



## MINUTES

### THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

Thursday, June 25, 2026 at 6:00 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](#).  
([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  
Zachary Brostek, Student Representative

Sarah Ethier, Vice Chairperson  
Tanya Galpin, Secretary  
Francine Coss, Superintendent  
Larry Duffany

Marissa McGee, Treasurer  
Roxy Fainer  
[Vacant]  
Dustin Galpin, Student Representative

### 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 6:00p.m.
- 1.2. Board Members in Attendance: **Chairperson Nathan Vieira, Vice Chairperson Sarah Ethier, Treasurer Marissa McGee, Secretary Tanya Galpin, Cara Files, Roxy Fainer, Amy Sedgwick, Larry Duffany, Superintendent Francine Coss**
- 1.3. Student Representatives Absent: **Dustin Galpin, Zachary Brostek** (*the student representatives were not required to attend this meeting*)
- 1.4. Others in Attendance: Julie Ingham, Jen Guerin, Kathleen Brody, Heidi Laus, Brian McCarthy, Christine Webster, Diane Aniki, Michelina Stanley

### 2. Pledge of Allegiance

### 3. 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.

Kathleen Brody – 790 Hickory Hill Road

Ms. Brody submitted a written public comment that was read during the meeting. Ms. Brody's comment can be found [here](#).

Ms. Julie Ingham - 70 Elm Street

Ms. Ingham expressed a preference for future Board of Education meetings to be held in Meeting Room One due to concerns regarding the audio quality experienced during the April meeting held at the high school. She stated that meetings should remain in Meeting Room One until the audio issues at the high school are resolved, noting that clear audio is important to maintaining transparency and ensuring that attendees can hear the meetings. The speaker also referenced Agenda Item No. 10 and urged the Board to vote no, reminding Board members of their responsibility to the constituents who elected them.

Diane Aniki

Ms. Aniki submitted a written public comment that was read during the meeting. Ms. Aniki's comment can be found [here](#).

Mr. Brian McCarthy

Mr. McCarthy submitted a written public comment that was read during the meeting. Mr. McCarthy's comment can be found [here](#).

Jen Guerin - 390 D Welton Way

Ms. Guerin stated that she agreed with Ms. Ingham and believed it was an appropriate time for a change in leadership. She referenced efforts made during the previous year to elect new Board members and bring fresh perspectives to the Board, stating that this would be a good time to continue that change. She expressed the importance of having a leader who is knowledgeable about education and can be trusted. Speaking as a taxpayer, she stated that she would like confidence in the leadership of the district.

#### **4. Discussion of Current Restrictions on Length of Board Meetings**

##### **4.1. [Memorandum - 2025-2026 Budget - Spending Restriction](#)**

- 4.2. Action made during August 18, 2025 Regular Meeting ([Minutes](#)): *Beth Campbell motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded to approve that the Board of Education, due to the spending freeze memo issued by Superintendent Coss, not allow the allocation of overtime pay for custodial staff; all Regular, Special, and Emergency meetings shall end 10 minutes prior to the custodians' regular work shift.*

***Tanya Galpin motioned to move all Board of Education meetings to Meeting Room One second Monday of the month from 7:00p.m. on and Larry Duffany seconded.***

***Discussion: Nathan Vieira requested that Tanya amends the motion to specify "all Regular Meetings" in her motion. Tanya so moved and Larry Duffany seconded.***

*Opposed: None*

*Abstain: None*

*Motion Carried: 8-0-0*

#### **5. Announcement of Board of Education Vacancy - Resignation of Anthony Kepler**

[\(Bylaws of the Board 9221 - Filling Vacancies\)](#)

#### **6. Enter into Executive Session for the purpose of self-assessment of the Board of Education (Leadership Team)**

[\(Bylaws of the Board 9322 - Public and Executive Session\)](#)

##### **6.1. [Policy 2400](#)**

##### **6.2. [Form 1 - Board of Education Self-Evaluation](#)**

***Larry Duffany motioned and Tanya Galpin seconded to enter into Executive Session at 6:30p.m. for the purpose of self-assessment of the Board of Education (Leadership Team), inviting Superintendent Coss.***

*Discussion: None*

*Opposed: None*

*Abstain: None*

*Motion Carried: 8-0-0*

#### **7. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session - 7:38p.m.**

***Tanya Galpin motioned to continue with the goals from 2025-2026 as the goals for 2026-2027 as presented and Marissa McGee seconded.***

***Discussion: Chairperson Nathan Vieira read the goals for the public:***

- 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.*

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

**8. Enter Executive Session for the purpose of reviewing the Superintendent “year in review” and evaluating the Superintendent by the Board of Education**

(Bylaws of the Board 9322 - Public and Executive Sessions)

8.1. [Policy 2400](#)

8.2. [Form 2 - Evaluation of the Superintendent](#)

**Tanya Galpin motioned and Sarah Ethier seconded** to enter into Executive Session at 7:41p.m. for the purpose of reviewing the Superintendent “year in review” and evaluating the Superintendent by the Board of Education, inviting **Superintendent Coss**.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

**9. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session - 8:31p.m.**

**Roxy Fainer** motioned to accept the evaluation of the superintendent as discussed in executive session and **Tanya Galpin seconded**.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

**10. Enter into Executive Session for the purpose of negotiations related to the extension of the Contract of Employment of the Superintendent of Schools**

(Bylaws of the Board 9322 - Public and Executive Sessions)

10.1. [Contract of Employment - Superintendent of Schools](#)

**Roxy Fainer** motioned to enter into Executive Session at 8:32 p.m. for the purpose of negotiations related to the extension of the Contract of Employment of the Superintendent of Schools, inviting **Superintendent Coss** and **Tanya Galpin** seconded.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

**11. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session - 10:06p.m.**

**Roxy Fainer** motioned to extend the contract of the superintendent for an additional year as a part-time position the details of said contract to be negotiated by the board’s attorney at a future date and **Tanya Galpin** seconded.

[Discussion Link](#)

Opposed: **Larry Duffany**

Abstain: **Sara Ethier, Cara Files**

Motion Carried: 5-1-2

**12. Adjournment**

**Tanya Galpin** motioned and **Amy Sedgwick** seconded to adjourn.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Motion Carried: 8-0-0

**Chairperson Nathan Vieira** adjourned the meeting at 10:10p.m.