



MINUTES THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Monday, August 17, 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.
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Members:

Nathan Vieira, Chairperson
Cara Files
Amy Sedgwick
Larry Duffany

Sarah Ethier, Vice Chairperson
Francine Coss, Superintendent
Dustin Galpin, Student Representative
Zachary Brostek, Student Representative

Tanya Galpin, Secretary
Marissa McGee Treasurer
Matthew VanOrmer
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 7:01p.m
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: Chairperson Nathan Vieira, Treasurer Marissa McGee, Secretary Tanya Galpin, Roxy Fainer, Amy Sedgwick, Larry Duffany, Cara Files, Superintendent Francine Coss
- 1.3. Board Member in Virtual Attendance: Vice Chairperson Sarah Ethier, Matthew VanOrmer (*Matthew exited the meeting at 8:27p.m.*)
- 1.4. Student Representatives Absent: Dustin Galpin, Zachary Brostek (*the student representatives were not required to attend this meeting*)
- 1.5. Administrators in Attendance: Pam Nascimento, Stephen Barton
- 1.6. Others in Attendance: Selectman Beth Campbell, First Selectman Rich Sileo, David Colavecchio, Nancy Galpin, Chip Quinn, Allan Olivero, Colten Chasse, Makenzie Chasse, Michelina Stanley

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Approval of Agenda ▲

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

Cara Files motioned to amend the motion to change agenda item 11.4 to add two motions, specifically:

1. Vote to permit Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements be "fast tracked" by 2/3 vote of the members present at tonight's Board of Education meeting.
2. Vote to accept/approve the changes to Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements as presented.

and **Larry Duffany** seconded.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

Larry Duffany motioned to take the personnel report at 5.3 under the consent agenda and remove it from the consent agenda and place it after the superintendent's report and **Marissa McGee** seconded.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

4. 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.

Larry Duffany - 282 Atwood Road

Mr. Duffany's comment can be heard [here](#)

First Selectman Rich Sileo - 198 Babbitt Road

Mr. Sileo's comment can be heard [here](#)

Selectman Beth Campbell - 21 Edwin Lane

Ms. Campbell's comment can be heard [here](#)

Dave Colavecchio - 52 Lynnrch Drive West

Mr. Colavecchio's comment can be heard [here](#)

Chip Quinn - 1 Bradley Way

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

5. Consent Agenda ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9325.21 - Consent Agenda)

5.1. Minutes

- 5.1.1. [Regular Meeting Minutes - June 8, 2026](#)
- 5.1.2. [Special Meeting Minutes - June 25, 2026](#)
- 5.1.3. [Special Meeting Minutes - June 30, 2026](#)
- 5.1.4. [Special Meeting Minutes - July 2, 2026](#)
- 5.1.5. [Special Meeting Minutes - August 6, 2026](#)

5.2. ParentSquare Correspondence from Superintendent - Posts/Alerts

- 5.2.1. We Appreciate Our School Business Manager! - June 5, 2026 at 9:04AM EST
- 5.2.2. Early Dismissal and No Afterschool/Evening Activities TODAY and TOMORROW - 6/11/2026 & 6/12/2026 - June 11, 2026 at 5:49AM EST
- 5.2.3. Announcement from the Thomaston Economic Development Commission - Tour of Thomaston - June 11, 2026 at 6:03PM EST
- 5.2.4. Happy Father's Day! - June 21, 2026 at 10:01AM EST
- 5.2.5. Happy Summer Break! - June 23, 2026 at 3:31PM EST
- 5.2.6. New Feasibility Study Webpage - June 29, 2026 at 2:37PM EST
- 5.2.7. Question Form for Facility Use Regionalization Study - July 1, 2026 at 2:05PM EST
- 5.2.8. Happy 250th to the United States! - July 4, 2026 at 9:01AM EST
- 5.2.9. Happy July 4th Thomaston! - July 4, 2026 at 9:01AM EST
- 5.2.10. A Change to How You'll Get ParentSquare Texts from Thomaston Public Schools - July 7, 2026 at 9:03AM EST
- 5.2.11. Sex Offender (Address Change) - July 15, 2026 at 7:23AM EST
- 5.2.12. Annual Emergency Contact/Permissions Update Period (July 15-31, 2026) - July 15, 2026 at 12:04PM EST

- 5.2.13. Thomaston Public Schools Welcomes Stephen Barton as Director of Pupil-Personnel Services (Special Education) - July 15, 2026 at 3:13PM EST
- 5.2.14. Thomaston Public Schools Welcomes Miriam Garcia - New Payroll Accountant - July 17, 2026 at 1:02PM EST
- 5.2.15. Free Back to School Backpacks and Lunch Boxes - July 31, 2026 at 9:03AM EST
- 5.2.16. Special Board of Education Meeting - Tomorrow - August 5, 2026 at 1:32PM EST
- 5.3. Personnel

[\(Policy 4112/4212-Certified/Non-Certified Appointment and Conditions of Employment\)](#)

(Agenda item 5.3 was removed from the Consent Agenda and was addressed following Agenda Item#10, as approved under Agenda Item #3)

5.3.1. New Hires

- 5.3.1.1. Stephen Barton, Pupil Personnel Services Director *August 17, 2026
- 5.3.1.2. Amy Fairchild, Speech Language Pathologist, Thomaston Public Schools*August 21, 2026
- 5.3.1.3. Madison Farrell, Preschool Teacher, Black Rock School*August 21, 2026
- 5.3.1.4. Miriam Garcia, Payroll Staff Accountant, part-time, 12 months*July 21, 2026
- 5.3.1.5. Emalyn Osborne, Kindergarten Teacher, Black Rock School*August 21, 2026
- 5.3.1.6. Jordan Richard, Speech Language Pathologist, Thomaston Public Schools*August 21, 2026
- 5.3.1.7. Christina VanOrmer, Physical Education Teacher, Thomaston Center School*August 21, 2026

5.3.2. Transfer/New Assignment/Reassignment

- 5.3.2.1. Sarah DeMatteis - Summer Curriculum Writer: English Language Arts (Temporary, Part-Time, Summer Only)
- 5.3.2.2. Patrick Hyles, from full-time custodian - Thomaston Center School to part-time Custodian - District Wide*August 31, 2026
- 5.3.2.3. Susan Larson - Summer Curriculum Writer: English Language Arts (Temporary, Part-Time, Summer Only)
- 5.3.2.4. Robert McMahon - Summer Curriculum Writer: English Language Arts (Temporary, Part-Time, Summer Only)
- 5.3.2.5. Sarah Ryan - Summer Curriculum Writer: English Language Arts (Temporary, Part-Time, Summer Only)

5.3.3. Resignations

- 5.3.3.1. Briana Colon, NAEYC Paraprofessional, Black Rock School*July 31, 2026
- 5.3.3.2. Megan Kellogg, Library Media Specialist, Thomaston Center School*July 13, 2026
- 5.3.3.3. David Oravetz, Chemistry Teacher, Thomaston High School*August 7, 2026
- 5.3.3.4. Andrea Peters, Director of Pupil Personnel Services, Thomaston Public Schools*July 29, 2026
- 5.3.3.5. Attallah Roundtree, Business Manager, Thomaston Public Schools*August 14, 2026
- 5.3.3.6. Alison Stack, Speech Language Pathologist - Thomaston Public Schools*August 20, 2026
- 5.3.3.7. Nicole Sul, Preschool Teacher, Black Rock School*August 27, 2026
- 5.3.3.8. Dr. Michael Watson, Director of Athletics *(this position only - will remain in other positions in the district)*, Thomaston High School*July 1, 2026

5.3.4. Retirements

- 5.3.4.1. Pamela Rinkus, Cafeteria Worker, Thomaston Center School*June 23, 2026
- 5.3.4.2. Renee Wojtczak - Physical Education Teacher, Thomaston Center School *April 30, 2027

5.3.5. Terminations/Non-Renewals - None

5.3.6. Summer Enrichment Program - Temporary/Part-Time: June 24, 2026 - July 20, 2026

- 5.3.6.1. Diane Aniki - School Nurse
- 5.3.6.2. Brooke Beaudoin - Tutor

5.3.7. Extended School Year (ESY) - Temporary/Part-Time: June 24, 2026 - July 17, 2026

- 5.3.7.1. Diane Aniki - School Nurse
- 5.3.7.2. Kathryn Bardeck - Substitute Teacher
- 5.3.7.3. MacKenzie Dumas - Paraprofessional
- 5.3.7.4. Grace Levasseur - Paraprofessional

5.3.8. Stipends - 2025-2026 - None

5.3.9. [June 2026 Business Manager's Report](#)

5.3.10. [July 2026 Business Manager's Report](#)

Larry Duffany motioned and Cara Files seconded to accept consent agenda for August 2026 as amended.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

6. Recognitions ▲

6.1. Student Shout Outs

- 6.1.1. Matthew Johnson - Class of 2027 - Collegeboard National Recognition
- 6.1.2. [May 2026 - 30th Annual Connecticut Association of Boards of Education \(CABE\) Student Leadership Awards](#)
Grade 12: [Tyler Veronesi](#) Grade 12: [Makenzie Chasse](#)
Grade 8: [Kaylee Boulanger](#) Grade 8: [Cadhan Severson](#)

6.2. Staff Shout Outs

6.2.1. Outstanding Summer Custodial Crew

Black Rock School	Thomaston Center School	Thomaston High School
Theresa Gambino	Patrick Hyres	Wanda Dulac
Jonathan Hotchkiss	Craig Lefebvre	Chuck Folsom
Yvette Lefebvre	Thomas Stockno	Spencer Luthy
Ken Naylor		Christopher O'Keefe
Nick Osowski		Brian Ulrich

6.3. Tenure Achievement - Thomaston Public Schools

- 6.3.1. [Ryan Carey - Teacher - Thomaston High School](#)
- 6.3.2. [Dante Coviello - Teacher - Black Rock School](#)
- 6.3.3. [Michael Diaz - Social Worker - Thomaston Center School](#)
- 6.3.4. [Jennifer Dietter - Teacher - Thomaston High School](#)
- 6.3.5. [Christine Golino - Social Worker - Thomaston High School](#)
- 6.3.6. [Katherine Turner - Teacher - Thomaston High School](#)

7. Presentations ▲▲▲ - None

(Bylaws of the Board 9410 - Public Announcement of Accomplishments)

8. Student Representatives Report ▲▲▲ - No report due to summer recess

(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. Feasibility Study Update
- 9.2. [Fourth Quarter Honor Roll 2025-2026 - Thomaston High School](#)
- 9.3. [Education Partner of the Year Letter Invitation](#)
- 9.4. Public Participation Read Aloud Discussion
- 9.5. [Two Year BOE Meeting Calendar](#) Revision - September 2026 Policy Committee Meeting Date

Sarah Ethier motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded to accept the revised date of the September Policy meeting date from September 1, 2026 to September 8, 2026

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

10. Superintendent's Report ▲▲▲

(Policy 2131 - Administration - Superintendent of Schools)

10.1. Correspondence

10.1.1. From Superintendent

- 10.1.1.1. [Shout Out Letters - June 8, 2026 BOE Meeting Recognition](#)
- 10.1.1.2. [To Board of Education Chairperson Nathan Vieira: Superintendent Designee-July 20, 2026-August 14, 2026](#)
- 10.1.1.3. [2026-2027 Budget-Spending Restriction Memo to Thomaston Public Schools Staff](#)

10.1.2. To Superintendent/Board of Education

- 10.1.2.1. [Thank You Card from Tyler Veronesi](#)
- 10.1.2.2. [Thank You Card from Tyler Veronesi](#)
- 10.1.2.3. [Connecticut Junior Republic \(CJR\) 2025 Impact Report](#)
- 10.1.2.4. [Effective School Solutions Insights & Solutions: Optimizing Learning Retention and Mental Health Stability Over the Summer](#)
- 10.1.2.5. [Performance Matters - July 2026](#)

10.2. Reports

10.2.1. General Reports

- 10.2.1.1. [2025-2026 Reading Recovery Report](#)
- 10.2.1.2. [Quarterly Goals Report - Quarter 4 \(March 21, 2026 - June 12, 2026\)](#)

Larry Duffany motioned and Amy Sedgwick seconded to acknowledge the Quarterly Goals Reports - Quarter 4 (March 21, 2026 - June 12, 2026)

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

Administrator Reports

10.2.1.3. [July 2026](#)

10.2.1.4. [August 2026](#)

10.2.1.5. Curriculum Guides

10.2.1.5.1. [Pre K Creative Curriculum](#)

10.2.1.5.2. [Grade 4 \(ELA\) English Language Arts](#)

10.2.1.5.3. [Grade 5 \(ELA\) English Language Arts](#)

Tanya Galpin motioned and Larry Duffany seconded to accept the Curriculum Guides as presented.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

10.2.2. Residency

[\(Policy 5118-Nonresident Attendance/Tuition Students\)](#)

10.2.2.1. Residency Hearing Notice - Student XIII

10.2.2.2. Residency Hearing Notice - Student XIV

10.2.2.3. Residency Hearing Cancellation - Student XIII and Student XIV

10.2.3. Student Discipline - None

[\(Policy 5144-Discipline\)](#)

10.2.4. Homeschooling - None

[\(Policy 6172.3-Home Schooling\)](#)

10.2.5. Enrollment Report - *None: Registrations/transfers occurring after June 1st are reported in the September report*

[\(Policy 5112-Age of Attendance\)](#)

10.2.6. Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) - None

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

10.2.7. Interns and Student Teachers - None

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

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

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

10.2.9. Field Trips

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

10.2.9.1. [The Big E, West Springfield, Massachusetts - Class of 2027 - September 24, 2026](#)

Tanya Galpin motioned and Amy Sedgwick seconded to accept the Class of 2027 Big E Field Trip as presented.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 9-0-0

Larry Duffany moved that the Thomaston Board of Education reaffirms that Section 2 of Policy 4112.8 Nepotism: Employment of Relatives, limits the employment of a spouse or civil union partner, or child of a Board of Education member to limited-term or short-term employment on a competitive basis among persons who are eligible, and therefore, in its current writing does not permit such an individual to be exploited in a full-time permanent position while the related individual is a sitting Board member and Marissa McGee seconded.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: None

Abstain: **Roxy Fainer, Tanya Galpin**

Motion Carried: 6-0-2 (**Matthew VanOrmer** exited the meeting prior to this vote)

As a result of the above discussion, **Roxy Fainer and Matthew VanOrmer** have both resigned from the board.

Larry Duffany moved that the Policy Committee, in consultation with Board counsel, be directed to propose amendments to eliminate any ambiguity or loopholes in Policies 4112.8 and 4212.8 and relating policies such as 4112 and Amy Sedgwick seconded.

Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: **Roxy Fainer**
Motion Carried: 7-0-1

Larry Duffany moved that, pending formal revision of Policies 4112.8 and 4212.8, the Board affirm that this existing limitation shall not be circumvented going forward through the transfer, reassignment, promotion, appointment, or other change in employment status of a spouse or civil union partner, or child of a sitting Board member from a part-time, substitute, temporary, limited-time, or short-term position into a full-time permanent position and **Marissa McGee** seconded.

[Discussion Link](#)
Opposed: None
Abstain: **Roxy Fainer**
Motion Carried: 7-0-1

Larry Duffany motioned to approve or acknowledge the hire and personnel status changes as presented and **Marissa McGee** seconded.

Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: **Roxy Fainer**
Motion Carried: 7-0-1

11. Committee Reports ▲

(Bylaws of the Board 9132-Standing Committees and Bylaws of the Board 9133-Special Committees/Advisory Committees)

11.1. [Achievement Committee Meeting - August 10, 2026](#)

11.2. [Budget Audit Committee - July 8, 2026](#)

11.2.1. Expenditures for the Month: \$2,134,299

11.3. [Budget Audit Committee - August 5, 2026](#)

11.3.1. Expenditures for the Month: \$1,583,825

11.3.2. [Disposal Walk In Cooler/Freezer Unit - Black Rock School](#)

Marissa McGee motioned and **Amy Sedgwick** seconded to accept the disposal of the WalkIn Cooler/Freezer Unit at Black Rock School as presented.

[Discussion Link](#)
Opposed: None
Abstain: **Roxy Fainer**
Motion Carried: 7-0-1

Due to the current budget issues-

Larry Duffany made a motion that we have a hiring freeze except for those folks that are absolutely necessary for the schools.

This motion did not receive a second. Instead, clarification was provided that the Superintendent's memo regarding the spending freeze also included a hiring freeze. The discussion can be heard [here](#). The motion was subsequently withdrawn.

11.4. [Policy Committee - August 17, 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 $\frac{2}{3}$ of the members present at a Board of Education meeting, the Board permits a "fast tracking" of the policy adoption or amendment.

Cara Files moved that the Policy Committee's proposed amendments to Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements be permitted for "fast tracking" by $\frac{2}{3}$ vote of the members present at tonight's Board of Education meeting and **Larry Duffany** seconded.

Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: **Roxy Fainer**
Motion Carried: 7-0-1

***Cara Files** moved to accept/approve the changes to Policy 6146 - Graduation Requirements as presented and seconded by **Larry Duffany**.*

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

*Abstain: **Roxy Fainer***

Motion Carried: 7-0-1

12. Adjournment

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

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

***Chairperson Nathan Vieira** adjourned the meeting at 9:07p.m.*