



MINUTES THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, January 12, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Due to the cancellation of school due to water issues in town, this meeting was held virtually. A ParentSquare notification was sent to the district families and staff.

This meeting can be attended in person by the public or viewed live/recorded on the [Board of Education YouTube Channel](#).

If school or afterschool/evening activities are canceled: The Board of Education meeting will be held virtually only (no in-person meeting). If the meeting is virtual-only and public comment is on the agenda, comments must be emailed to mstanley@thomastonschools.org at least one hour before the meeting starts.

(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
Larry Duffany

Sarah Ethier, Vice Chairperson
Francine Coss, Superintendent
G Wilmont Hungerford, Student Representative
Lucas Koval, Student Representative
Tyler Veronesi, Student Representative

Tanya Galpin, Secretary
Marissa McGee Treasurer
Anthony Kepler
Roxy Fainer

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

(Bylaws of the Board 9325.1-Quorum)

- 1.1. Chairperson **Nathan Vieira** called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Nathan Vieira, Vice Chairperson Sarah Ethier, Treasurer Marissa McGee, Secretary Tanya Galpin, Roxy Fainer, Cara Files, Larry Duffany, Amy Sedgwick, Anthony Kepler (joined the meeting at 7:09p.m.), Superintendent Francine Coss**
- 1.3. Student Representatives in Virtual Attendance: **G Wilmont Hungerford**
- 1.4. Student Representative Absent: **Lucas Koval, Tyler Veronesi:** (only two students are scheduled to attend each board meeting, as part of a rotating system designed to provide all student representatives the opportunity to participate)
- 1.5. Administrators in Virtual Attendance: **Kristin Bernier, Cristina Kingsbury, Andrea Peters, David Vecca**
- 1.6. Others in Attendance: **Michelina Stanley, Makenzie Chasse**

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda ▲

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

Larry Duffany motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded to accept the agenda dated January 12, 2026 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Nathan Vieira**

Motion Carried: 7-0-1

4. Public Participation ▲▲▲ (to be read aloud by the Board Chairperson prior to soliciting public comment) – NONE

(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 ramifications 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. Speakers will not receive a verbal reply to public comment during a meeting. The written response will be linked to the minutes of the meeting during which the comments were made and the same response will be linked to the agenda of the next Regular Meeting of the Board of Education under "Chairperson Report."

5. Approval of Minutes ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9326 – Minutes)

5.1. Regular Meeting Minutes – December 8, 2025

Larry Duffany motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded to accept the Regular Meeting Minutes dated December 8, 2025 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Nathan Vieira**

Motion Carried: 7-0-1

5.2. Thomaston Board of Education Budget Workshop – December 15, 2025

Larry Duffany motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded to accept the Thomaston Board of Education Budget Workshop Minutes dated December 15, 2025 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Nathan Vieira**

Motion Carried: 8-0-1

6. Recognitions ▲

(Policy 1170 – 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. Student Shout-Out

6.1.1. Rotary Student of the Month – December 2025 – Abigail Sedgwick

6.1.2. Students of the Month – December 2025

Grade 12: Abigail Sedgwick
Grade 8: Olivia Moher
Grade 4: Jayce Garnett
Kindergarten: Lucca Rinaldi

Grade 11: Landen DeLeon
Grade 7: Leila Riccucci
Grade 3: Charlie McEvoy
Preschool: Greta Barrett

Grade 10: Ted Valero
Grade 6: Owen Hawley
Grade 2: Mack Fayer

Grade 9: Spencer Dobos
Grade 5: Roman Moore
Grade 1: Ella Novakowski

6.2. Staff Shout-Out

6.2.1. January 2026 Staff Spotlight: Susan Heiland – Literacy Interventionist, Black Rock School

7. Presentations ▲▲▲ – None

(Bylaws of the Board 9125 – Attorney)

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 2025-2026 Goals for the Thomaston Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools

9.2. Response to Public Comments – December 8, 2025 Regular Meeting

9.3. Discussion Regarding On-Call Schedule for Residency and Expulsion Hearings

9.4. Feasibility Study Update

9.5. Meeting Calendars

9.5.1. 2026-2027 Budget/Audit Committee Meeting Calendar Update

9.5.2. 2026-2027 Policy Committee Meeting Calendar (start time changed from 5:00 p.m to 5:15 p.m.)

Tanya Galpin motioned and Cara Files seconded to accept the 2026-2027 Policy Meeting Calendar to start at 5:15 on the first Monday of every month except for September which would be the first Tuesday of the month as presented.

Discussion Link

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Nathan Vieira**

Motion Carried: 8-0-1

10. Superintendent's Report ▲▲▲

(Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)

10.1. Correspondence

10.1.1. From Superintendent Policy 2131

10.1.1.1. Thank You Letter to Presenter – Regular Meeting of the BOE – December 8, 2025

10.1.1.2. ParentSquare Correspondence from Superintendent – Posts/Alerts

10.1.1.2.1. Thank You, December 8, 2025 at 9:06AM EST

10.1.1.2.2. Happy Holidays! December 20, 2025 at 9:00AM EST

10.1.1.2.3. School is CANCELED December 23, 2025 at 4:44AM EST

10.1.1.2.4. 2025.12 Board of Education Happenings December 28, 2025 at 12:00PM EST

10.1.1.2.5. Happy New Year! January 1, 2026 at 12:00PM EST

10.1.1.2.6. Cancellation of all Afterschool and Evening Events, January 6, 2026 at 12:30PM EST

Larry Duffany motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded to acknowledge the Superintendent's correspondence per Policy 2131 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Nathan Vieira**

Motion Carried: 8-0-1

10.1.2. To Superintendent/Board of Education

- 10.1.2.1. [Effective School Solutions - December Insights & Solutions: Helping Students Navigate Social Stress](#)
- 10.1.2.2. [Student Assessment News - December 2025](#)
- 10.1.2.3. [Performance Matters - December 2025](#)
- 10.1.2.4. Holiday Greeting Cards
 - 10.1.2.4.1. [Thomaston Community Coalition](#)
 - 10.1.2.4.2. [Friar Architecture](#)
 - 10.1.2.4.3. [Superintendent Shawn Simpson - Wolcott Public Schools](#)
 - 10.1.2.4.4. [Superintendent Michael J. Wilson, Torrington Public Schools](#)

10.2. Reports

10.2.1. General Reports

- 10.2.1.1. Quarterly Goals Reports - Quarter 2 (October 1, 2025 – December 19, 2025)

Larry Duffany motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded to acknowledge the Quarterly Goals Reports - Quarter 2 (October 1, 2025 – December 19, 2025)

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Nathan Vieira**

Motion Carried: 8-0-1

- 10.2.1.2. [Thomaston Public Library Community Survey](#) - Thomaston High School Students

Tanya Galpin motioned and Marissa McGee seconded to accept the distribution of the Thomaston Public Library Community Survey to Thomaston High School students as presented.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Nathan Vieira**

Motion Carried: 8-0-1

10.2.2. Administrator Reports

- 10.2.2.1. [January 2026](#)

10.2.3. Residency

(Policy 5118-Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students)

- 10.2.3.1. Follow Up to Residency Determination Letter - Student VI

10.2.4. Student Discipline

(Policy 5144-Discipline)

- 10.2.4.1. Expulsion Hearing Cancellation Notice - Student VII

10.2.5. Homeschooling

(Policy 6172.3-Home Schooling)

- 10.2.5.1. Superintendent's Acknowledgement to Homeschool - Student B

10.2.6. Enrollment Report

(Policy 5112-Age of Attendance)

- 10.2.6.1. [January 5, 2026](#)

- 10.2.6.2. [2025-2026 Enrollment Projection Report - New England School Development Council \(NESDEC\)](#)

10.2.7. Personnel

(Policy 4112/4212-Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment)

10.2.7.1. New Hires

- 10.2.7.1.1. Janae Abraham-Lawrence, full-time Paraprofessional, Thomaston High School*December 15, 2025

- 10.2.7.1.2. Conni Longo, full-time Paraprofessional, Black Rock School*January 5, 2026

- 10.2.7.1.3. Jenna Nikirk, Preschool Teacher, Black Rock School*January 5, 2026

- 10.2.7.1.4. Elizabeth Sterner, Long-Term Substitute Teacher - Elementary (temporary), Black Rock School*December 16, 2026 - April 17, 2026

10.2.7.2. Transfer/New Assignment/Reassignment

- 10.2.7.2.1. Susan Heiland, Literacy Interventionist, additional work assignment - District-wide Multilingual Programming*November 6, 2025

10.2.7.3. Resignations

- 10.2.7.3.1. Andrea Butwell, Secretary - Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment, Thomaston Public Schools*January 9, 2026

- 10.2.7.3.2. Nicolas Dumont, Custodian II, Thomaston High School*January 5, 2026

10.2.7.4. Retirements - None

10.2.7.5. Terminations/Non-Renewals - None

10.2.7.6. Stipends - 2025-2026

- 10.2.7.6.1. Rachel Pelletier - Teacher in Charge - Black Rock School

Larry Duffany motioned and Amy Sedgwick seconded to acknowledge the Superintendent's notification of Personnel per Policy 4112/4212 Personnel – Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: Nathan Vieira, Roxy Fainer

Motion Carried: 7-0-2

10.2.7.7. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

(Policy 4152.6/4252.6-Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act)

10.2.7.7.1. Employee L

10.2.7.7.2. Employee M

10.2.7.7.3. Employee N

10.2.7.8. Interns and Student Teachers - None

(Policy 1212-School Volunteers)

10.2.8. Field Trips - None

(Policy 6153- Field Trips - Secondary Schools)

10.2.9. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies - None

(Policy 3260-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. Summary of Building Committee Meeting

11.2. Budget Audit Committee -January 7, 2026

11.2.1. December 2025 Business Manager's Report

11.2.2. Expenditures for the Month: \$1,303,709

Marissa McGee motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded to accept the Business and Finance Report and Expenditures per Policy 3432/3433 Business/Non-Instructional Operations - Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement as presented for December 2025.

Discussion

Opposed: None

Abstain: Nathan Vieira

Motion Carried: 8-0-1

11.3. Policy Committee - January 12, 2026

(Policy 2231-Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)

12. Adjournment

Tanya Galpin motioned and Larry Duffany seconded to adjourn.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: Nathan Vieira

Motion Carried: 8-0-1

Chairperson Nathan Vieira adjourned the meeting at 8:27 p.m.