

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

May 14, 2024

Thetford Elementary School and Zoom

Draft Minutes

PRESENT:

School board: Mary Chin, Nic Cook, Stephanie Hareld, Jeff Jamele, Greta Marchesi

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

Community: Libby Sax, Miranda Holder, Audrey Leitao

Welcome

Meeting called to order by Cook at 6:00 pm

Board Business

a) Agenda Review/Approval-

1. Add an executive session after the policy committee update.
2. Remove Snow Days discussion- the secretary of education approved two snow days so the board does not have too.
3. Add Community Survey discussion

Move to approve agenda as amended (Chin/Marchesi) Unanimous.

b) Approve Minutes of 4/9/2024.

Motion to approve minutes of 4/9/2024 as amended with spelling corrections (Jamele/Chin). Unanimous.

c) Review Orders-

All as anticipated; nothing out of order.

d) Correspondence-

(1) [TTSD Audit Report 2023](#)

The audit did not detect any deficiencies in the Thetford Recording.

(2) Resignation- Brittany Burke, Paraprofessional, eff. 04/19/24.

Accepted with regret.

(3) Thetford applied back in fall in conjunction with the energy committee for a Level 2 charger to be used by TES staff only during the days school is in session, and public when it is not. It has been pending for a while now. The energy committee has been in touch with the state and it now seems promising that we will get the grant.

(3) Snider shared a climate survey from TA that could be useful in thinking about our community survey.

Public Comment

Leitao and Holder are part of a parent/community group who are hoping to have a policy regarding having a phone free campus (2-way communicating devices such as phones or watches). phonefreeschoolmovement.org is a good resource for information. It was agreed that having a school and district policy in place is a good idea. This also came up in a discussion with the Policy Committee Meeting. The question was raised about whether OESU might also adopt a policy.

Reports

A. Principal's Report - Mills

Welcome aboard to the following new staff member 2024/2025 School Year

- Kayla Konya - Paraprofessional
- Angela Avery- Kitchen Worker
- We have onboarded a SEL Coordinator/Dean of Students and will announce their name to the community soon!

Teacher Appreciation Week

All of us at TES want to extend a heartfelt thank you to TESCIA for organizing Teacher Appreciation Week. Their efforts truly made a difference in recognizing and honoring our hardworking educators at TES.

- The thoughtful gestures each day were deeply appreciated:
- Monday (5/6) - Notes of Thanks: The personal notes were a wonderful way to start the week, reminding us of the impact we have on our students and community.
- Tuesday (5/7) - Breakfast Treats: The delicious breakfast treats provided a delightful start to our day, fueling us for the day's tasks ahead.
- Wednesday (5/8) - Chocolates & Sweets: Indulging in chocolates and sweets midweek was a sweet treat that lifted our spirits and brought smiles to our faces.
- Thursday (5/9) - Plants & Flowers: The beautiful plants and flowers made our day brighter.
- Friday (5/10) - Lunch: The Friday lunch was a fantastic way to end the week, allowing us to come together as a community and enjoy a delicious meal.

Overall, Teacher Appreciation Week was a wonderful reminder of the support and appreciation we have from our school community. Thank you once again for organizing such a thoughtful and meaningful week.

Congratulations to Cat Buxton

TES is very proud to announce that as a component of The Upper Valley Super Compost Project, Cat Buxton secured a grant of approximately \$400,000 from the

Composting and Food Waste Reduction program, a division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This funding will facilitate the ongoing initiative to bolster and extend composting facilities within schools across the region. TES will also benefit from the funding. Again, a huge thank you and congratulations to Cat Buxton.

Upcoming Dates...

Thursday, May 30 5:00- Arts and Music Night

Friday, June 7- TES Field Day

Thursday, June 13- 6th Grade Graduation

Friday, June 14- Student's Last Day, Dismissal at Noon

B. TA Report and Updates- Jamele

- TA is looking to recruit new board members.
- They too are discussing a phone policy.
- TA is in discussion about a lift project to make academic buildings accessible to all.

Strategic Planning Committee

The board and administrators were asked to review the family survey from last August to be sent out again, with the goal of generally keeping the questions the same so that comparative year-to-year data can be collected, but other questions could be added. Any questions or comments can be sent to Marchesi, in hopes of getting the survey out in the next couple weeks.

Policy Committee Update

- The legislature is looking at a few new policies that may influence some policies that TES is also looking at. It has been decided to wait for the state versions before coming up with ours to ensure that the legal issues will all be dealt with, similar to the way VSBA sets up universal policies. These policies include:
 1. Phone/personal device free campus.
 2. Admission of non-resident tuition students.
 3. Distribution of non-school literature.

Public Comment

None

Executive session- non-resident tuition student

Move to go into executive session as the information contained in the conversation may reveal the identity of a student. (Jamele/Marchesi) Unanimous.

Move to go into executive session at 6:41 pm.(Jamele/Hareld), inviting Bernice, Caitlin,

and Randy. Unanimous,

Exit Executive Session at 6:46p.

Move to approve request for renewal of non-resident tuition at the posted tuition rate of \$12,000 (Jamele/Hareld). Unanimous.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm (Jamele/Chin). Unanimous.

Meeting adjourned at 6:49 pm by Cook.

Minutes Prepared By:

Ginni Balch, Board Clerk

Future Meetings:

Regular School Board Meetings are held on the second Tuesday of the month during the school year.

Thetford Town School District Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.

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