

# THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

January 10, 2024

Thetford Elementary School and Zoom

## Draft Minutes

### PRESENT:

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

**Administration:** Bernice Mills, Caitlin Toleno     **OESU:** Randy Gawel, Linda Metcalf

**Community:** Nolan Reigler, Chaunte, Ashley Jamele (6:15-6:52), Lance Mills (6:30)

**Staff:** Lauren Arseneau

### Welcome:

Meeting called to order by Snider at 6:00 pm.

### Board Business

a) **Agenda Review/Approval-** None.

b) **Approve Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes of 12/12/23 as amended. (Chin/Marchesi) Unanimous.

c) **Review Orders-**

Nothing out of the ordinary.

d) **Correspondence-**

- Alex Mathis and Kathy Hollander sent emails related to the potential reduction of the TES art position to 80%.
- Parent talked with Cook regarding the process for deciding on school delays- Gawel explained that he contacts the town road crews from several towns, looks at and listens to the weather, and bases his decisions on those factors.
- A parent communicated concern regarding transitions from TES to TA- how are the kids prepared for the increase in homework? Mills explained that there is communication between the teachers at both schools. The students visit as groups, and there are 1:1 visits if needed.
- A parent asked if there is a way that parents can be alerted on days that TA either doesn't have school or has an early release. It means there is a 10 minute difference in the bus run. Reigler also brought up having TES and TA schedules more aligned would make it easier for parents.

### Public Comment:

None.

### Solar Array Information: Nolan Reigler

The Certificate to expand our current array under the management of Norwhich Solar has been

approved by the state. It was hoped that it would be considered an expansion, but they approved it as a new array. It should provide a 7% discount over standard electric rates. Reigler has more questions for Norwich. Under the new lease, Norwich will be doing all the maintenance work on the array. There is more information needed from TES about the current power usage in order to know how well the planned changes will support all user needs, including TES; Nolan will contact the office to get this information. Further discussion ensued.

## **Reports**

### **A. Principal's Report - Mills**

There was no report due to the limited time available following the holiday break.

### **B. TA Report and Updates- Jamele**

The final tuition rate was set: a 6.5% increase in tuition totaling \$23,890.00 per pupil

### **Strategic Plan update- Mills**

The group is making some progress and should be done by the end of the year. Mills circulated the current working draft of the plan.

### **Town Meeting Update- Snider**

Thetford Town Meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2024 at 9:00 at TA this year. The board is all supposed to be there. Mills and Toleno will give a quick overview and a meet and greet, and then Jamele will present a quick overview of the budget.

### **Policy Committee Update- Cook**

No items at this time.

### **FY25 Budget- Linda Metcalf**

Metcalf presented a budget with several options. They all more or less come up with a 4.77% increase.

### **Executive Session-**

- Move to hold the following discussion in executive session so as not to disclose people's names, and to finalize budget numbers. (Jamele/Chin). Unanimous.
- Move to go into executive session at 7:18 pm (Jamele/Chin). Unanimous.

### **Announced Budget Number and Tuition Rate**

- a) Motion to accept the budget of **\$9,637,127.00 for the fiscal year 2024-25**. (Jamele/Marchesi). Unanimous.  
Motion to approve the warning of a budget of \$9,637,127.00. (Marchesi/Chin). Unanimous.
- b) Motion to increase the tuition rate to **\$12,000 for the fiscal year 2024-25**. (Jamele/Marchesi).

Unanimous.

**Public Comment**

None.

**Adjourn-**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 pm (Chin/Cook). Unanimous.

**Minutes Prepared By:**

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Ginni Balch, Board Clerk

**Future Meetings:**

Regular School Board Meetings are usually held on the second Tuesday of the month during the school year, **with some exceptions.**

**February 22, 2024                      Thetford Town School District Board Meeting                      5:00 p.m.**

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