

Thomaston BOE Meeting Minutes

Date: 10/14/26

Board Members present:

- Nathan Vieira
- Rebecca Shypinka
- Marissa McGee

Meeting called to order.

Approximately 3:33 p.m.

Motion to go into executive session made by M. McGee.

Moved that the Board enter executive session to discuss a confidential student matter.

Seconded by R. Shypinka.

Approved 3 - 0.

Approximately 3:35 p.m.

The Board invited the following individuals (in addition to Board members and its counsel, Abby R. Booth, Esq.) into the executive session:

- Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent
- Daniel Murphy, Attorney for the Administration
- David Vecca, THS Assistant Principal

Everyone excused for Board deliberations, except for Board counsel, Abby R. Booth.

Approximately 3:45 p.m.

Meeting resumes. All meeting participants return. Approximately 3:55 pm.

The Board returned to public session. M. McGee made the following motion:

MOVED, that the Thomaston Board of Education finds that the student who is the subject of this hearing was, on October 5, 2026, in possession of alcohol on school grounds, which conduct was seriously disruptive of the educational process, endangered persons or property and violated publicized policies of the Board of Education, and constitutes an expellable offense.

Seconded by R. Shypinka.

Approved 3 - 0.

Approximately 3:56 p.m.

Moved that the Board enter executive session to discuss a confidential student matter.

Moved by M. McGee, seconded by R. Shypinka.

Approved 3 - 0.

Approximately 3:56 p.m.

The Board invited the same individuals as listed above (in addition to Board members and Board counsel, Abby R. Booth) into the executive session:

- Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent
- Daniel Murphy, Attorney for the Administration
- David Vecca, THS Assistant Principal

Approximately 4:01 p.m.

Everyone excused for Board deliberations, except for Board counsel, Abby Booth.

Approximately 4:30 p.m.

The Board returned to public session. M. McGee made the following motion:

MOVED, further that the student who is the subject of this hearing shall be expelled from the Thomaston Public Schools for one calendar year from the date of the incident, October 5, 2026 and continuing through October 4, 2027, and that the student be provided an alternative educational program as provided by the law. During the period of the expulsion the student who is the subject of this hearing shall not be allowed to enter any school property and/or participate in any school sponsored events and activities except for the student's participation in the alternative educational opportunity provided by the Thomaston Public Schools or as otherwise expressly authorized in writing by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.

The student may be permitted early readmission to school on or about the first day of the 2027-2028 school year if the Superintendent finds, in the Superintendent's sole discretion, that the student has met the following conditions:

- 1) The student must make a good faith effort to succeed in the alternative educational opportunity during the period of expulsion, by attending and participating in the program regularly, completing assignments in a timely manner, having passing grades, and otherwise demonstrating a good faith effort to succeed in the program;*
- 2) The student must not engage in any conduct that would warrant an in or out of school suspension and/or expulsion under the policies of the Thomaston Board of Education as determined by the Superintendent;*
- 3) The student must participate in counseling sessions with a school social worker, counselor or psychologist in a form and frequency deemed appropriate by the Administration; and*
- 4) The student must participate in drug screening prior to the Student's readmission, at Parent expense, if any, and the test must not indicate the presence of illegal or non-prescribed substances.*

If readmitted early, the student will be on probation for the remainder of the original expulsion period. During the probation period, the student must:

- a. Avoid any disciplinary incident that would result in an in or out of school suspension or expulsion, as determined by the Superintendent.*
- b. The student must continue participate in counseling in a form and frequency as approved by the Superintendent or the Superintendent's designee.*

If the student violates any of the conditions of this probationary period, the Superintendent is authorized to reinstate the remaining term of the student's expulsion without the necessity of any further action by the Board.

Moved by M. McGee, seconded by R. Shypinka.

Approved 3-0.

Motion to Adjourn.

Moved by M. McGee, seconded by R. Shypinka. Approved 3-0

Approximately 4:34 p.m.

Adjourned.