



MINUTES

THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, May 12, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Thomaston High School Auditorium Entrance - Door #2

*This meeting can be attended in person by the public or viewed live/recorded on the [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#).
([Bylaws of the Board 9322 - Public and Executive Sessions](#) and [Bylaws of the Board 9326.1 - Taping/Recording Board Meetings](#))*

In case of school cancellation or cancellation of afterschool/evening activities: this meeting will NOT be held in person, it will be held virtually. Public comment, if posted on the agenda, can be made up to one (1) hour before the start of the meeting by emailing comments to mstanley@thomastonschools.org

Mission Statement:

In a partnership of family, school and community, our mission is to **educate**, **challenge** and **inspire** each individual to excel and become a contributing member of society.

2024-2025 Board of Education Goals:

1. The establishment of a comprehensive strategy to improve English Language Arts growth in Thomaston Public Schools.
2. The establishment of a comprehensive strategy to address bullying in Thomaston Public Schools.

Members:

Roxy Fainer, Chairperson
Beth Campbell
Sarah Ethier
Frank Treglia

Matthew VanOrmer, Vice Chairperson
Francine Coss, Superintendent
Megan Campbell, Student Representative
Lucas Koval, Student Representative
Tyler Veronesi, Student Representative

Tanya Galpin, Secretary
Steven Carr, Treasurer
Anthony Kepler
Nathan Vieira

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

([Bylaws of the Board 9325.1 - Quorum](#))

- 1.1. **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** called the meeting to order at 7:03p.m.
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Roxy Fainer, Vice Chairperson Matthew VanOrmer, Secretary Tanya Galpin, Treasurer Steven Carr, Frank Treglia, Beth Campbell, Sarah Ethier, Nathan Vieira, Superintendent Francine Coss**
- 1.3. Board Member Absent: **Anthony Kepler**
- 1.4. Student Representatives in Attendance: **Tyler Veronesi, Lucas Koval, Megan Campbell**
- 1.5. Administrators in Attendance: Kristin Bernier, Cristina Kingsbury, Jonathan Kozlak, Jennifer Preuss
- 1.6. Others in Attendance: Arthur Quinn, Jennifer Zarrilli, Eileen Stowe, James Newton, Chip Hungerford, Tracy Hungerford, G Wilmont Hungerford, Emily Morton, Valentin Collazo, Tess Harkness, Britta Saghafi, James Saghafi, Tammy Dumas & Family, Lisa Lavoie, Larry Duffany, Makenzie Chasse, Michelina Stanley

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda ▲

([Bylaws of the Board 9325.2 - Order of Business/Policy 1205 Community Relations - Participation by the Public - Agenda Format/Preparation and Dissemination](#))

Steven Carr motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to accept/approve the agenda dated May 12, 2025 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

4. Public Participation ▲▲▲ (to be read aloud by the Board Chairperson prior to soliciting public comment)

([Bylaws of the Board 9325 - Meeting Conduct](#))

The Board welcomes public participation in accordance with the rules of common courtesy and the Bylaws of the Board 9325 - Meeting Conduct:

- Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter.
- No boisterous conduct shall be permitted; persistence in boisterous conduct shall be grounds for termination of that person's privilege to address the Board. The Chairperson may clear the room so that Board members may continue the meeting.
- No oral presentation shall include charges/complaints against any Board of Education employee regardless of whether or not the employee is identified by name.
- Speakers are asked to express themselves in a civil manner, with due respect for the dignity and privacy of others who may be affected by their comments. While it is not the Board's intent to stifle public comment, speakers should be aware that if their statements violate the rights of others under the law of defamation or invasion of privacy, the speaker may be held legally responsible. Speakers unsure of the legal ramification of what they are about to say are urged to consult first with their legal advisor.

NOTE: Per the August 2016 Policy Committee Meeting, responses to speakers will be in the form of a written letter from the Board Chairperson and that letter will be attached to the meeting minutes; speakers will not receive a verbal reply to public comment during a meeting.

Mr. Larry Duffany, 282 Atwood Road, Thomaston

Mr. Duffany expressed concern that the acknowledgment letter he received in response to his public comment at the previous month's meeting may have only been sent to him and that he is the only person who can see the letter. He encouraged the Board and its Policy Committee to revisit the 2016 policy stating that public comments should be formally acknowledged by a letter from the Board. Until a revised policy is in place, he stated that he will continue to make any board responses public himself.

Mr. Duffany also revisited the topic of homework and retake policies, which he addressed during the prior meeting. He emphasized that even well-intentioned best practices can sometimes fall short.

Additionally, he raised concerns regarding the lack of a formal Board policy on final exams. Speaking from his experience as a college professor, he noted that students entering from high school often struggle with final exams and do not do well on the national registry. He believes this is a disservice to students and places them at a disadvantage.

Although he does not have children in the school system, Mr. Duffany stated that his comments are driven by a desire to ensure that Thomaston students are well-prepared, possess a strong work ethic, and are equipped for academic and professional success.

Mr. Arthur Quinn, 1 Bradley Way, Thomaston

Mr. Quinn is a resident of Thomaston for 52 years and a graduate of Thomaston High School. He clarified that he was neither supporting nor opposing the current budget and wanted that distinction to be clear.

He expressed concern regarding the presence of "Vote Yes" signs on school property, stating that such signage belongs on private residential property—not on public or town-owned land. He noted that there had been an ongoing email exchange with the Superintendent over the weekend regarding this issue. While the signs were temporarily removed, they have since reappeared following consultation with legal counsel.

Mr. Quinn cited state statute, emphasizing that if "Vote Yes" signs are permitted on public property, "Vote No" signs must also be allowed to ensure neutrality and legal compliance. He urged the board to consider drafting a formal policy to address political signage on school property. Additionally, he shared that he has requested to be added to the agenda of the upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting to propose an ordinance that would prevent similar situations in the future.

He stressed that political signage—including presidential campaign signs such as "Trump" or "Harris"—should not be displayed on school grounds. His concern was centered on the potential for students to feel intimidated or influenced by such displays. He reiterated that school properties should remain neutral and free from political messaging, and requested that the board either draft a policy or have the current signs removed. He concluded by stating that the focus should remain on the students, without introducing political agendas into the school environment.

Mr. Nathan Vieira, 131 Humiston Circle, Thomaston

Board Member **Nathan Vieira** addressed the board to follow up on comments he made during the previous month's Board of Education meeting. He emphasized the importance of improving communication with the community, stating that board decisions should be conveyed more directly and not rely solely on board agendas or platforms like ParentSquare, which may not reach all residents.

Mr. Vieira reminded the public that the budget referendum will take place on Wednesday, May 14th, and encouraged residents to vote in favor. He noted that this may not be the last referendum in the coming years and stressed the need for the board to be more proactive in engaging with the community—speaking directly with parents, neighbors, and stakeholders to build support for the budget.

He also commented on the issue of local autonomy, expressing concern over what he views as increasing overreach by the state government into local affairs. This includes matters related to revenue collection and municipal spending. **Mr. Vieira** reiterated the need for collaborative efforts moving forward and again encouraged a "yes" vote on the upcoming referendum.

Frank Treglia, 222 Clay Street, Thomaston

Frank Treglia briefly addressed the board, clarifying that he was speaking as a resident rather than in his capacity as a board member. He expressed agreement with Mr. Quinn's earlier comments and respectfully requested that the individual responsible for placing the signs take them down. **Mr. Treglia** noted that the signs could potentially be intimidating to children, particularly those at Black Rock and Center School.

5. Approval of Minutes ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes)

5.1. [Regular Meeting Minutes - April 21, 2025](#)

Steven Carr motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to accept/approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated April 21, 2025 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Matthew VanOrmer**

Motion Carried: 7-0-1

6. Recognitions ▲

(Policy 1170 – Community Relations/Recognitions of Students, Citizens, Staff Members, and Members of the Board of Education and Bylaws of the Board 9420 – Recognition of Accomplishments by Citizens, Students, Staff Members or Member of the Board)

6.1. [April Rotary Student of the Month - Francesco Treglia](#)

6.2. [Students of the Month - April 2025](#)

Grade 12: Francesco Treglia	Grade 11: Tyler Veronesi	Grade 10: Brooke Salvietti	Grade 9: Ava Nicosia
Grade 8: Spencer Dobos	Grade 7: Olivia Moher	Grade 6: Gavin McGee	Grade 5: Isabella VanOrmer
Grade 4: Scott Palladino	Grade 3: Collin Moher	Grade 2: Maeve Hawley	Grade 1: Colton St. Pierre
Kindergarten: Ella Novakowski	Preschool: Lucca Rinaldi		

6.3. Student Shout-Outs

6.3.1. Connecticut Association of Public Schools Superintendents/Litchfield County Superintendent Association Student Recognition

Grade 12: [Konner Birkenberger](#) Grade 12: [Emily Morton](#) Grade 8: [Colten Chasse](#) Grade 6: [Kate Mazzarella](#)

6.3.2. CAS Scholar Athlete Award - Grade 12: Lilianna VanOrmer and Erti Shkrepi

6.3.3. Top SAT Scorers - Grade 11

Gracie Marble	Makenzie Chasse	Avery McDonald	G Wilmont Hungerford	Brianna Ronalter
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6.4. Staff Shout-Outs

6.4.1. [Promoting Real-World Learning Through Collaboration, Grants, and Hands-On Experiences : Eileen Stowe and James Newton, Science Teachers - Thomaston High School](#)

6.4.2. [Lisa Lavoie - Ensuring Mutual Respect, Safety, and Civility in All Public School Interactions](#)

6.4.3. [May 2025 Staff Spotlight: Tammy Dumas, Special Education Teacher, Thomaston High School](#)

7. Presentations ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments)

7.1. Thomaston High School Science Club - [New Website](#)

Emily Morton (Grade 12) Science Club: Media Specialist

Britta Saghafi (Grade 8) Science Club: Long Island Sound

Tess Harkness (Grade 8) Science Club: Long Island Sound

Valentin Collazo (Grade 12): Trout in the Classroom

7.2. [Proposal to BOE: Increase in Meal Prices 2025-2026 School Year, Jennifer Zarrilli, Food Service Director](#)

Steven Carr motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to accept/approve the reconsideration of the updated meal price increase proposal submitted on May 7, 2025 as presented by Jennifer Zarrilli, Food Services Director, for the 2025-2026 school year with the revised meal prices adjusted to 25 cents per meal per student.

Discussion: None

Opposed: **Sarah Ethier**

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-1-0

8. [Student Representatives Report](#) ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9160 – Student Representation on the Board of Education)

9. Chairperson's Report ▲▲▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9121 – Office of the Chairperson)

9.1. [Progress Report on 2024-2025 Goals for the Thomaston Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools](#)

9.2. Thomaston 150th Anniversary Committee Update - Tanya Galpin, Committee Chairperson

- 9.3. [Third Quarter Honor Roll - Thomaston High School](#)
- 9.4. [Response to Public Comment at the April 21, 2025 Regular Meeting of the BOE](#)
- 9.5. Student Representation of the Board of Education
 - 9.5.1. [Letter of Recommendation - Lucas Koval - Grade 12 Student Representative 2025-2026](#)
 - 9.5.2. [Letter of Recommendation - Tyler Veronesi - Grade 12 Student Representative 2025-2026](#)
 - 9.5.3. [Letter of Recommendation - G Wilmont Hungerford - Grade 12 Student Representative 2025-2026](#)

Nathan Vieira motioned and Beth Campbell seconded to accept/approve the recommendations of Lucas Koval, Tyler Veronesi and G Wilmont Hungerford as the grade 12 co-Student Representatives for the 2025-2026 school year.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Sarah Ethier**

Motion Carried: 7-0-1

- 9.6. Superintendent of Schools Monthly Report
 - 9.6.1. May 2025 Monthly Report - Summary of Actions Taken as They Relate to Policy 2400
 - 9.6.2. BONUS May 2025 Monthly Report - Summary of Actions Taken as They Relate to Policy 2400

Steven Carr motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to accept/approve the Superintendent of Schools' submission of a monthly report to support her progress in reaching the measurable areas of responsibility per Policy 2400 per the action taken by the Board of Education during the December 9, 2024 Regular Meeting.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

10. Superintendent's Report ▲▲▲

[\(Policy 2131 - Administration - Superintendent of Schools\)](#)

- 10.1. Correspondence
 - 10.1.1. From Superintendent
 - 10.1.1.1. [Thank You Letter to Lisa Lavoie](#)
 - 10.1.1.2. Thank You Letter to Microcredential in AI [Presenters](#) & [Contributors](#)
 - 10.1.1.3. [Thank You Letter to Jonathan Costa](#)
 - 10.1.1.4. [Shout Out Letters - April 21, 2025 Recognition](#)
 - 10.1.1.5. ParentSquare Correspondence from Superintendent - Posts/Alerts
 - 10.1.1.5.1. Happy Easter Bear Nation! April 20, 2025 at 12:01PM EST
 - 10.1.1.5.2. Tomorrow is National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day! April 21, 2025 at 6:00PM EST
 - 10.1.1.5.3. It's Administrative Assistant Appreciation Day! April 23, 2025 at 9:00AM
 - 10.1.1.5.4. Tomorrow is School Lunch Hero Day! May 1, 2025 at 6:01PM EST
 - 10.1.1.5.5. It's Teacher Appreciation Week! May 4, 2025 at 5:02PM EST
 - 10.1.1.5.6. It's National School Nurse Day! May 7, 2025 at 10:30AM EST
 - 10.1.1.5.7. Update Regarding December 2024 PowerSchool Cybersecurity Incident, May 8, 2025 at 11:01AM EST

Steven Carr motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to acknowledge the Superintendent's correspondence per Policy 2131 - Administration - Superintendent of Schools as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

- 10.1.1.6. To Superintendent/Board of Education
 - 10.1.1.6.1. [Student Assessment News - April 2025](#)
 - 10.1.1.6.2. [Effective School Solutions: Building Acceptance and Awareness in April](#)
 - 10.1.1.6.3. [Effective School Solutions: Effective Behavioral Management Techniques](#)
- 10.2. Reports
 - 10.2.1. General Reports - None
 - 10.2.2. Administrator Reports
 - 10.2.2.1. [May 2025](#)
 - 10.2.2.2. Thomaston Public Schools Curriculum Guides
 - 10.2.2.2.1. [High School Outdoor Adventure](#)
 - 10.2.2.2.2. [High School Physical Education 9](#)

- 10.2.2.2.3. [Unified Sports](#)
- 10.2.2.2.4. [7th Grade Wellness](#)
- 10.2.2.2.5. [8th Grade Wellness](#)

Nathan Vieira motioned and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve the High School Outdoor Adventure Curriculum Guide, the High School Physical Education 9 Curriculum Guide, the Unified Sports Curriculum Guide, the 7th Grade Wellness Curriculum Guide and the 8th Grade Wellness Curriculum Guide as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

- 10.2.3. Residency - None
[\(Policy 5118 - Students - Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students\)](#)
- 10.2.4. Student Discipline
[\(Policy 5144 Students - Discipline\)](#)
 - 10.2.4.1. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student XXI
- 10.2.5. Homeschooling - None
[\(Policy 6172.3 - Instruction - Home Schooling\)](#)
- 10.2.6. Enrollment Report
[\(Policy 5112 Students - Age of Attendance\)](#)
 - 10.2.6.1. [May 1, 2025](#)
- 10.3. Personnel *(*Denotes Effective Date)*
[\(Policy 4112/4212 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment\)](#)
 - 10.3.1. New Hires
 - 10.3.1.1. Shana Marques, School Social Worker, Black Rock School*May 27, 2025
 - 10.3.1.2. Veronica Rinaldi, full-time Paraprofessional, Thomaston Center School*May 5, 2025
 - 10.3.2. Transfer/New Assignment/Reassignment - None
 - 10.3.3. Resignations
 - 10.3.3.1. Elizabeth Dean, Science Teacher, Thomaston High School*June 11, 2025
 - 10.3.3.2. Katelyn Riggs, Family and Consumer Science Teacher, Thomaston High School*June 11, 2025
 - 10.3.4. Retirements - None
 - 10.3.5. Terminations/Non-Renewals - None
 - 10.3.6. Stipends - 2024-2025 - None
 - 10.3.7. Stipends - Spring Coach - 2024-2025
 - 10.3.7.1. Megan Fitzgerald - Tennis Girls Varsity Coach
 - 10.3.7.2. Allison Hart - Track & Field Middle School B Team Coach
 - 10.3.7.3. Katherine Orsini - Tennis Boys/Girls Assistant Coach

Steven Carr motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to acknowledge the Superintendent's notification of Personnel, specifically, New Hires/Transfers/New Assignments/Reassignment/Resignations/Retirements /Terminations/Non-Renewals/Stipends per Policy 4112/4212 Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment as presented.

Discussion: None

Chairperson Roxy Fainer conducted a roll call on the motion. The results were as follows:

Matthew VanOrmer – Yea

Nathan Vieira – Nay

Tanya Galpin – Nay

Frank Treglia – Yea

Steven Carr – Yea

Sarah Ethier – Nay

Beth Campbell – Abstain

Roxy Fainer – Yea

Result: Motion Carried (4 Yea- 3 Nay-1 Abstention)

- 10.3.8. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
[\(Policy 4152.6/4252.6 - Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act\)](#)
 - 10.3.8.1. [Employee R](#)
 - 10.3.8.2. [Employee S](#)
- 10.3.9. Interns and Student Teachers - None
[\(Policy 1212-Community Relations-School Volunteers\)](#)
- 10.3.10. Field Trips - None
[\(Policy 6153-Instruction - Field Trips - Secondary Schools\)](#)

- 10.3.11. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies - None
(Policy 3260 Business/Non-Instructional Operations Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies)

11. Committee Reports ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9132 – Standing Committees and Bylaws of the Board 9133 – Special Committees/Advisory Committees)

- 11.1. [Achievement Committee Meeting - April 30, 2025](#)
11.2. Budget Audit Committee - May 7, 2025
11.2.1. [April 2025 Business Manager's Report](#)
11.2.1.1. Expenditures for the Month: \$1,647,928.32

Steven Carr motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to accept/approve the Business and Finance Report and Expenditures per Policy 3432/3433 Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement as presented for April 2025.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

- 11.3. [Policy Committee - May 12, 2025](#)
(Policy 2231–Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to accept/approve New Policy 6142.104 - Play-Based Learning as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Nathan Vieira**

Motion Carried: 7-0-1

- 11.3.1. New Policy 6148 - FAFSA Completion Program

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to accept/approve New Policy 6148 - FAFSA Completion Program as presented.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: **Nathan Vieira**

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-1-0

- 11.3.2. Policy 5114 - Removal/Suspension/Expulsion

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve Policy 5114 - Removal/Suspension/Expulsion as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

- 11.3.3. Policy 4115.3 - Evaluation - Coaches

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Steven Carr seconded to accept/approve Policy 4115.3 - Evaluation - Coaches as presented.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

12. Enter into Executive Session for the purpose of self-assessment of individual members of the Leadership Team including discussion regarding goal attainment and handling of unanticipated challenges

(Bylaws of the Board 9322 - Public and Executive Session)

- 12.1. [Policy 2400 - Evaluation of the Superintendent](#)
12.2. [Form 1 - Board of Education Self-Evaluation](#)

Steven Carr motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to enter into Executive Session at 8:54p.m. for the purpose of self-assessment of individual members of the Leadership Team including discussion regarding goal attainment and handling of unanticipated challenges and inviting **Francine Coss**.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

13. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session - 9:37p.m.

No action taken in Executive Session

- 14. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of Superintendent Francine Coss' presentation of "year in review" self-assessment to the Board of Education regarding his/her performance.**

(Bylaws of the Board 9322 - Public and Executive Sessions)

Sarah Ethier motioned and Beth Campbell seconded to enter Executive Session at 9:39p.m. for the purpose of **Superintendent Francine Coss'** presentation of "year in review" self-assessment to the Board of Education regarding his/her performance.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

14.1. [Policy 2400 - Evaluation of the Superintendent](#)

14.2. [Superintendent Evaluation Form](#)

- 15. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session - 10:16p.m.**

No action taken in Executive Session

- 16. Adjournment**

Steven Carr motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

Chairperson Roxy Fainer adjourned the meeting at 10:16 p.m.