

# THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT

September 10, 2024

Thetford Elementary School and Zoom

## Draft Minutes

### PRESENT:

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

**Administration:** Caitlin Toleno                                 **OESU:** Marla Ianello

**Community:** Jim Merriam (Norwich Solar), Lexi Sargent

**Staff:** None

### Welcome

Meeting called to order by Cook at 6:08 pm

### Board Business-

#### a) Agenda Review/Approval

Chin- add discussion re: the last OESU board Meeting, and Vs  
Motion to approve the agenda as amended (Chin/Herald). Unanimous

#### b) Approve Minutes: 08/13/24

Motion to approve the minutes (Jamele/Chin) Unanimous

#### c) Review Orders

Straight forward, standard.

#### d) Correspondence

Letter of interest.

### Public Comment

None

### Reports

#### 1. Principal's September Board Report

##### a. STAR TESTING

STAR testing window is open through September 27. All students K-6 will be administered the STAR three times over the course of the year. New this year parents will be receiving reports if their child is below certain criteria. The test sees where the students are- it is computerized and asks questions, then adapts to the level the student is. Schools need to notify parents if students fall below benchmarks.

##### b. NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC PHOTOGRAPHER

Thank you to Marisa Donovan and National Geographic Photographer and Story Teller, Ronan Donovan for presenting his latest work to TES Students and Staff!

**c. STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

We have 5 staff members enrolled in the Creative Lives: Whole Child Approach to Learning. This PD provides educators with the tools to assist children in navigating: stress, decision making, resiliency, emotional stability, and striving for excellence.

**d. STAFFING**

- ❖ We have hired a day custodian who starts on Monday, September 9.
- ❖ We have an opening for a paraprofessional.

**e. FIELD TRIPS**

- ❖ The 3/4 Team will be visiting the Tunbridge Fair on Thursday, September 12
- ❖ The 5/6 Team will be headed to Montpelier on November 13 to visit the State House which is directly tied into the 5/6 social studies curriculum. Will meet with at least one representative, and hopes to also meet with Bernie Sanders.

**f. FACILITIES UPDATE**

- ❖ An order will be placed for new basketball wraps for the courts outside
- ❖ Careboxes (feminine care products, etc) will be purchased through MAC funds for specific bathrooms at TES
- ❖ ALICE trainings for students will begin on September 17

**B. TA Updates- Jeff**

**Thetford Academy report:**

All-day retreat focused on the upcoming strategic plan with work being done on the plan from the various committee assignments. The theme of the day was that of course enrollment drives all else as there are very few additional possible revenue streams for the school outside of that (though several folks suggested “Wedding Venue” as a potential income source for the out of state/destination wedding).

Emphasis was placed on outreach to sending towns to help with recruitment efforts.

Capital Campaign will be underway soon, so ideas were also gleaned as to how best to approach this. With the potential addition of a town resource (given the expansion of the cafeteria being central to this campaign) there could very well be some central location for more town-related items as well as for the school (art exhibits, local events, etc).

Five-year financial plan in the works to better stabilize tuition where possible and give the school a better chance to meet the ups and downs of the educational landscape in Vermont

Carrie Brennan will share data from the TA survey, and vice versa.

### **C. OESU meeting**

- Is only going to meet 4 times a year, but will have 4 different sub-committees- Chin is on the policy committee, Cook is on the budget committee, and Herald on the student services committee. Vermont School board training will be happening.
- Smaller groups of people will work smarter, then when the groups meet the meetings will be more efficient.
- VSBA Fall meeting. Chin was the only person from our district there. Elect representatives to the board, the two reps now were re-elected. Annual meeting is on Oct 17th. It would be good to have others attend.
- Presentation on zoom by our interim commissioner of education. Listen and Learn Tour, the closest is in St Johnsbury. The Agency of education is responsible for providing equitable access to high quality education. District quality standards, seems more like all about business and facilities. An effective school board must regularly do: setting and reviewing measurable goals, monitoring student academic progress and wellness and evaluating the superintendent. Does TA take standardized tests? Expanded agreements?

### **Policy Committee Update**

There was no meeting this month. Hopefully there will soon be an SU policy committee meeting, which Chin is on, which will help us out.

### **Solar Array-**

Jim Merriam

How does TES want to get the funds? Two options are a lump sum, or paid over time (\$7,600 a year for 25 years).

#### **A. Authorization to Sign Lease**

Motion to authorize Nicholas Cook, board chair to sign the lease with Norwich Solar, authoring a payment of \$7,600/year for 25 years. (Chin/Jamele) Unanimous

#### **B. Authorization for Maintenance Contract**

Motion to authorized Nicholas Cook, board chair to sign the maintenance agreement which states that Norwich Solar will take care of the existing array (Jamele/Chin)

### **New Board Member**

One letter of interest for the School board vacancy. Lexi Sargent gave some personal

history, and why she is interested.

Motion to appoint Lexi Sargent to the board for the remainder of the term- March 2025 (Chin/Jamele) Unanimous.

### **Board Clerk Assignment**

Marchesi previously held the board clerk position. It looks as if the position would entail taking minutes if Balch is unavailable, and/or any documents that require the clerk specific signature. Motion to appoint Sargent to Board Clerk (Jamele/Chin) Unanimous

### **Resolution to Sign Warrants- For board members to review, authorize payment and sign warrants for payment as needed for the School District**

Motion to appoint Board members Nicholas Cook and Jeff Jamele to review, authorize payment and sign warrants for payment as needed for the School District (Chin/Hareld) Unanimous.

Discussion about if instead of the names, saying that board members may sign. Ianello provided information that no, the names do need to be added.

### **Public Comment**

None

### **Executive Session- 30 Year Employment Incentive Unanimous at 7:06.**

Move to go into executive session to discuss a 30 year employment incentive, under the provision of title 1, Section 313-A3 of Vermont Statute- evaluation of employment. (Jamele/Chin). Unanimous

Move to go into executive session at 7:06 pm (Jamele/Herald). Unanimous

Out of executive session, informational, no decision needed. Ianello and Toleno invited to stay

### **Adjourn-**

Motion to adjourn the meeting at pm (7:10). Unanimous.

### **Minutes Prepared By:**

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Ginni Balch, Board Clerk

### **Future Meetings:**

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

October 8, 2024      Thetford Town School District Board Meeting  
6:00 p.m.

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