MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 14, 2026 at 7:00 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.

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.

2026-2027 Board of Education Goals:

1. By June 2027, 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 2027, 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	Sarah Ethier, Vice Chairperson	Tanya Galpin, Secretary
Cara Files	Francine Coss, Superintendent	Marissa McGee Treasurer
Amy Sedgwick	Dustin Galpin, Student Representative	[Vacant]
Larry Duffany	Zachary Brostek, Student Representative	[Vacant]

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 7:04p.m.

1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Nathan Vieira, Vice Chairperson Sarah Ethier, Treasurer Marissa McGee, Secretary Tanya Galpin, Amy Sedgwick, Larry Duffany, Cara Files, Superintendent Francine Coss**

1.3. Student Representatives In Attendance: **Zachary Brostek, Dustin Galpin**

1.4. Administrators in Attendance: Stephen Barton, Kristin Bernier, Raymond Engle, Cristina Kingsbury, Jonathan Kozlak

1.5. Others in Attendance: First Selectman Rich Sileo, Becky Guay, Chip Quinn, Julie Ingham, Jen O'Neil, Heidi Laus, Kelly Dube, Frank Treglia, Pat Chasse, Jennifer Chasse, Colten Chasse, Michelina Stanley

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)

***Sarah Ethier motioned and Larry Duffany seconded** to accept the agenda dated September 14, 2026 as presented.*

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-0-0

4. Public Participation ▲▲▲ None

(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.

5. Consent Agenda ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9325.21 - Consent Agenda)

5.1. Meeting Minutes

5.1.1. Regular Meeting Minutes - August 17, 2026

5.1.2. Special Meeting Minutes - August 28, 2026

5.2. Superintendent Communication

5.2.1. ParentSquare Correspondence from Superintendent - Posts/Alerts

5.2.1.1. URGENT - Annual Emergency Contact/Permissions Update - August 25, 2026 at 2:20PM EST*

5.2.1.2. Free Backpacks & Lunch Boxes - August 24, 2026 at 12:06PM EST

5.2.1.3. Custodian II (night shift) - Permanent, Full time - August 26, 2026 at 10:12AM EST

5.2.1.4. Free Backpacks & Lunch Boxes - August 26, 2026 at 2:31PM EST

5.2.1.5. IMPORTANT Annual Emergency Contact/Permissions Update - August 18, 2026 at 6:52AM EST*

**These messages were sent only to those families who had not completed eCollect*

5.3. Personnel

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

5.3.1. New Hires

5.3.1.1. Nur Abdulhayoglu, Science Teacher, Thomaston High School*August 21, 2026

5.3.1.2. Denise Bush, Long-term Substitute Preschool Teacher, Black Rock School*August 21, 2026

5.3.1.3. Kristen Callahan - Registered Behavior Technician*August 24, 2026

5.3.1.4. Shea Boisvert, Cafeteria Worker, Thomaston Center School*August 21, 2026

5.3.1.5. Raymond Engle, Interim Business Manager, Thomaston Public Schools*August 17, 2026

5.3.1.6. Jaclyn Goodrich, Elementary Teacher, Thomaston Center School*August 21, 2026

5.3.1.7. Alex Kasperuk, History/Social Studies Teacher, Thomaston High School*August 21, 2026

5.3.1.8. Sarah Keane, Long-Term Substitute Preschool Teacher, Black Rock School*August 21, 2026

5.3.1.9. Cheyenne Wheeler, full-time Paraprofessional, Black Rock School*August 31, 2026

5.3.2. Transfer/New Assignment/Reassignment

5.3.2.1. Extension of Normal Workday Hours - 2026-2027 - Black Rock School

5.3.2.1.1. Gabrielle Malick - Paraprofessional

5.3.2.1.2. Kaitlin Suckley - Paraprofessional

5.3.2.1.3. Sara Walker - Paraprofessional

5.3.3. Resignations
5.3.3.1. Kelly DiDonato, Cafeteria Worker, Thomaston High School*August 17, 2026
5.3.3.2. Jessica Fistola, History/Social Studies Teacher, Thomaston High School*August 28, 2026
5.3.3.3. Allison Hart, Building Substitute Teacher, Thomaston Center School*September 7, 2026
5.3.4. Retirements - None
5.3.5. Terminations/Non-Renewals
5.3.5.1. Miriam Garcia, Payroll Staff Accountant*August 28, 2026
5.3.6. Stipends - 2026-2027
5.3.6.1. Stephen Barton - Transition Facilitator
5.3.6.2. David Vecca - District School Climate Coordinator
5.4. Business Manager's Report
5.4.1. August 2026 Business Manager's Report

Larry Duffany motioned and Sarah Ethier seconded *to accept the items listed on the consent agenda as presented.*
Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: ***Tanya Galpin***
Motion Carried: 6-0-1

Sarah Ethier motioned and Amy Sedgwick seconded *to provide Tracy Decker, Town of Thomaston Finance Director, and Town-designated staff "read only" access to Board of Education financial and payroll records in preparation for and to assist in the Special Operational and Internal Controls Review of the Board of Education Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Operating Budget Overspend of Board of Education Finances.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

6. Recognitions ▲
6.1. Student Shout Out
6.1.1. Thomaston Center School Award-Winning Gardener Club
6.2. Staff Shout Outs
6.2.1. Rachel Bip - 2027 Paraprofessional of the Year, Thomaston High School
6.2.2. Eileen Stowe - 2027 Teacher of the Year, Thomaston High School
6.2.3. Jennifer Zarrilli - Eyewitness News Extra Video - Healthy School Lunch Tips

7. Presentations ▲▲▲ - None
Bylaws of the Board 9410 - Public Announcement of Accomplishments)

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. Appointment of Board Members
9.1.1. Bylaw 9221 - Filling Vacancies
9.1.2. Resignation of Matthew Vanormer, Board of Education Member (verbal resignation during August 17, 2026 Regular Meeting)
9.1.2.1. Resignation of Matthew VanOrmer, Board of Education Member (follow-up, written resignation)
9.1.3. Resignation of Roxy Fainer, Board of Education Member (verbal resignation during August 17, 2026 Regular Meeting)
9.1.3.1. Resignation of Roxy Fainer, Board of Education Member (follow-up, written resignation)
9.1.4. Filling Vacancies
9.1.4.1. Filling Vacancy: Matthew VanOrmer
9.1.4.1.1. Nominations from Board of Education Members
9.1.4.2. Filling Vacancy: Roxy Fainer
9.1.4.2.1. Nominations from Board of Education Members

Tanya Galpin *motioned to table the vacancies at this time until further Special Meeting and* ***Marissa McGee*** *seconded.*

Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

9.2. Potential Swearing in of Newly Appointed Board of Education Members
9.3. Thomaston Public Schools Convocation Follow Up - August 24, 2026
9.4. 2026 CABE Board Recognition Award Application

10. Superintendent's Report ▲▲▲
(Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools)

10.1. Correspondence
10.1.1. From Superintendent *(see agenda item 5.2)*
10.1.2. To Superintendent/Board of Education
10.1.2.1. Performance Matters - August 2026
10.1.2.2. 2026-2027 Member District Calendar - EdAdvance

10.2. Reports
10.2.1. General Reports
10.2.1.1. Food Service Report - Thomaston Public Schools
10.2.1.1.1. Connecticut State Department of Education Authorized Signatures Change Form

Larry Duffany motioned and Amy Sedgwick seconded *to accept the Connecticut State Department of Education Authorized Signatures Change Form as presented.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

10.2.1.2. Connecticut Career Pathways Commission Student Survey - Thomaston High School Students

Tanya Galpin ***motioned and Amy Sedgwick seconded*** *to accept the distribution of the Connecticut Career Pathways Commission Student Survey to Thomaston High School students as presented.*
Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

10.2.2. Administrator Reports
10.2.2.1. September 2026
10.2.2.2. Computer Applications Fall Curriculum 2026

Tanya Galpin motioned and Marissa McGee seconded *to accept the Curriculum Applications Fall Curriculum 2026 as presented.*
Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

10.2.3. Residency - None
(Policy 5118-Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students
10.2.4. Student Discipline - None
(Policy 5144-Discipline)
10.2.5. Homeschooling
(Policy 6172.3-Home Schooling)
10.2.5.1. Superintendent's Acknowledgement to Homeschool - Student A
10.2.6. Enrollment Report
(Policy 5112-Age of Attendance)
September 2026
10.2.7. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) - None
(Policy 4152.6/4252.6-Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act
10.2.8. Interns and Student Teachers - None
(Policy 1212-School Volunteers)
10.2.9. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies
(Policy 3260-Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies)
10.2.9.1. Superintendent's Acknowledgement for Disposal of Books - Kristin Bernier, Principal, Thomaston Center School
10.2.10. Field Trips
(Policy 6153- Field Trips - Secondary Schools)
10.2.10.1. MJ the Musical, New York City - Drama Club - November 4, 2026

Tanya Galpin motioned and Marissa McGee seconded *to accept MJ the Musical field trip planned for November 4, 2026 as presented.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

11. Committee Reports ▲
(Bylaws of the Board 9132-Standing Committees and Bylaws of the Board 9133-Special Committees/Advisory Committees)

11.1. Budget Audit Committee - September 9, 2026
11.1.1. Thomaston Public Schools 2025-2026 Budget Deficit Update
11.1.2. Cumulative Expenditures July and August Fiscal Year 26-27: $623,983.38
11.1.3. Budget Audit Committee Meeting Schedule Change - Change from Wednesday mornings at 8:00a.m. to the evening of the Regular Meetings of the Board of Education at 5:30p.m. beginning October 2026
11.2. Policy Committee - September 8, 2026
(Policy 2231-Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)

Per the Bylaws 9311 of the Thomaston Board of Education, policies will be adopted or amended after consideration at 2 regular meetings of the Board of Education, unless by vote of two-thirds of the members present at a Board of Education meeting, the Board permits a "fast tracking" of the policy adoption or amendment.

Sarah Ethier motioned and Larry Duffany seconded *to accept that the Policy Committee's proposed amendments to Policy 4112.8-4212.8 - (Nepotism: Employment of Relatives), Policy 4112 (Appointment to Positions), and Policy 9270 (Conflict of Interest) be permitted for "fast tracking" by two-thirds vote of the members present at tonight's Board of Education meeting.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

Sarah Ethier motioned and Marissa McGee seconded *to accept Policy 4112.8-4212.8 - (Nepotism: Employment of Relatives), Policy 4112 (Appointment to Positions), and Policy 9270 (Conflict of Interest) as presented.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

12. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of strategy and negotiations with respect to the collective bargaining unit with the Thomaston School Administrators Association.
Sarah Ethier motioned and Larry Duffany seconded *to enter into Executive Session at 7:49 p.m. for the purpose of strategy and negotiations with respect to the collective bargaining unit between the Thomaston Board of Education and Thomaston School Administrators Association regarding the contract dated July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2031, and invite* ***Superintendent Coss****.*
Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

13. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session Potential action on the matters discussed in Executive Session. - 8:02p.m.
Sarah Ethier *motioned to accept the collective bargaining unit between the Thomaston Board of Education and Thomaston School Administrators Association regarding the contract dated July 1, 2027 through June 30, 2031, as presented and* ***Larry Duffany*** *seconded.*
Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

Agenda item #9.4, the motion to accept the CABE Application Award, was addressed at this time.
Tanya Galpin motioned and Larry Duffany seconded *to accept the CABE Award Application as presented.*
Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

14. Board Response to Special Operational and Internal Controls Review of the Board of Education Fiscal Year 2025–2026 Operating Budget Overspend of Board of Education Finances
Nathan Vieira *entertained a motion that all board employees are directed to preserve all district records related to the board's budget and expenditures for the 2025, 2026, and 2026, 2027 school years.*
Larry Duffany *moved and* ***Marissa McGee*** *seconded.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

Nathan Vieira *entertained a motion to amend the agenda by a 2/3 vote of members present to add a motion to place the superintendent on leave with pay without prejudice pending the audit of board finances by the town.* ***Marissa McGee*** *moved and* ***Sarah Ethier*** *seconded.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

Nathan Vieira *asked for a motion to place the superintendent on leave with pay and without prejudice pending the audit of board finances by the town.* ***Larry Duffany*** *moved and* ***Marissa McGee*** *seconded.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

Nathan Vieira *made a motion to amend the agenda by a two thirds vote of members present to add a motion to appoint Mark Winsler to serve as interim superintendent. The superintendent is on leave and the board chair is thereby authorized to enter into the related contract of employment on behalf of the board.* ***Larry Duffany*** *moved and* ***Sarah Ethier*** *seconded.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

Nathan Vieira *entertained a subsequent motion to appoint Mark Winsler to serve as interim superintendent while the superintendent is on leave so that the board chair is hereby authorized to enter into the related contract of employment on behalf of the board.* ***Larry Duffany*** *moved and* ***Sarah Ethier*** *seconded.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0

15. Adjournment
Larry Duffany motioned and Amy Sedgwick seconded *to adjourn.*
Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-0-0
Chairperson Nathan Vieira *adjourned the meeting at 8:36p.m.*