Academy Board of Trustees Joint Meeting	6:30 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By:
Amy Bosco, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk