

# THOMPSON BOARD OF EDUCATION

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 3, 2023

7:00pm

In attendance: Kathleen Herbert  
Thomas Angelo  
Jessica Bolte  
Danielle Carlson  
Linda Jarmolowicz  
Heather Santos  
Mathew Polsky  
Valentine Iamartino  
William Witkowski

Absent:

Also in attendance: Melinda A. Smith, Heather Burns, Willian Birch, Dr. Christopher Jones, Dr. Nathaniel Mayo, Michelle Giammarinaro, Shannon Grauer, William Steglitz, Deb Spinelli, Laurence Prentiss, Kim Granato

### **I. Call to Order**

Kathleen Herbert called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

### **II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Heather Santos led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **III. Chairman Update**

Kathleen Herbert stated that she and her husband had a chance to attend the opening night of Mary Poppins, Jr. as it was a wonderful performance. Mrs. Herbert also had the privilege in participating in a round table discussion with the students' leadership council. Mrs. Herbert stated that there are only two more Board of Finance meetings left to determine the school and town budget. The meetings are on April 6<sup>th</sup> and April 13<sup>th</sup>. She encourages everyone to attend in person or on zoom. Lastly, Mrs. Hebert was excited to see that the Wax Museum was back, and thanked Erica Groh and her students for putting it on.

### **IV. Citizens' Comments**

Jessica Bolte stated the play was phenomenal, and the Wax Museum was great and would like to see more grades participate in them.

### **V. Student Spotlight/TMHS Liaison Report**

Tara Heffernan recognized Dylan Johnson as TMHS Student Spotlight Student of the Month for March.

April 2023 Board of Education Liaison Report

#### **Current Events:**

- 4/4: Student Council Meeting 7 PM
- 4/5: Music Trip to Broadway
- 4/6: TMHS Honor Roll Recognition
- 4/19: TMHS Pride Day and Tri-M Induction
- 4/20: Day Kimball Hospital Career Fair at TMHS
- 4/21: 11:15 General Dynamics/Electric Boat visits TMHS
- 4/24: Progress Reports issued

- 4/26: Integrity Plus Night 7PM District Auditorium
- 4/28: TSLT In-service

## VI. Approval of Minutes

### a. *March 13, 2023 Regular Meeting*

**Motion** by Jessica Bolte, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2023 regular meeting as presented.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

## VII. Sub-Committee Update

### a. *Communications Sub-Committee*

Meeting was held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Heather Santos stated that the meeting consisted of a review of ongoing initiatives, Pride Day Promotions and opportunities to attract spectators to sporting events. The committee also discussed the TMHS round table meeting, and brainstormed for the upcoming budget season and ways the committee can support initiatives in town.

### b. *Policy Sub-Committee*

Meeting was held on March 29<sup>th</sup> - Matthew Polsky stated the committee met to review the Wellness Policy which has been updated, and has been submitted for Board approval.

## VIII. Superintendent Report

a. Enrollment Report - The March 2023 student enrollment is at 895.

b. Teacher Non-Renewals – Superintendent Smith provided the names of teachers to the Board who are being recommended for non-renewal based on performance issues and is asking for Board approval. William Witkowski stated the non-renewals are a personnel issue and should not be discussed. It is the Superintendent’s right to retain or not retain teachers.

No Action Taken.

c. Non-Tenured Teacher Layoff Discussion – Superintendent Smith stated that in the past three years, she has not recommended laying off teachers to limit the stress on new teachers, and the district needed those teachers. There are currently seventeen non-tenured teachers this year, however, the teachers would need to be recalled because they need to fill positions. Discussion was held.

**Motion** by Danielle Carlson, seconded by Jessica Bolte, for discussion purposes, to continue to not layoff non-tenured teachers; the way the Board has done this in the past.

Decision to hold off on teacher lay-off notifications until the Board of Finance finishes their budget season.

**The motion has been tabled.**

## IX. Administrator Reports

### a. *Recovery Friendly Employer Recognition – HR Director*

Michelle Giammarinaro stated that at the beginning of the school year, she started the process of becoming a recovery friendly workplace. This entailed a lot of training and understanding through the partnership with SERAC, and with other organizations, to help employees who are struggling with addiction or someone in their families struggling with addition. The Board of Education has been recognized as a Recovery Friendly Employer by Governor Lamont.

The administrators and directors gave updates on events happening in their schools or departments.

**X. Old Business**

None.

**XI. New Business**

- a. Wellness Policy – The Board members received the revised Wellness Policy which was reviewed by the Policy Sub-Committee and is up for discussion and approval.

**Motion** by Matthew Polsky, seconded by Linda Jarmolowicz, to open the Wellness Policy for discussion and approval. Motion moves to adopt the updated Wellness Policy.

**Motion – Passes. Thomas Angelo voted no.**

**XII. Correspondence**

Board of Education received a thank you letter from Dr. Jones.

**XIII. Citizens' Comments**

None.

**XIV. Adjournment**

**Motion** by Thomas Angelo, seconded by Jessica Bolte to adjourn the meeting at 8:04pm.

**Motion – Passes. Unanimous.**

Minutes Submitted By: Danielle M. Pederson, Recording Secretary