

**THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT**  
**Tuesday October 11, 2011**  
**Thetford Elementary School**

**MINUTES**

Shannon Darrah convened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Art Room. The following were present: Howard Sussman, Lisa Swett, Charlie Buttrey, School Board; Keith Thompson, TES Principal; Beth Cobb, OESU Assistant Supervisor

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Daniel French, parent

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Minutes from 9/27/11 board meeting reviewed MOTION: (Sussman/Swett) moved/seconded to approve minutes from the 9/27/11 board meeting (unanimous approval).

**APPROVAL OF ORDERS:**

MOTION: (Swett/Sussman) moved/seconded to approve payable and payroll orders #s 2577, 2563 (unanimous approval). Discussion ensued regarding order #2563. It was found this order is payment on the TES Bond.

**PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Friend of Thetford Education:** Request via Lisa Swett for FTE to utilize the school district bulk mail rate permit for mailing. MOTION: (Buttrey/Howard) moved/seconded for FTE to have permission to utilize the school district bulk mailing permit (unanimous approval).

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Executive session for discussion a student matter.

**FALL MEETING SCHEDULE (Thanksgiving holiday, budget development, and other considerations):** TES school board meetings will be November 8<sup>th</sup> and November 29<sup>th</sup>. Board meetings for December will be decided at the November 8<sup>th</sup> meeting. Budget planning issues will be a factor in this consideration.

## **FINAL REVIEW TES STRATEGIC PLAN: MOTION**

(Buttrey/Sussman) moved/seconded to approve the Strategic plan as amended (unanimous approval).

**TES GOVERNANCE:** Conversations were had with Sharon, Tunbridge, Strafford. All movement forward is now on hold due to the fallout of Hurricane Irene. Strafford is now in discussions with South Royalton and Chelsea. The governance issue is going to be a long slow process, but it will remain ongoing. The Board would also like to keep the concept of 'privatization' on the table.

## **REPORTS:**

**THETFORD ACADEMY REPORT (including plan for joint meeting 10/13/11):** The joint meeting is on Thursday. Board members received a packet and it is hoped they will review it before the meeting. A full hour is allotted to TES. The concept is for the TES Board to be interactive with the TA Board.

The Headmaster search committee is has winnowed down to six candidates. They are coming in for visit/interviews. The search committee will select up to three finalists to present to the Thetford Academy Community. The finalists will visit Thetford Academy on November 9th & 10th for meetings with students, staff and community members. On the evening of November 10th, each finalist will interview with the Board of Trustees.

## **PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:**

On October 20<sup>th</sup> APPLE will be here for training on iPads used by the 5<sup>th</sup> grade. There will be 20 participants for the training. It will be an all-day training. Administrators from other schools will be attending. This year's 5<sup>th</sup> graders will take the iPads to 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Other grades will systematically be added.

October 21<sup>st</sup> TES is hosting the OESU in-service. The in-service will involve discuss the TLCs (Teacher Learning Community). The afternoon will include a breakout on content areas and creating curriculum teams to back up the project. In addition the teams will look at methods for moving forward.

November 14<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> is geography week. TES is working with Steve Neiderhauser a teacher at TA. Mary Cassarino a retired teacher and on state geography committee is helping to organize this week's activities. She will be working with the teachers that week. This week includes collaboration with the Thetford historical society and the senior citizens to look at the history of Vermont. The theme is "The Geography around you." Teachers are also helping TES principal to organize the week. As part of this week Governor Shumlin and Congressman Peter Welch will visit the school on the November 18th.

Open House will be held on October 13<sup>th</sup> 6-7:00 p.m. The Board is invited to attend.

Roof update: The second coat of sealing is being applied and may be completed tomorrow.

TES NEGOTIATIONS: There has been one meeting and another meeting is scheduled for tomorrow. The Board will discuss the negotiations in an Executive session this evening. The next meeting will be Wednesday October 26<sup>th</sup>. This will be a working session.

**OESU SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:** No report.

**TES RECRUITMENT OF TUITION STUDENTS:**

The Board was given a handout regarding recruitment objectives. The Board would like to identify a person to spearhead this project and develop materials. TES is looking for opportunities for children to tuition in to TES. TES can be a private school for anyone outside of Thetford. Buttrey will draft a preliminary policy for recruitment for review by the Board.

**POLICY:**

Policy Book Distribution: Distribution to Board of a new policy book containing the current, previously approved policies.

**REVIEW, LETTER TO COMMUNITY:** The revised letter was distributed to the Board. MOTION (Buttrey/Sussman) moved seconded to approve the community letter (unanimous approval). Distribution will be

through the listserv and/or the school and town web sites. The letter can also be sent home in Friday school backpacks.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** Executive session as regards personnel and teacher negotiations.

**MOTION FOR ADJOURNMENT: MOTION:** (            /            )  
moved/seconded to adjourn (unanimous approval).

**NEXT MEETING:** October 25, 2011, 7:00 p.m. Thetford Elementary School

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

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Lorrie Wilkes,  
Minutes Clerk

*These minutes were approved by the School Board on October 25, 2011.*