

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, July 13, 2017
Thetford Elementary School

APPROVED MINUTES

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 4:05 p.m. The following were present: Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey, Shannon Darrah, Kristen Downey, Scott MacPhee, School Board; Kevin Petrone, TES Principal; Sandra Stanley, OESU Interim Superintendent

PUBLIC PRESENT: Erik Goodling, Strafford School Board Chair

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved with an amendment.

PRINCIPALS REPORT: Petrone updated the board on summer activity at the school. The board received a Letter of Resignation from Moriah Fahey for her Math Coach position. The board thanked Fahey for her years of service to TES. The board received a leave of absence request from Laura Sharpless from her 5th grade teaching position so that she could fill the Math Coach position, for one year. Discussion followed. The board approved the one year leave of absence request, and should the move prove to not be a good fit Sharpless would have the option to return to a classroom position. **MOTION:** (Buttrey/Acker) Advertise for a one year 5th grade teaching position (unanimous approval).

MINUTES REVIEW: **MOTION:** (Buttrey/MacPhee) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2017 Board meeting as amended (unanimous approval).

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ORDERS: **MOTION:** (Acker/Buttrey) moved/seconded to approve accounts payable order 6059 and payroll warrants 6053 and 6039 (unanimous approval).

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE: None

TOWN PEDESTRIAN PROJECT – REVIEW OF EASEMENT: After the last board meeting Stuart Rogers provided all board members with a copy of the Easement that had been signed previously but has not been recorded with the town. Keith Thompson had asked VSBIT as well as legal counsel to look at the easement for recommendations as to anything that might be missing from the language. The only recommendations were that there might be some language that give permission to the building administrator to ask people to move along if they were loitering or causing a disturbance during school hours. There was also some recommendation for signage at the beginning of school property on both ends. Discussion followed. The board asked Darrah to speak with the selectboard chair to see if there was any way for the path to be moved any further away from the building without impacting any of the apple trees. This information will be obtained and brought back to the board.

SCHOOL DROP OFF TIME DISCUSSION: Petrone has received communication from some families expressing concern about the change in drop off time. The change is due to a lack of volunteers for this duty. Discussion followed. There were suggestions about contacting PTO and/or TASP about staffing this time. At this time there are no plans to staff morning recess prior to 8:00 a.m. for the 17/18 school year.

ACT 46/49 DISCUSSION: The board reviewed the status of discussions on potential mergers to comply with Act 46. Currently, there has been no communication back from Norwich as to any possibilities with doing anything with them. Discussions with Rivendell ended with no favorable options for either district. The alternative structure with Strafford, Sharon, Thetford and Tunbridge also ended as Strafford, Sharon, and Tunbridge are pursuing other options within their existing supervisory union. Additionally, the cost to create a new structure with those 4 districts was researched and found to be prohibitive. Within OESU, Waits River has looked at many options but has no firm direction. Oxbow and Bradford would like to merge and have Newbury be a part of that. Newbury is still considering. Goodling summarized for the Thetford board the latest discussions within the White River SU. Discussion followed.

Darrah and Acker reported on the presentation that Emily Long from the VSBA gave on Act 49 (the collection of education laws that were passed during the last legislative session) at the last OESU board meeting. The new structures were defined, there was more clarity given to alternative structures, and timelines were slightly shifted. Under the Act 49 clarifications, Thetford is considered structurally isolated - meaning there is no structure like it anywhere near it. Discussion followed. The board would like to make the proposal to the State that Thetford be allowed to continue to operate as we have been doing for the last 200 years. Thetford would prefer to remain in the newly configured OESU. Darrah will investigate how we should document, and the timing of the proposal. If districts within OESU should decide to merge under the new Act 49 structures, the Thetford board feels that Newbury, Bradford and Oxbow should merge, with Waits River as the one in the 3 x 1 structure. From there, an Alternative Structure proposal could be written allowing Thetford to continue to be in the SU.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Student Matter): MOTION: (Downey/Buttrey) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 5:50 p.m. to discuss a student matter. Out of executive session at 6:00 p.m. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Student Matter): MOTION: (Buttrey/MacPhee) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a student matter. Out of executive session at 6:10 p.m. No action taken

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (MacPhee/Acker) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 p.m. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS:

August 8, 2017	Thetford School District Meeting, Oxbow	6:00 p.m.
August 8, 2017	OESU Meeting	7:15 p.m.
August 22, 2017	Thetford School District Meeting	6:30 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By:
Shannon Darrah, Chair

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
Julie Acker, Board Clerk
