

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday, July 11, 2018
Thetford Elementary School

APPROVED MINUTES

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 6:32 p.m. The following were present: Julie Acker, Charlie Buttrey, Shannon Darrah, Kristen Downey, School Board; Emilie Knisley (OESU Superintendent),

PUBLIC PRESENT: Joette Hayashigawa, Christopher West, Brent Mellen, Stuart Rogers, Sue Rogers

AGENDA REVIEW: Agenda approved.

BIKE PATH DISCUSSION: Brent Mellen led a tour around the periphery of the playground, mapping out a future single track mountain bike path. He explained that in low lying areas removable wooden boardwalks may be installed. Stuart Rogers pointed out an area behind the basketball court that is slated to serve as overflow parking for ~20 vehicles. During construction of the parking area, the bike path may need to be rerouted, but after completion the bike path can continue over this area. The overflow parking area will be grass, but will be prepared beneath the grass to withstand parking and have good drainage. The ice skating rink can also be placed here. Buttrey reported he communicated with parent, Kati Sloop, who reported she discussed a possible easement with neighboring landowner, Duncan Nichols. Nichols is supportive of the idea of the bike path eventually being routed into the woods on his property. Per state statute there is no liability to the landowner if a right of way easement has been granted. Darrah stated it is likely a bike path can be incorporated without much disruption. The Board gave its support for the project to proceed. Joette Hayashigawa stated it fits perfectly into the long range plan for the playground. Mellen will pursue grant money. Darrah asked if funds need to be built into the budget for upkeep. Mellen hopes volunteers can help with upkeep. Hayashigawa stated there should be a line item for upkeep in case the volunteer base is not there. Mellen stated the cost should be minimal, perhaps for clay and eventual repair of wooden overpasses. Mellen will ask the Huntley Meadows managers. The plan is to start with the path entirely on school property, and then handle the legalities of easements to expand the path into the woods. Signage will be needed to indicate no riding when the fields are being used for sports. Acker stressed that all stakeholders should be consulted and kept updated, such as the recreation dept, the town (sidewalk project and the overflow parking area), TES, abutting land owners, and TASP.

PRINCIPAL SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE: Downey reported that last week the search committee interviewed two more candidates. One candidate withdrew. Last night there was a community forum to meet Colin McLaughlin, current TES teacher. The committee received positive feedback. The search committee recommends the Board offer the position to McLaughlin.
MOTION : (Downey/Buttrey) moved/seconded to offer the interim principal position to Colin

McLaughlin, and to authorize the Board Chair to negotiate the contract terms (unanimous approval). McLaughlin is not a certified administrator and is interested in pursuing this. Darrah stated that enrollment in a principal program, such as UVEI, would be part of the compensation. The terms of the contract should include the right to move back into his teaching position after the one year interim position. A grades 3 and 4 classroom position needs to be filled. Downey thanked the search committee for their time and commitment to the search. Darrah plans to discuss mentorship possibilities with Petrone. The superintendent will also investigate mentoring options.

MINUTES REVIEW: MOTION: (Buttrey/Acker) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2018 Board meeting (unanimous approval). MOTION: (Downey/Acker) moved/seconded to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2018 Board meeting (unanimous approval; Acker abstained).

PUBLIC COMMENT/CORRESPONDENCE: Acker received an email from Beth McGee, asking about the grants (specifically an arts grant) and how those will be allocated given the new OESU structure with BMU. Acker asked about this at the OESU meeting last night. Teachers need communication on the dollar values from the grants for planning. Some grants are allocated based on students. There is a pool of money shared among schools in an SU for music and art. It is not clear to the teachers how much money they will be getting for the 18/19 school year. Knisley stated BMU is bringing their own money, and there are some federal grants as well.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (Kevin Petrone, presented by Darrah): The custodial staff is busy with deep cleaning the school: painting, cleaning carpets, replacing shades, waxing floors, and moving furniture. They do a great job getting the building really for the fall. Ariana Keenan (new primary special educator) and Meghan Oliver (grades 1-2 multi-age teacher) are leading summer school, which is in its second week. They are working with Cat Buxton to integrate composting and gardening into the program. 3 to 12 students attend daily. Math specialist, Laura Sharpless, has ordered materials and is organizing teacher training focused on the new math programs. New laptops have been ordered for the staff. TES uses a three year lease cycle with Apple (approximately \$15,000/year). The teachers' current computers will be handed down to the students for classroom use. Students can also use iPads. All students in grades 3 to 6 have 1 to 1 technology and primary students get exposure to technology in a "centers approach." Jenney Piper has been hired as a kitchen assistant. Sara Bailey's request has been approved to come back 0.5 FTE from maternity leave until holiday break, and resume 1.0 FTE after holiday break.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Para-educator negotiations): MOTION: (Buttrey/Downey) moved/seconded to go into Executive Session at 7:32 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 7:46 p.m. No action taken.

ADJOURNMENT: MOTION: (Downey/Acker) moved/seconded to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. (unanimous approval).

FUTURE MEETINGS:

08/07/18	OESU Meeting	6:00 p.m.
08/14/18	Thetford Town School District Meeting	7:00 p.m.

Minutes Prepared By:
Amy Bosco, Minutes Clerk

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Julie Acker, Board Clerk