

# THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

April 11, 2023

## Draft Minutes

### PRESENT:

**School board:** Nic Cook, Greta Marchesi, Megan Snider, Mary Chin, Jeff Jamele

**Principal:** Bernice Mills

**OESU:** Randy Gawel

**Community:** Tippi Oshoniyi

**Staff:** Lauren Lacasse, Kate Hill, Jocelyn Banning

### WELCOME:

Randy convened the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

### BOARD RECONFIGURATION

- a) Motion to nominate Megan Snider as Board chair (**Marchesi/Chin**). Unanimous.
- b) Motion to nominate Greta Marchesi as Clerk (**Snider/Jamele**). Unanimous.
- c) Motion to nominate Jeff Jamele as a TTSD representative to the OESU board (**Snider/Marchesi**). Unanimous.
- d) Motion to nominate Mary Chin as TTSD representative to the Thetford Academy Board of Trustees (**Snider/Jamele**). Unanimous.
- e) Motion to nominate Nic Cook as Vice-Chair (**Snider/Marchesi**). Unanimous.
- f) Motion to nominate Jeff Jamele as TTSD representative to the OESU Sick Bank Committee (**Snider/Marchesi**). Unanimous.

### BOARD BUSINESS

a) Agenda Review/Approval- No changes.

b) Approve Minutes: [02/14/23](#) Motion to approve minutes (Marchesi/Cook), abstain Chin and Jamele.

c) Review Orders- Nothing unusual.

d) Correspondence- [Roby Resignation](#)

Other: A parent is concerned about the Bus 1 run not turning at Deer Run Road anymore but dropping kids off at Burnham instead. Mills will call the bus company tomorrow. Gawel contacted the bus company during the conversation and received confirmation that they would return to the previous route.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

### PRINCIPAL REPORT

### **Cameras/Door Fobs -**

We used ESSER funds to install nine cameras and four additional door fob systems. The cameras will allow us to monitor entryways and the parking lot. The door fobs provide us with greater access control. Thank you to Robert Ratel, OESU Facilities Director who coordinated and oversaw this project.

### **Science Fair -**

On March 21, 2023, the TES gymnasium transformed into a scientific laboratory - a space where individuals of all ages came together to witness science projects, inventions, and scientific research that some of our young scientists created. It was a wonderful experience!

A heartfelt thank you to TESCIA members, TES parents, staff, and volunteers for all their hard work in making the science fair a success and to the TES/TA custodial crew for helping during set up and clean up. A special thank you to TESCIA for their financial support. Without their support, none of this would have been possible. THANK YOU TESCIA!!

### **Cardboard Arcade**

Once again, the Cardboard Arcade was a success! Individuals of all ages attended the Cardboard Arcade to play the creative games students designed. In case you missed it, there was a claw machine, scribble bots, a pool table, marble runs, skee ball, table hockey, etc.

Thank you, Ms. Kendall, Mr. LaRoche, and Mr. McLaughlin for providing their students with a hands-on learning experience that fostered creativity, entrepreneurship, and design thinking. A special thank you to our students for stepping up to the challenge!!

### **TES Wax Museum**

The project began with students choosing a historical figure to research. Students read about the person and wrote a biography detailing some interesting facts. Biographies were shared with peers, and speeches were practiced in preparation for the culminating event.

The culminating event was the Wax Museum. Students dressed as their historical figures and became wax figures. When a visitor stepped on a button, the character came alive to share a few interesting facts, and in an instant, they became wax figures again. It was truly magical.

Thank you, Ms. Lacasse, Ms. Mousley, Ms. Atherton, Ms. Perry, and the paras for making this possible. A special thank you to the students for doing such a terrific job!!

### **NEXT YEAR'S CONFIGURATIONS -**

| <b>GRADE</b> | <b>NUMBER OF CLASSROOMS</b> | <b>TEACHERS</b> |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|

|                     |          |  |
|---------------------|----------|--|
| <b>Kindergarten</b> | <b>2</b> | <b>Colin McLaughlin<br/>Susan Rogers</b>                                     |
| <b>1/2</b>          | <b>3</b> | <b>Kate Hill<br/>Maggie Stoudnour<br/>Meghan Oliver</b>                      |
| <b>3/4</b>          | <b>4</b> | <b>Ashley Mousley<br/>Sarah Atherton<br/>Joslyn Banning<br/>Audrey Perry</b> |
| <b>5/6</b>          | <b>3</b> | <b>Benjamin LaRoche<br/>Lauren Lacasse<br/>Nicole Kendall</b>                |

**GRADES 1/2 (4 different options)**

| <b>Option A.</b>             | <b>Option B</b> | <b>Option C</b>                | <b>Option D</b> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1st- 12</b>               | <b>1/2- 16</b>  | <b>1/2- 16 9(1st) 7 (2nd)</b>  | <b>1st- 9</b>   |
| <b>1/2- 12 7(1st) 5(2nd)</b> | <b>1/2- 16</b>  | <b>1/2- 16 10(1st) 6 (2nd)</b> | <b>1st- 10</b>  |
| <b>2nd- 12</b>               | <b>1/2- 16</b>  | <b>2 - 16</b>                  | <b>2nd- 14</b>  |
| <b>2nd- 12</b>               |                 |                                | <b>2nd- 15</b>  |

**SNOW DAYS- Mills**

We have missed 6 days, but made up 1. Gawel is asking for a waiver for 1 day. Mills is asking the board to waive a day as well. It would be the difference of June 20 vs June 15. Motion to waive one additional educational day (**Marchesi/Chin**). Unanimous.

**OESU UPDATE- Snider/Cook**

A lot of conversation about the Butler Bus Company contract. The OESU board approved the [literacy curriculum](#) for the district. It is on the OESU website.

Zoom option for the OESU board meetings- May 9th is the next meeting at Waits River. Other groups had to wait to meet due to board reorganizations.

Marchesi asked about posting the meeting minutes on the list-serve, suggesting a link on the list-serve instead. Will also check into being able to post links on the town website.

**DEI/STRATEGIC PLANNING SURVEY- Marchesi**

We will send out a survey to parents/community and to the TES staff in May. The survey will address both educational equity and also more general issues, with the intention of using the results to help direct TTSD strategic planning this summer. Marchesi asked board members to review the draft survey that was sent out and pass on any ideas to Marchesi

that aren't covered yet by next week. The on-line survey will be followed by an in-person community forum, to be facilitated by the incoming VSBA Director of Board Services Debbie Singiser.

### **POLICY DISCUSSION- Cook**

How are we supposed to go about reviewing or changing existing policies within the district? More and more policies are done through OESU and have been vetted by VSBIT and VT laws. Gawel asked the board to pass on any policies that they have questions or concerns about. Cook will lead an investigation of existing policies to find any that seem ambiguous or that may need revisiting.

### **FY22 TTSD Audit Report (Acceptance of)**

Motion to accept the audit for the fiscal year 2022 (Cook/Jamele). Unanimous.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSIONS**

- a) Student Tuition Renewal Request
- b) Designation Exception Continuation Request
- c) Negotiations

### **Executive Session –**

Move that the board find the conversation we are about to have be held in executive session as it may identify a student or students. **(Cook/Marchesi)**. Unanimous.

Enter executive session at 6:41pm.

Exit executive session at 7:05pm.

Move to accept two tuition students at an annual rate of \$8250 (Snider/Cook). Unanimous.

Move that the board find the conversation we are about to have be held in executive session as it may identify a student or students. **(Cook/Jamele)**. Unanimous.

Enter executive session at 7:06pm.

Exit executive session at 7:11pm.

Move to grant a designation exception and apply tuition to support the student's enrollment for the school's stated tuition or the state posted average tuition of \$17,278, whichever is less **(Snider/Cook)**. Unanimous.

Move to enter executive session because the following discussion might reveal board strategy (**Snider/Cook**). Unanimous.

Enter executive session at 7:13pm.

Exit executive session at 7:22pm.

Move to adjourn (**Chin/Marchesi**). Unanimous.

**Adjourned** at 7:26pm by Snider.

**Minutes Prepared By:**

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Ginni Balch, Board Clerk

**Future Meetings:**

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

The next schedule meeting is May 9, 2023 at 5:30pm.

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