

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 10, 2023

Approved Minutes

PRESENT:

School board: Julie Acker, Nic Cook, Greta Marchesi, Donna Pluta, Megan Snider

Principal: Bernice Mills **OESU:** Randy Gawel. Linda Metcalf (left at 8:05 pm)

Community: Mary Chin, Dana Grossman, Carrie Brennan (6:33 pm), Donna Steinberg (6:39-6:57 pm), Tippi Oshoniyi (6:42 pm)

Welcome:

Julie Acker convened the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

Board Business:

- a) Agenda review: no changes.
- b) Approve minutes of 12/13/22. Motion to approve the minutes with correction. (Snider/Cook). Unanimous.
- c) Review Orders: There were some questions about apparently irregular numbers for the retention bonuses; Cynthia explained that the difference between individual disbursements had to do with employees' different numbers of scheduled hours.
- d) Correspondence: none.

Public Comment:

Chin- The 5th and 6th graders took a trip to the Hood Museum last week while she was volunteering there. She shared that the students were very well behaved and thoughtful and asked great questions.

FY24 Budget

The board reviewed the draft report that Metcalf shared on screen.

- Capital improvements: \$84,000
- Behavior Interventionist previously funded by ESSER added to our permanent budget.
- SEL coach/ Dean of Students will be partly funded by the school and some from ESSER funds (Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief).
- Next year, the configurations of grades so far will be: 1 Kindergarten, 4 1-2 classes with configuration TBD, 4 3-4 and 3 5-6.

The board agreed that \$50,000 be used from the surplus fund balance towards the budget in order to keep down the tax rate.

Principal Report

January 2023, School Board Report

Holiday Concert - The Holiday Concert scheduled for Friday, December 16, 2022 was canceled due to the snow day. Therefore, the Holiday Concert will be taking place this Thursday, January 12, 2023, at 1:30. We look forward to having families join us.

Band/Chorus - A huge thank you to Mrs. Hollander for making time during the week to offer instrument lessons, band, and chorus for our students in grades 5-6.

TES Facilities Update from John Brown

Domestic Water System

In September of 2022, 3rd quarter water sampling revealed the presence of coliform bacteria in the domestic water distribution system. Coliform bacteria does not present health problems in low concentrations but is used as an indicator that conditions are favorable for harmful bacteria such as E Coli. Our E Coli samples showed "none detected".

As required by the state, we must investigate potential sources of contamination when coliform is present. Our first step was to chlorinate the water storage tank (cistern) and inspect the surface area around both wells for potential surface contaminants that can find their way into the well casing (none were observed).

In October, Vermont Rural Water Association (VRWA) came with a camera to inspect the inside of well #1. We discovered that the grout where the steel casing ends in the bedrock was deteriorating and was likely the source of contamination. The week prior to our September sampling saw an extensive amount of rain in a short period of time. Standing water on the surface likely followed the casing to the bedrock and leached in through the compromised grout.

The TES water operator, Patricia Beavers, is working with Wragg Brothers Well Drilling to repair/reseal the grout.

Our 4th quarter sampling indicated no Coliform or E Coli bacteria detected.

In December, VRWA returned to drop the camera in Well #2. No deficiencies were discovered.

On January 31, 2023, The Vermont Groundwater and Drinking Water Protection Division will be on site for a sanitary survey of our domestic water system. This is required every three years. Patricia Beavers and I have been working closely the past few months to prepare and ensure no deficiencies are encountered when the state visits.

HVAC Systems

This heating season has been kind to us so far. Warm temperatures have helped to keep the boilers from being overworked. We have had a few service calls for routine repairs but nothing serious.

The HVAC controls software system has had a few hurdles. Primarily, the server used to access the user interface of the controls is outdated. It's currently operating on Windows 7 and our system software should be utilizing Windows 10 or better. I have specified a new server that can house the HVAC software and future access control (Key

card access) software. Bernice has submitted a ESSER grant request for this upgrade and is awaiting approval.

Annual Report / Town Meeting Planning

- Acker is writing a letter for the board for the annual report.
- The Town Meeting is going to be in-person at TES this year. The school informational meeting will begin at 9:00 am and the town meeting will begin at 10:00 am. Hopefully, students can get involved somehow at the beginning of the meeting.
- The board will present the budget and the happenings of both TES and TA.
- The pre-meeting will be on 2/23/23 at 6:30.
- There are 2 board members retiring at the end of their term, and thus far there are no petitions turned in to fill those positions.

Public Comment: None

Executive Session – Negotiations

I move that the board find the conversation we are about to have, be held in executive session as it may put the board at a serious disadvantage. (Snider/Pluta). Unanimous.

Move to go into executive session at 7:17 pm. (Snider/Marchesi) Unanimous. The board invited Mills and Gawel to stay.

Exit executive session 7:50 pm.

Move to adjourn (Snider/Pluta) at 7:51. Unanimous.

Adjourned at 7:51pm by Acker.

Minutes Prepared By:

Ginni Balch, Board Clerk

Future Meetings:

Regular Board Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month.

01/24/23

TTSD Board Meeting

5:30 pm

These minutes are not official until approved by the School Board.