

THETFORD TOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Tuesday November 8, 2011
Thetford Elementary School

APPROVED MINUTES

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Robin Brown, parent; Tig Tillinghast, Thetford Select Board; Aimee Toth, TES Teacher; Faith Alexandre, President of TA Trustees, Linda Gerlach, TES para professional

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Minutes from 10//25/11 board meeting were reviewed. MOTION (Tillinghast/Sussman) moved/seconded to approve minutes from the 10/25/11 board meeting (unanimous approval).

APPROVAL OF ORDERS:

MOTION: (Swett/Tillinghast) moved/seconded to approve payroll order # 2606 (unanimous approval).

PUBLIC COMMENT & CORRESPONDENCE:

Robin Brown spoke regarding her son's positive experience during his first grading period at Thetford Academy.

Tig Tillinghast spoke regarding the Town of Thetford purchasing properties in close proximity to TES. The TES septic system is located on a portion of one of the properties. The Town may wish to explore with TES the possibility of a cooperative endeavor to upgrade the TES septic system. Mr. Tillinghast suggested a joint workgroup of the TES Board and the Select Board to discuss these issues. Buttrey and Swett volunteered to participate in this workgroup.

REPORTS:

THETFORD ACADEMY REPORT:

Faith Alexandre reviewed the selection and interview process going forward in the search and selection of a new TA headmaster. The two finalist candidates will be visiting and interviewing at TA this week. A final decision will be made by the TA Trustees this week.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Keith Thompson

Geography week: Next week begins geography week with TES in conjunction with TA. Thompson discussed the upcoming activities for the week and the appearance of Vermont's Governor Peter Shumlin and Congressman Peter Welch at the final assembly. Board members are encouraged to attend.

Fuel Oil Negotiation: Thompson discussed the negotiation process for purchasing fuel oil for TES. He also discussed present and future work which needs to be completed on the fuel oil tank. There was also discussion regarding the solar wall in the multipurpose room and its performance.

Water Department visit: The State Water Department is coming this week for the water sanitation survey to be completed. Discussion ensued regarding present and future work to be done on the water and sanitation system. Discussion arose as to continued chlorination of the water and if arsenic testing has taken place. Arsenic testing has taken place.

TLCs: The staff is doing TLCs (Teacher Learning Communities), one staff meeting per month. It was reported by teacher Aimee Toth that progress is good. The Board requested a future presentation on this subject.

Composting program: High Fields has visited and the temperature in the composting bin is 138 degrees. The fourth and fifth grade classes are doing date collection of the temperature. There should be good soil from the composter in the spring to add to the school gardens.

Recycling: TES is moving forward to recycling everything including mild cartons. TES may purchase more totes for this process.

OESU SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT: No report.

RECRUITMENT OF TUITION STUDENTS: The Board recruitment committee consisting of Buttrey and Tillinghast did not meet. November and April are the best times to review target numbers for recruitment. A recruitment

brochure will be developed. Thomson discussed that a tuition cost number is not ready, but there will be a formula. There will be a tuition number generated that TES will be a minimum but not a maximum. Any proposed policy will be reviewed by legal counsel before it is approved. This item will come back on the agenda for the first December meeting. It is anticipated there will be a policy ready by April 2012.

POLICY: Student Attendance Exceptions (tuition waiver) policy – review and discuss drafts: Two drafts were distributed to the Board, one drafted by Buttrey and one by Tillinghast and Sussman. Differences and policies of the drafts were discussed. It was decided that the policy needed to include a mechanism for TA’s input on a student, a section for guidance to parents in approaching this issue and language inclusive of flexibility. There was also discussion regarding bullying and how it impacts this issue. Darrah will meld the two draft policies for another single draft and present at the next Board meeting.

GOVERNANCE: Other towns are still interested in this concept and conversation is ongoing.

MOTION to go into Executive Session to Discuss Principal’s Contract Negotiations (Tillinghast/Darrah) at 8:35 pm. Out of executive session at 8:50pm. No action taken.

MOTION to go into Executive Session to Discuss Teacher Contract Negotiations (Buttrey/Sussman). Out of executive session at 8:59 pm. No action taken.

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

NEXT MEETING: November 29, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. Thetford Elementary School

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Lorrie Wilkes,
Minutes Clerk

These minutes were approved by the School Board on November 29th, 2011.