MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 19, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. Thomaston Town Hall - Lena Morton Gallery
(the meeting location was changed from Meeting Room One to the Lena Morton Gallery to accommodate the large number of attendees)

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	Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent	Marissa McGee Treasurer
Amy Sedgwick	Dustin Galpin, Student Representative	Rebecca Shypinka
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 7:10p.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, Rebecca Shypinka, Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler**
   1.3. Student Representative In Attendance:**Dustin Galpin**
   1.4. Student Representative Absent: **Zachary Brostek**
   1.5. Administrators in Attendance: Stephen Barton, Kristin Bernier, Raymond Engle, Cristina Kingsbury, David Vecca, Jonathan Kozlak, Pamela Nascimento
   1.6. Others in Attendance: First Selectman Rich Sileo, Karen Payne, Cindy Sabolcik, Beverly Johnson, Jose Ortiz, Kelly Dube, Rachel Pelletier, Julia Kunic, Cheyenne Kiely, Kelsey Murzak, Heid Laus, Michelle Pope, Sarah DeMatteis, Tammy Dumas, D. John Long, Holly Hernandez, Bree Riollano, Shana Marques, Chris Golino, Theresa Tortorici, Jennifer Sirois, Kim Guerrera, Janice Ellis, Dante Coviello, Michelle Dayton, Susan Abbott, Kelly Finlay, Josh Steibel, Colten Chasse, Jen 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)
***Larry Duffany motioned and Marissa McGee seconded** to accept the agenda dated October 19, 2026 as presented.*
Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 8-0-0

4. Public Participation ▲▲▲

(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.

Heidi Laus - President of the Thomaston Education Association
Ms. Laus' comment can be heard here

Mr. John Long - Thomaston Resident, Taxpayer and Teacher
Mr. John Long's comment can be heard here

Michelle Pope - Teacher
Ms. Pope's comment can be heard here

Theresa Tortorici - Teacher, Parent and Thomaston Resident
Ms. Tortorici's comment can be heard here

Jen Chasse - Parent
Ms. Chasse's comment can be heard here

Larry Duffany - Resident and Educator
Mr. Duffany's comment can be heard here

Sarah Ethier - Parent and Educator
Ms. Ethier's comment can be heard here

Amy Sedgwick - Parent and Local Mental Health Provider
Ms. Sedgwick's comment can be heard here

5. **Consent Agenda** ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9325.21 - Consent Agenda)

5.1. Meeting Minutes

5.1.1. Regular Meeting Minutes - September 14, 2026

5.1.2. Special Meeting Minutes - October 1, 2026

5.2. Superintendent Communication

5.2.1. ParentSquare Correspondence from Superintendent - Posts/Alerts

5.2.1.1. Thomaston Never Forgets - September 11, 2026 - 8:45AM EST

5.2.1.2. Message from Mr. Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent, Thomaston Public Schools - September 23, 2026 at 10:09AM EST*

5.2.1.3. Fire Alarm Notification - Thomaston High School - October 1, 2026 - 12:48PM EST

**These messages were sent by Michelina Stanley, Executive Assistant to the Interim Superintendent, on behalf of Mr. Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent*

5.3. Personnel

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

5.3.1. New Hires

5.3.1.1. Lauren Grant - NAEYC Qualified Paraprofessional, Black Rock School*September 8, 2026

5.3.1.2. Saavik Pimienta - full-time Paraprofessional, Thomaston center School*September 21, 2026

5.3.1.3. Yahbidiel Ruiz, full-time Custodian, Thomaston Center School*September 21, 2026

5.3.1.4. Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent, Thomaston Public Schools*September 15, 2026

5.3.2. Transfer/New Assignment/Reassignment

5.3.2.1. Theresa Gambino, from Full Time Custodian, Black Rock School to Full Time Custodian, Thomaston Center School*October 19, 2026

5.3.2.2. Sarah Keane, from Long-term Substitute Teacher,Black Rock School to full-time NAEYC Qualified Paraprofessional, Black Rock School*September 28, 2026

5.3.2.3. Theresa Wellbrock, from part-time Lunch Monitor to Building Substitute Teacher, Thomaston Center School*September 24, 2026

5.3.3. Resignations - None

5.3.4. Retirements - None

5.3.5. Terminations/Non-Renewals - None

5.3.6. Stipends - 2026-2027

5.3.6.1. Susan Abbott - National Honor Society Advisor - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.2. Susan Abbott - Grade 10 Team Leader - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.3. Thomas Andronowitz - Web Page Coordinator - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.4. Stephen Barton - Transition Facilitator (Special Education) - Thomaston Public Schools

5.3.6.5. Michelle Dayton - Yearbook Advisor - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.6. Michelle Dayton - Grade 12 Class Advisor - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.7. Michelle Dayton - Communication Technology Coordinator - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.8. Michelle Dayton - Vocational Coordinator - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.9. Michelle Dayton - Computer Technology Coordinator - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.10. Sarah DeMatteis - Grade 6 Team Leader - Thomaston Center School

5.3.6.11. Geoff Dobos - Web Page Coordinator - Black Rock School

5.3.6.12. Kelly Dube - Pre K Team Leader - Black Rock School

5.3.6.13. Tammy Dumas - Special Education Program Coordinator - Thomaston Public Schools

5.3.6.14. Tammy Dumas - District PPT Facilitator - Thomaston Public Schools

5.3.6.15. Janice Ellis - Grade 7 Team Leader - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.16. Jennifer Ewart - Advisory Coordinator - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.17. Jennifer Ewart - Unified Buddies Advisor - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.18. Erin Fainer - Grade 9 Class Advisor - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.19. Erin Fainer - Portfolio Coordinator - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.20. Terri Franzi - High School Student Council Advisor - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.21. Terri Franzi - Grade 9 Team Leader - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.22. Kelly Finlay - Grade 4 Team Leader - Thomaston Center School

5.3.6.23. Christine Golino - 504 Coordinator - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.24. Susan Heiland - Teacher in Charge - Black Rock School

5.3.6.25. Jaimee Hustek - 504 Coordinator - Thomaston Center School

5.3.6.26. Jia Jarrell - Choreographer - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.27. Doreen Jaskelewicz - Junior National Honor Society - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.28. Doreen Jaskelewicz - Grade 8 Team Leader - Thomaston High School

5.3.6.29. Beverly Johnson - Kindergarten Team Leader - Black Rock School

5.3.6.30. Cheyenne Kiely - Grade 1 Team Leader - Black Rock School

5.3.6.31. Cheyenne Kiely - Teacher in Charge - Black Rock School

5.3.6.32. Beth Lahey - Grade 2 Team Leader - Black Rock School
5.3.6.33. Heidi Laus - Grade 11 Class Advisor - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.34. John Long - Grade 8 Class Advisor - Awards Night
5.3.6.35. Brandon Lynn - Technical Director - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.36. Brandon Lynn - Fishing Club Advisor - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.37. Steven Malo - Advanced Placement Coordinator - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.38. Steven Malo - Social Media Coordinator - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.39. Shana Marques - Assistant Drama Coach - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.40. Owen McGowan - Band Director - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.41. Owen McGowan - Choral Director - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.42. Owen McGowan - Assistant Advisory Coordinator - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.43. Owen McGowan - Stage Manager - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.44. Owen McGowan - Music Director - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.45. Robert McMahon - Director of Athletics - Thomaston Public Schools
5.3.6.46. Kelsey Murzak - Early Act Club Advisor - Black Rock School
5.3.6.47. James Newton - District STEM Coordinator - Thomaston Public Schools
5.3.6.48. James Newton - Science Club Advisor - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.49. Rachel Pelletier - Teacher in Charge - Black Rock School
5.3.6.50. Rachel Pelletier - 504 Coordinator - Black Rock School
5.3.6.51. Rachel Pelletier - Early Act Club Advisor - Black Rock School
5.3.6.52. Breanna Riollano - Drama Coach - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.53. Breanna Riollano - Naviance School Site Manager - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.54. Breanna Riollano - Link Crew Advisor Thomaston High School
5.3.6.55. Breanna Riollano - Experiential Learning Program Coordinator - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.56. Breanna Riollano - 504 Coordinator - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.57. Keri Rozzi - Grade 5 Team Leader - Thomaston Center School
5.3.6.58. Keri Rozzi - Web Page Coordinator - Thomaston Center School
5.3.6.59. Sarah Ryan - Yearbook Advisor - Thomaston Center School
5.3.6.60. Cindy Sabolcik - Grade 3 Team Leader - Black Rock School
5.3.6.61. Rachael Soss - School Newspaper Advisor - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.62. Rachael Soss - Grade 10 Class Advisor - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.63. Eileen Stowe - Grade 11-12 team Leader - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.64. Eileen Stowe - Science Club Advisor - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.65. Theresa Tortorici - Grade 7 Class Advisor - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.66. Jessyca Tucker - Interact Club Advisor - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.67. Kathleen Turner - Grade 8 Class Advisor - Washington Trip - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.68. David Vecca - District School Climate Coordinator - Thomaston Public Schools
5.3.6.69. Michael Watson - Teacher in Charge - Thomaston High School
5.3.6.70. Kathleen Zitnay - Band Director - Thomaston Center School
5.3.7. Sports Stipends - 2026-2027
5.3.7.1. Marc Beaudoin - Soccer - Junior Varsity Girls
5.3.7.2. Marc Beaudoin - Baseball - Varsity Coach
5.3.7.3. Jim Bunel - Basketball - Boys Varsity Coach
5.3.7.4. Gregory Blasko - Soccer - Girls Varsity Coach
5.3.7.5. Laura Brochu - Basketball - Girls Freshmen Coach
5.3.7.6. Drew Conlon - Basketball - Girls Assistant Basketball Coach
5.3.7.7. Drew Conlon - Athletics Coordinator
5.3.7.8. Drew Conlon - Field Hockey - Middle School Coach
5.3.7.9. Brandon Cousins - Tennis - Boys Varsity Coach
5.3.7.10. Sarah DeMatteis - Soccer - Girls Middle School Coach
5.3.7.11. Michael Diaz - Soccer - Junior Varsity Boys Coach
5.3.7.12. Erin Fainer - Field Hockey - Varsity Coach
5.3.7.13. Erin Fainer - Basketball - Girls B Team Middle School Coach
5.3.7.14. Erin Fainer - Softball - Middle School Coach
5.3.7.15. Kelly Finlay - Softball - Varsity Coach
5.3.7.16. Jeffrey Hepp - Soccer - Boys Middle School Coach
5.3.7.17. Brooke Holway - Basketball - Girls Middle School Coach
5.3.7.18. Rich Kelly - Basketball - Boys Middle School Coach
5.3.7.19. Rich Kelly - Baseball - Middle School Coach
5.3.7.20. Eric Kociszewski - Cross Country - Junior Varsity Coach
5.3.7.21. Eric Kociszewski - Indoor Track - Junior Varsity Coach

5.3.7.22. Eric Kociszewski - Track & Field - Junior Varsity Coach
5.3.7.23. Kayla Marble - Cross Country - Middle School Coach
5.3.7.24. Kayla Marble - Track & Field - Middle School Coach
5.3.7.25. Robert McMahon - Basketball - Boys Freshmen Coach
5.3.7.26. Brian Mozelak - Basketball - Girls Varsity Coach
5.3.7.27. Mark Olsen - Cross Country - Varsity Coach
5.3.7.28. Mark Olsen - Indoor Track - Varsity Coach
5.3.7.29. Mark Olsen - Track & Field - Varsity Coach
5.3.7.30. Heather Patchell - Softball - Junior Varsity Coach
5.3.7.31. Jorge Pimentel - Basketball - Boys Assistant Basketball Coach
5.3.7.32. Agim Pupriqqi - Soccer - Boys Varsity Coach
5.3.7.33. Suzanne Screen - Field Hockey - Junior Varsity Coach
5.3.7.34. Christina VanOrmer - Soccer - Boys B Team Middle School Coach
5.3.7.35. Michael Watson - Baseball - Junior Varsity Coach
5.3.7.36. Michael Watson - Golf - Coach

5.4. Business Manager's Report
5.4.1. September 2026 Business Manager's Report

Tanya Galpin motioned and Larry Duffany seconded *to accept the items listed on the consent agenda as presented.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 8-0-0

6. **Recognitions** ▲
6.1. Student Shout Out
6.1.1. Rotary Student of the Month - September 2026 - Samantha Lee
6.1.2. Commended Student - 2027 National Merit Scholarship Program - Samantha Lee - Grade 12
6.1.3. Phi Theta Kappa Academic Honor Society - Violet Alvey - Grade 11
6.1.4. High School Academy Achievement Night - Post University - October 28, 2026

Grade 11	Grade 12
Brynn Beaudoin	Briana Belanger
Lana Devaux	Zachary Brostek
Kaylee Fredericks	Madison Decker
Dustin Galpin	Landen DeLeon
LeAnna Gilmore	Ethan Ranney
Kayla Kapusta	Taylor Stadalnik
Arbi Kutllovci	Skylar Wain
Ava Nicosia	Braden Walker
Sandra Puprriqi	Hannah Zuklie
Gianna Ryan	

6.2. Staff Shout Outs
6.2.1. October 2026 Staff Spotlight: Susan Abbott -World Language Teacher - Thomaston High School
6.2.2. National I.T. Professionals Day - September 15, 2026
6.2.3. Human Resources Professional Day - September 26, 2026
6.2.4. National Principals Month - October 2026
6.2.5. School Custodian Appreciation Day - October 2, 2026
6.2.6. Accounts Payable Appreciation Week - October 12, 2026

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. Recommendation to the BOS for the Last Board of Education Vacancy
Chairperson Nathan Vieira recommends Amy Pedreira to the Board of Selectmen.
Larry Duffany *recommends Amy Pedreira to the Board of Selectmen for appointment to the board and* ***Marissa McGee*** *seconded.*

Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 8-0-0

9.2. Budget Review Update
9.3. 2026 CABE/CAPSS Convention - November 20-21, 2026 Mystic Marriott, Groton
9.4. Chairperson's Shout - Outs
9.4.1. Central Office Staff
9.4.2. Thomaston Public Schools Staff

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. CABE Membership Acknowledgement
10.1.2.2. 2026-2027 PTA Proposed Fundraisers and Events - Thomaston Public Schools
10.1.2.3. Student Assessment News - September 2026
10.1.2.4. CABE 2027 Proposed Resolutions
10.1.2.5. CABE Delegate Assembly - November 19, 2026

10.2. Reports
10.2.1. General Reports - None
10.2.2. Administrator Reports
10.2.2.1. October 2026
10.2.2.2. Request for Early Release Days for Midterm and Final Exams (Grades 7–12)

Tanya Galpin motioned and Marissa McGee seconded *to accept the proposed eight early release days for students in grades 7–12 for midterm and final examinations, with an estimated additional transportation cost of $5,760.00.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: Rebecca Shypinka
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 7-1-0

10.2.3. Residency - None
(Policy 5118-Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students
10.2.4. Student Discipline
(Policy 5144-Discipline)
10.2.4.1. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student I
10.2.4.2. Expulsion Hearing Notice Cancellation - Student I
10.2.4.3. Expulsion Hearing Notice - Student II
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)
10.2.6.1. October 1, 2026
10.2.7. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
(Policy 4152.6/4252.6-Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act
10.2.7.1. Employee A
10.2.7.2. Employee B
10.2.7.3. Employee C
10.2.8. Interns and Student Teachers - None
(Policy 1212-School Volunteers)
10.2.9. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies - None
(Policy 3260-Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies)
10.2.10. Field Trips
(Policy 6153- Field Trips - Secondary Schools)
10.2.10.1. Spain - Grades 8-11 - June 2028 (during summer break)

Tanya Galpin motioned and Amy Sedgwick seconded *to accept the Spain Field Trip for Grades 8-11 in June 2028 as presented.*
Discussion Link
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 8-0-0

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 - October 19, 2026

11.1.1. Expenditures Report - October 12, 2026

11.1.2. Expenditures for the Month: $2,819,911

11.1.3. Payroll Update

11.2. Policy Committee - October 5, 2026

(Policy 2231-Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems)

12. **Adjournment**

Tanya Galpin motioned and Larry Duffany seconded *to adjourn.*

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

Chairperson Nathan Vieira *adjourned the meeting at 8:51p.m*