MINUTES
THOMASTON BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING

Monday, October 26, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. Thomaston Town Hall - Meeting Room One

The meeting will be recorded and can be viewed 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	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	Amy Pedreira

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 6:03p.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, Amy Pedreira, Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler**

1.3. Student Representatives In Attendance: **Zachary Brostek, Dustin Galpin** *(the student representatives were not required to attend this meeting)*

1.4. Administrators in Attendance: There were no administrators in attendance.

1.5. Others in Attendance: John Long, Michelle Pope, Heidi Laus, Kelly Dube, Cindy Sabolcik, Michelle Dayton, Erin Fainer, Karen Payne, Jason Payne, Theresa Tortorici, Attorney Tom Mooney, Attorney Julia Wilde, Colten Chasse, Michelina Stanley

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. 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. Jason Payne - Concerned Citizen
Mr. Jason Payne's comment can be heard here

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

Erin Fainer - Teacher
Ms. Fainer's comment can be heard here

Michelle Dayton - TEA Treasurer
Ms. Dayton's comment can be heard here

Karen Payne - Special Education Teacher
Ms. Payne's comment can be heard here

4. Enter into Executive Session for the discussion of a confidential attorney-client privileged memorandum regarding the Board's legal obligations and response to the 2025-2026 and projected 2026-2027 Board of Education budget overruns and to district payroll errors and related contractual claims and invite both Julie Wilde and Thomas Mooney from Shipman & Goodwin as well as Thomaston Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler.

Sarah Ethier motioned and Amy Sedgwick seconded *to enter into Executive Session at 6:19pm for the discussion of a confidential attorney-client privileged memorandum regarding the Board's legal obligations and response to the 2025-2026 and projected 2026-2027 Board of Education budget overruns and to district payroll errors and related contractual claims and invite both Julie Wilde and Thomas Mooney from Shipman & Goodwin as well as Thomaston Interim Superintendent Mark Winzler.*

Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 9-0-0

5. Exit Executive Session/Enter into Regular Session - 8:07p.m.

No action taken on matters discussed in Executive Session

6. Adjournment

Tanya Galpin motioned and Cara Files seconded *to adjourn.*
Discussion: None
Opposed: None
Abstain: None
Motion Carried: 9-0-0
Chairperson Nathan Vieira *adjourned the meeting at 8:08p.m.*