



MINUTES

THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING (VIRTUAL)

Friday, August 28, 2026 at 3:00 p.m

This meeting can be 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.

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
Cara Files
Amy Sedgwick
Larry Duffany

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

Tanya Galpin, Secretary
Marissa McGee Treasurer
[Vacant]
Matthew VanOrmer [pending formal resignation]

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 3:09p.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
- 1.3. Board Member Absent: Matthew VanOrmer (*pending formal resignation*)
- 1.4. Student Representatives Absent: Dustin Galpin, Zachary Brostek (*the student representatives were not required to attend this meeting*)
- 1.5. School Administrators in Attendance: Raymond Engle, Cristina Kingsbury
- 1.6. Others in Attendance: First Selectman Rich Sileo, Selectman Beth Campbell, Tracy Decker, Michelina Stanley, Geoffrey Dobos (web host)

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Discussion on 2025-2026 Budget and the 2026-2027 Budget

Please click [here](#) to listen to the discussion between the Board of Education members and Thomaston Public Schools Business Manager, Raymond Engle, regarding the 2025–2026 and 2026–2027 budgets.

Larry Duffany moved that in light of what sounds like a projected deficit for the current school year, I would move that the board direct the superintendent to refrain from authorizing any spending that is not absolutely essential to the operation of the school district, including not hiring staff to any position at an amount higher than already budgeted for and to report to the board in writing how she's implementing the hiring and spending freeze and to promptly provide the board with an updated financial projection for the 26-27 school year and **Sarah Ethier** seconded.

[Discussion link](#)

Opposed: **Tanya Galpin, Marissa McGee, Sarah Ethier, Amy Sedgwick, Cara Files, Nathan Vieira**

Abstain: None

Motion Failed: 1-6-0

4. Adjournment

Tanya Galpin motioned to adjourn the meeting and **Cara Files** seconded.

Discussion: None

Opposed: None

Abstain: None

Chairperson Nathan Vieira adjourned the meeting at 3:51p.m.