

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, February 20, 2018
Thetford Elementary School

APPROVED MINUTES

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:35 p.m. The following were present: Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey, Shannon Darrah, Kristen Downey, School Board; Kevin Petrone, TES Principal

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved with amendments.

MINUTES REVIEW: MOTION: (Buttrey/Acker) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2018 Board meeting (Downey abstained, unanimous approval).

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ORDERS: MOTION: (Acker/Buttrey) moved/seconded to approve accounts payable order #6351 and payroll warrant #6338 (unanimous approval).

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE: Darrah summarized an email from Donna Pluta regarding the January 29 minutes. Darrah recounted that Pluta disapproved of the comment, “with a sigh and heavy heart” after the Board voted to reduce the Spanish program, and found the comment, as written, disrespectful. Darrah assured her the Board takes their responsibility to the taxpayers very seriously, and also takes matters seriously when decisions impact someone’s job. The Board did feel regret when making this difficult decision. Acker stated Pluta’s is a valid point. Buttrey stated that motions can be passed with regret and that the comment reflects the challenges of this budget. The minutes cannot be amended because they recorded what was stated. Darrah will follow up with Pluta.

Darrah responded to email from Jan Longwell with a long phone conversation regarding TA tuition. Darrah gave some information, and also encouraged her to attend the pre-town school meeting to ask her questions when TA representatives are present.

Darrah received an email from Superintendent Sandra Stanley, informing the Board that the Secretary of Education requests a meeting in Barre to discuss the Act 46 proposal that is due. The Board needs to choose a date in March. Acker is interested in attending with Darrah. TTSD has to indicate which SU they plan to join. Petrone does not have a preference because little has been settled in either SU.

TA REPORT: At the last TA board meeting there was discussion about the January 11 TA minutes, specifically omission of statements claiming higher per pupil spending at TES than TA. The TTSD Board briefly discussed uncertainty about how TA has calculated per pupil spending at TES. Darrah suggested that per pupil spending could be a topic of discussion at the next joint

board meeting. TTSD funds transportation. There are a lot of Chelsea students shadowing at TA. It is unclear if transportation would be provided for Chelsea students by TA. Committee reports were presented. Some updated policies were passed. The TA/Strafford agreement needs to be reaffirmed. TTSD's TA agreement expires in 2019. The bicentennial committee is being organized. Darrah referenced an email from Melody Burkins regarding TA's strategic plan and a request for a TTSD Board member to serve on the committee. Downey will volunteer. The remainder of the meeting was held in executive session regarding personnel.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Kevin Petrone): The integrated field review process is over for Petrone. Petrone visited Bethel Elementary and South Royalton Elementary. He enjoyed meeting with students, staff and parents and was interested to see the inner workings of other schools and class configurations. Petrone assessed the safe and healthy schools portion of the report. He found it interesting that Bethel employs a half time health teacher who visits classes once per week, in addition to a guidance counselor. TES approaches health in a more integrated approach through the nurse and PE program. OESU is waiting for feedback from their review. A math committee has been formed. Laura Sharpless recently led professional development. After not having a formal math program for five years, TES needs a structured math program. Currently teachers use the state standards to guide their lessons, but pull from all different resources. No program will be a perfect fit, but it would give some structure. Teachers have volunteered to be on the math committee, and TES is looking for community volunteers to join. Changing Perspectives is a local non-profit that visited TES on February 9 for a day long program about disability awareness and empathy. Changing Perspectives was founded by former Bradford Elementary teacher, Sam Drazin. A Woodstock High School student spoke to students. The recent TES Science Fair was the largest yet with over 100 projects, completed at home and in the classroom. The science fair is run by the PTO, which provides students with tri-fold boards and sets up the projects. Laura Sharpless is the staff liaison. The Montshire attended. Tom Tom was also a participant this year. Some projects have been left for display for town meeting. Petrone decided on a phone system to be installed by PHD Communications from Manchester. All the wiring is already up to date. The school will have e911, which allows a call to be traced back to a specific room. Installation is expected by the end of the school year.

DISCUSS PLANS FOR PRE-TOWN INFORMATIONAL MEETING ON FEB 27: Darrah has decided on discussion topics and has been preparing her presentation. Melanie Elliott has been very helpful. Copies of the budget and tax worksheet will be on hand. Discussion followed regarding the history of town meeting combined with school budget discussion, and the possibility of changing to a separate school meeting and school budget vote in May. This should be a future agenda item. A downside to delaying a vote on the school budget would be late timing for hiring and reducing positions.

Buttrey stated that the New England Indoor Track and Field Championship meet is on Saturday, March 3, which conflicts with town meeting. Buttrey is the coach and would like to go. The Board agreed Buttrey is excused from town meeting.

There was brief discussion about appointment of a school treasurer to be added to a future agenda.

OTHER BUSINESS – LABEL SCHOOL REPORTS: Reports are not ready yet for labeling. Acker has the labels. A time for labeling will be determined.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Para-Professional Negotiations): MOTION: (Acker/Buttrey) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:21 p.m. to discuss para-professional negotiations, the premature dissemination of which may place the Board at a substantial disadvantage. Out of executive session at 7:30 p.m. No action taken.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Residency matter): MOTION: (Buttrey/Acker) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:31 p.m. to discuss a residency matter. Out of executive session at 7:45 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (Downey/Acker) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:46 p.m. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS:

2/27/18	Thetford Town School District Pre-Town Informational Meeting	7:00 p.m.
3/6/18	OESU Meeting	6:00 p.m.
3/6/18	Thetford Town School District Meeting (Oxbow)	7:15 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By:
Amy Bosco, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk