



MINUTES

THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, September 8, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. Thomaston High School Auditorium Entrance – Door #2

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:

Roxy Fainer, Chairperson
Beth Campbell
Sarah Ethier
Frank Treglia

Matthew VanOrmer, Vice Chairperson
Francine Coss, Superintendent
G. Wilmont Hungerford, Student Representative
Lucas Koval, Student Representative
Tyler Veronesi, Student Representative

Tanya Galpin, Secretary
Steven Carr, Treasurer
Anthony Kepler
Nathan Vieira

1. Establishment of a Quorum and Call to Order

(Bylaws of the Board 9325.1-Quorum)

- 1.1. **Chairperson Roxy Fainer** called the meeting to order at 7:04p.m.
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Roxy Fainer, Vice Chairperson Matthew VanOrmer, Secretary Tanya Galpin, Treasurer Steven Carr, Frank Treglia, Anthony Kepler, Sarah Ethier, Superintendent Francine Coss**
- 1.3. Board Member Absent: **Steven Carr**
- 1.4. Board Member in Virtual Attendance: **Beth Campbell**
- 1.5. Student Representatives in Attendance: **G. Wilmont Hungerford, Lucas Koval**
- 1.6. Student Representatives Absent: **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*)
- 1.7. Administrators in Attendance: Cristina Kingsbury, Andrea Peters, Jennifer Preuss, David Vecca
- 1.8. Others in Attendance: Mr. and Mrs. Dumas, Becky Shypinka, Marissa McGee, Amy Sedgwick, Dr. Michael Watson, Michelina Stanley, Mackenzie Chasse

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Moment of Silence - Lynda Mitchell, Former Superintendent, Thomaston Public Schools

4. Approval of Agenda ▲

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

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to approve the agenda dated September 8, 2025 as presented.

Discussion: *Tanya Galpin motioned to amend the agenda to include under field trips, 11.3.9, the field trip for Drama Club on 11-12-2025 to see Beetlejuice and Matthew VanOrmer seconded.*

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

5. 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 ramification 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 the form of a written letter from the Board Chairperson and that letter will be attached to the meeting minutes; speakers will not receive a verbal reply to public comment during a meeting.

6. Approval of Minutes ▲

6.1. [Regular Meeting Minutes – August 18, 2025](#)

Nathan Vieira motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes dated August 18, 2025 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

7. Recognitions ▲

[\(Policy 1170 – Recognitions of Students, Citizens, Staff Members, and Members of the Board of Education and Bylaws of the Board 9420 – Recognition of Accomplishments by Citizens, Students, Staff Members or Member of the Board\)](#)

7.1. [Gabrielle Malick – 2026 Paraprofessional of the Year, Black Rock School](#)

7.2. [Tammy Dumas – 2026 Teacher of the Year, Thomaston High School](#)

7.3. Staff Shout-Outs - Tenure Achievement – Thomaston Public Schools

7.3.1. [Stephanie Catucci – Special Education Teacher – Thomaston Center School](#)

7.3.2. [Kelly Finlay – Grade 4 Teacher – Thomaston Center School](#)

7.3.3. [David Oravetz – Chemistry Teacher – Thomaston High School](#)

8. Presentations ▲▲▲ – None

[\(Bylaws of the Board 9410 – Public Announcement of Accomplishments\)](#)

9. Student Representatives Report ▲▲▲

[\(Bylaws of the Board 9160 – Student Representation on the Board of Education\)](#)

10. Chairperson's Report ▲▲▲

[\(Bylaws of the Board 9121 – Office of the Chairperson\)](#)

10.1. [Progress Report on 2025-2026 Goals for the Thomaston Board of Education and the Superintendent of Schools](#)

10.2. [Thomaston Public Schools Convocation Follow Up – August 25, 2025](#)

10.3. [Response to Public Comments at the August 18, 2025 Regular Meeting of the BOE](#)

10.4. [2025 CABE Board Recognition Award Application](#)

Nathan Vieira motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to accept/approve the 2025 CABE Board Recognition Application as presented.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

11. Superintendent's Report ▲▲▲

[\(Policy 2131 – Administration – Superintendent of Schools\)](#)

11.1. Correspondence

11.1.1. From Superintendent Policy 2131

11.1.1.1. [Shout Out Letters – August 18, 2025 Recognition](#)

11.1.1.2. [Thank You Letter to Holly Hernandez](#)

11.1.1.3. [Thank You Letter to Susan Heiland](#)

11.1.1.4. ParentSquare Correspondence from Superintendent – Posts/Alerts

11.1.1.4.1. Update: Asbestos Abatement Projects (BRS/THS) August 15, 2025 at 4:51PM EST

11.1.1.4.2. IMPORTANT Annual Emergency Contact/Permissions Update August 16, 2025 at 4:00PM*

11.1.1.4.3. REMINDER: Annual Emergency Contact/Permissions Update August 18, 2025 at 9:00AM*

11.1.1.4.4. REMINDER: Annual Emergency Contact/Permissions Update August 19, 2025 at 11:00AM*

- 11.1.1.4.5. REMINDER – eCollect Incomplete 2025–26 Sent on Wed, Aug 20, 2025 at 09:42 AM*
- 11.1.1.4.6. REMINDER – eCollect Incomplete 2025–26 Sent on Thu, Aug 21, 2025 at 10:10 AM*
- 11.1.1.4.7. REMINDER – eCollect Incomplete 2025–26 Sent on Fri, Aug 22, 2025 at 06:57 PM*
- 11.1.1.4.8. REMINDER – eCollect Incomplete 2025–26 Sent on Wed, Aug 27, 2025 at 07:35 AM*
- 11.1.1.4.9. REMINDER – eCollect Incomplete 2025–26 Sent on Wed, Aug 27, 2025 at 10:06 AM*
- 11.1.1.4.10. REMINDER – eCollect Incomplete 2025–26 Sent on Thu, Aug 28, 2025 at 07:47 AM*
- 11.1.1.4.11. Ambulance Call to BRS August 28, 2025 at 1:07PM EST
- 11.1.1.4.12. FREE Community Cafe Conversation Series: Families & Prevention, August 30, 2025 at 9:00AM
- 11.1.1.4.13. REMINDER – eCollect Incomplete 2025–26 Sent on Tue, Sep 02, 2025 at 02:42 PM*
- 11.1.1.4.14. Police Presence Near Black Rock School, September 3, 2025 at 3:30PM EST

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

Nathan Vieira motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to acknowledge the Superintendent's correspondence per Policy 2131 as presented.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

11.1.2. To Superintendent/Board of Education

11.1.2.1. [Thank You Card from Jan Stevens](#)

11.1.2.2. [Confirmation of 2025–2026 Evaluation and Support Plan Checklist Submission](#)

11.1.2.3. [Performance Matters – August 2025](#)

11.2. Reports

11.2.1. General Reports

11.2.1.1. Youth Voices Count Survey (McCall requested the survey not be distributed and kept confidential. Board members received the survey for review prior to this meeting)

Nathan Vieira motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to take formal, public action directing the Superintendent to allow the Youth Voices Count Survey to be administered to the students of Thomaston Public Schools.

Discussion: None

Opposed: **Roxy Fainer**

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 7-1-0

11.2.2. Administrator Reports

11.2.2.1. [September 2025](#)

11.2.3. Residency

(Policy 5118-Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students)

11.2.3.1. Residency Determination Hearing Notice – Student A

11.2.3.2. Residency Determination Hearing Cancellation Notice – Student A

11.2.4. Student Discipline – None

(Policy 5144-Discipline)

11.2.5. Homeschooling – None

(Policy 6172.3-Home Schooling)

11.2.6. Enrollment Report

(Policy 5112-Age of Attendance)

11.2.6.1. [September 2025](#)

11.3. Personnel (*Denotes Effective Date)

(Policy 6112/6212-Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment)

11.3.1. New Hires

11.3.1.1. Brianna Casey, Teacher, Math, Thomaston High School*August 22, 2025

11.3.1.2. Carol Cuomo-Lewia, Teacher, Family Consumer Science, Thomaston High School*August 22, 2025

11.3.1.3. Dennis Mennillo Jr., Teacher, Science, Thomaston High School*August 22, 2025

11.3.1.4. Shannon Reardon, full-time Paraprofessional, Black Rock School*August 22, 2025

11.3.1.5. Alison Stack, Speech and Language Pathologist, Thomaston Public Schools*August 22, 2025

11.3.2. Transfer/New Assignment/Reassignment

- 11.3.2.1. Paul Biron, temporary assignment, Library Media Specialist, Black Rock School*August 25, 2025
- 11.3.2.2. Catherine Callahan, additional assignment, Building Substitute Teacher, Black Rock School*August 25, 2025
- 11.3.2.3. Alyssa Misenti, Paraprofessional, change in location from Thomaston Center School to Black Rock School*August 25, 2025
- 11.3.2.4. Karen Obst, temporary assignment, Preschool Teacher, Black Rock School*August 25, 2025
- 11.3.2.5. Veronica Rinaldi, Paraprofessional, change in location from Thomaston Center School to Black Rock School*August 25, 2025
- 11.3.2.6. Christine Thomas, temporary change in assignment, Paraprofessional to Central Office Assistant*August 27, 2025–August 29, 2025
- 11.3.3. Resignations
 - 11.3.3.1. Kristen Callahan, Paraprofessional, Thomaston Center School*September 12, 2025
 - 11.3.3.2. Lisa Gardella, Paraprofessional, Thomaston High School*September 5, 2025
- 11.3.4. Retirements – None
- 11.3.5. Terminations/Non-Renewals – None
- 11.3.6. Stipends – 2025–2026
 - 11.3.6.1. Kristin Bernier – Federal Immigration Authority Contact – Thomaston Center School
 - 11.3.6.2. Cristina Kingsbury – Federal Immigration Authority Contact – Thomaston High School
 - 11.3.6.3. Jonathan Kozlak – Federal Immigration Authority Contact – Black Rock School
 - 11.3.6.4. Robert McMahon – Athletics Coordinator – Thomaston High School (Grades 6–8)
 - 11.3.6.5. Rachel Pelletier – 504 Coordinator – Black Rock School

Nathan Vieira motioned and Matthew VanOrmer 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: None

Motion Carried: 8–0–0

- 11.3.7. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA)

[\(Policy 4152.6/4252.6–Personal Leaves Family and Medical Leave Act\)](#)

- 11.3.7.1. [Employee C](#)

- 11.3.7.2. [Employee D](#)

- 11.3.8. Interns and Student Teachers – None

[\(Policy 1212–School Volunteers\)](#)

- 11.3.9. Field Trips

[\(Policy 6153–Field Trips – Secondary Schools\)](#)

- 11.3.9.1. Broadway Show – Beetlejuice – Drama Club – November 12, 2025

Tanya Galpin motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to approve the field trip for the Drama Club to see Beetlejuice on 11-12 2025

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8–0–0

- 11.3.10. Sales and Disposal of Books, Equipment and Supplies – None

[\(Policy 3260–Sales & Disposal of Books, Equipment & Supplies\)](#)

12. Committee Reports ▲

[\(Bylaws of the Board 9132–Standing Committees and Bylaws of the Board 9133–Special Committees/Advisory Committees\)](#)

- 12.1. [Achievement Committee](#) – September 2, 2025

- 12.1.1. [Thomaston Public Schools Improvement Plan 2025–2026 – Presentation](#)

- 12.1.2. [Thomaston Public Schools Improvement Plan 2025–2026](#)

Tanya Galpin motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to accept/approve the Thomaston Public Schools Improvement Plan 2025–2026 as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

12.1.3. [Thomaston Public Schools AI Guidelines Survey Findings – Presentation](#)

12.1.4. [Thomaston Public Schools AI Guidelines](#)

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to accept/approve the AI Guidelines as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

12.2. [Budget Audit Committee](#) – September 3, 2025

12.2.1. [August 2025 Business Manager's Report](#)

12.2.1.1. Expenditures for the Month: \$1,128,627.26

Nathan Vieira motioned and Matthew VanOrmer seconded to approve the Business and Finance Report and Expenditures per Policy 3432/3433 Business/Non-Instructional Operations – Budget & Expense Report/Annual Financial Statement as presented for August 2025.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

12.3. [Policy Committee](#) – September 8, 2025

[\(Policy 2231-Administration/Policy and Regulation Systems\)](#)

13. Adjournment

Matthew VanOrmer motioned and Nathan Vieira seconded to adjourn.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

Chairperson Roxy Fainer adjourned the meeting at 7:33p.m.