

Thomaston BOE Special Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/17/2025

Board Members present:

- Roxy Fainer
- Matthew VanOrmer
- Steven Carr

Meeting called to order.

Approximately 10:34 a.m.

Motion to go into executive session made by R. Fainer.

Moved that the Board enter executive session to discuss a confidential student matter regarding Student II.

Seconded by M. VanOrmer.

Approved 3 - 0.

Approximately 10:36 a.m.

The Board invited the following individuals (in addition to Board members and its counsel, Abby R. Booth, Esq.) into the executive session:

- Francine Coss, Superintendent
- Daniel Murphy, Attorney for the Administration
- David Vecca, THS Assistant Principal
- Christine Golino, Social Worker
- Andrea Peters, Director of Pupil Services
- Student II's Parent

Everyone excused for Board deliberations, except for Board counsel, Abby R. Booth.
Approximately 11:40 a.m.

Meeting resumes. All meeting participants return. Approximately 12:00 pm.

R. Fainer makes the following motion in open session:

Moved, that this committee finds, based on the evidence in the record, that the student who is the subject of this residency hearing currently has a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence in the City of Stamford and is therefore not entitled to school accommodations provided or funded by the Thomaston Board of Education, and MOVED further that the Chairperson of this committee be authorized to issue a written decision on behalf of the Committee consistent with this motion setting forth the basis for the Committee's determination in this matter.

Seconded by M. VanOrmer

Approved 3 - 0.

Approximately 12:01 p.m.

Motion to Enter a Recess made by R. Fainer.

Seconded by M. VanOrmer.

Approved 3-0

Board in Recess. Approximately 12:05 p.m.

Meeting called out of recess.

Approximately 1:03 p.m.

Motion to go into executive session made by R. Fainer.

Moved that the Board enter executive session to discuss a confidential student matter regarding Student V.

Seconded by M. VanOrmer.

Approved 3 - 0.

Approximately 1:05 p.m.

The Board invited the following individuals (in addition to Board members and its counsel, Abby R. Booth, Esq.) into the executive session:

- Francine Coss, Superintendent
- Daniel Murphy, Attorney for the Administration
- David Vecca, THS Assistant Principal
- Student V
- Student V's Parents

Everyone excused for Board deliberations, except for Board counsel, Abby R. Booth.
Approximately 1:22 p.m.

Meeting resumes. All meeting participants return. Approximately 1:26 p.m.

R. Fainer makes the following motion in open session:

MOVED, that the Thomaston Board of Education find that the Student who is the subject of this hearing was, on October 29, 2025, in possession of two vape pens containing THC, which conduct was seriously disruptive of the educational process, endangered persons or property and violated publicized policies of the Board of Education, and constitutes an expellable offense.

Seconded by M. VanOrmer

Approved 3 - 0.

Approximately 1:26 p.m.

Moved that the Board enter executive session to discuss a confidential student matter.

Moved by R. Fainer, seconded by M. VanOrmer.

Approved 3 - 0.

Approximately 1:28 p.m.

The Board invited the same individuals as listed above (in addition to Board members and Board counsel, Abby R. Booth) into the executive session:

Approximately 1:56 p.m.

Everyone excused for Board deliberations, except for Board counsel, Abby Booth.

Approximately 2:13 p.m.

The Board returned to public session. R. Fainer read the following motion in public session:

MOVED, further that the student who is the subject of this hearing shall be expelled from the Thomaston Public Schools for one calendar year from the date of the incident, October 29, 2025 and continuing through October 28, 2026, and that the student be provided an alternative educational program as provided by the law. During the period of the expulsion the student who is the subject of this hearing shall not be allowed to enter any school property and/or participate in any school sponsored events and activities except for the student's participation in the alternative educational opportunity provided by the Thomaston Public Schools or as otherwise expressly authorized in writing by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee. During the expulsion period, the student shall receive an alternative educational opportunity in accordance with the law.

The student may be permitted early readmission to school on or about the first day of the Third Quarter of the 2025-2026 school year if the Superintendent finds, in the Superintendent's sole discretion, that the student has met the following conditions:

- 1) The student must make a good faith effort to succeed in the alternative educational opportunity during the period of expulsion, by attending and participating in the program regularly, completing assignments in a timely manner, having passing grades, having no unexcused absences and otherwise demonstrating a good faith effort to succeed in the program;*
- 2) The student must not engage in any conduct that would warrant an in or out of school suspension and/or expulsion under the policies of the Thomaston Board of Education as determined by the Superintendent;*
- 3) The student must participate in counseling in a form and frequency as approved by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee at Parent expense, if any; and*
- 4) Participate in drug screening in a form and frequency determined by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee at Parent expense, if any, with no test indicating the presence of illegal or non-prescribed substances.*

If readmitted early, the student will be on probation for the remainder of the original expulsion period. During the probation period, the student must:

- 1) *Continue to meet conditions 2, 3 & 4 described above;*
- 2) *Turn over all electronic communication devices to school staff at the commencement of each school day or at any time while on school grounds;*
- 3) *Leave his backpack / bag in the main office each school day;*
- 4) *Only use the bathroom in the nurse's office;*
- 5) *Be subject to daily searches of his bag and person, as well as unannounced locker and personal property checks;*
- 6) *Receive weekly check-ins and structured guidance from his assigned adult mentor, Lisa Lavoie; and*
- 7) *Attend mandated, regular meetings with a school counselor or administrator to proactively address any potential setbacks or academic issues related to missed assignments.*

If the student violates any of the conditions of this probationary period, the Superintendent is authorized to reinstate the remaining term of the student's expulsion without the necessity of any further action by the Board.

Moved by R. Fainer, seconded by M. VanOrmer.

Approved 3-0.

Motion to Adjourn.

Moved by F. Fainer, seconded by M. VanOrmer.

Approved 3-0

Approximately 2:17 p.m.

Adjourned.