



MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Thomaston Town Hall Meeting Room One
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)

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.

2025-2026 Board of Education Goals:

1. By June 2026, the Thomaston Board of Education will adopt a districtwide curriculum alignment policy requiring that all English Language Arts (ELA) curriculum documents in grades PreK–12 explicitly identify connections to the Portrait of a Graduate (POG) competencies, as evidenced by formally approved curriculum maps that include POG indicators and a documented review process.
2. By June 2026, the Thomaston Board of Education will adopt a family-school communication policy that streamlines districtwide messaging practices as evidenced by published protocols and parent school climate survey results.

Members:

Nathan Vieira, Chairperson
Cara Files
Amy Sedgwick
Zachary Brostek, Student Representative

Sarah Ethier, Vice Chairperson
Tanya Galpin, Secretary
Francine Coss, Superintendent
Larry Duffany

Marissa McGee, Treasurer
Roxy Fainer
[Vacant]
Dustin Galpin, Student Representative

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

(Bylaws of the Board 9325.1-Quorum)

- 1.1. **Vice Chairperson Sarah Ethier** called the meeting to order at 6:00p.m
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Vice Chairperson Sarah Ethier, Treasurer Marissa McGee, Secretary Tanya Galpin, Cara Files, Roxy Fainer, Amy Sedgwick, Larry Duffany** (*Larry departed the meeting @7:35p.m.*), **Superintendent Francine Coss**
- 1.3. Board Member Absent: **Chairperson Nathan Vieira**
- 1.4. Student Representatives Absent: **Dustin Galpin, Zachary Brostek** (*the student representatives were not required to attend this meeting*)
- 1.5. Others in Attendance: First Selectman Rich Sileo, Allan Olivero, Chip Quinn, Katie McDonald, Melanie Dobos, Tim Farrell, Greg Smolley, Jim Barrett, Matthew VanOrmer, George Seabourne, Mike Madow, Michelina Stanley

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Presentation of Feasibility Study – Drummey Rosane Anderson, Inc (DRA)

- 3.1. **[Thomaston Public Schools Facility Usage & Regionalization](#)**

[District-Wide Study Presentation – Greg Smolley and Jim Barrett \(DRA\)](#)

4. Board of Education Discussion and Q & A

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

(Bylaws of the Board 9325 – Meeting Conduct and Community Relations 1120 – Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings)

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

- **TIME LIMITS:** Five minutes may be allotted to each speaker and a maximum of twenty minutes to each subject matter, unless modified by the Chairperson to ensure fairness or to accommodate significant public interest.
- **ORDER and DISRUPTION:** Conduct that materially disrupts the orderly conduct of the meeting shall not be permitted. A speaker who persists in materially disruptive conduct after warning may have their privilege of address terminated by the Chairperson solely to restore order. If necessary to restore order, the Chairperson may take reasonable steps consistent with constitutional standards to allow the Board to continue the meeting.
- **STUDENTS and PERSONNEL MATTERS:** Consistent with Policy 1120, oral presentations shall not be used to address confidential student matters or confidential personnel matters. Comments involving such matters may be redirected to appropriate administrative or statutory processes in order to protect privacy, due process, and legal obligations. This provision shall be applied in a viewpoint-neutral manner.
- **CIVILITY and LEGAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Speakers shall conduct themselves in a manner that does not materially disrupt the meeting. Speech shall not be restricted based on viewpoint, criticism, tone, or disagreement with the Board, its members, or its policies. While the Board does not seek to stifle public comment, speakers remain legally responsible for their own statements. Nothing in this policy shall be construed as prior restraint or as a determination by the Board regarding the legality of any comment.
- **LIMITED BOARD RESPONSE:**
 - 1) Chair-Only Response – The Board Chairperson may, at their discretion, provide a brief and limited response following public comment.
 - 2) Permitted Scope of Response – Any response shall be limited to one or more of the following purposes:
 - Acknowledging the speaker's comments.
 - Clarifying Board policy or procedure.
 - Correcting clear factual inaccuracies related to publicly available information.
 - Explaining the appropriate process for addressing a concern.
 - Indicating that a matter may be considered for inclusion on a future agenda.
 - 3) Informational Nature – Responses are informational only and shall not constitute debate, deliberation, or Board action.
 - 4) No Dialogue – Public participation shall not be used as a forum for dialogue. Speakers shall not engage in rebuttal or follow-up during the public comment period.
 - 5) Discretion Not to Respond – The Board Chairperson is not required to respond to every comment at the meeting. The absence of a response shall not be construed as agreement or disagreement.

Mr. Mike Madow

Mr. Madow's comment can be accessed [here](#)

Attorney George Seabourne

Attorney Seabourne's comment can be accessed [here](#)

Mr. Chip Quinn

Mr. Quinn's comment can be accessed [here](#)

6. Board of Education Discussion and Q & A

Potential Action Related to the Discussion of the Feasibility Study

A discussion took place. There was no action taken.

7. Adjournment

Tanya Galpin *motioned and Cara Files seconded to adjourn.*

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 6-0-0

Vice Chairperson Sarah Ethier *adjourned the meeting at 7:51p.m.*