

Thornton School Board  
Monday, February 15, 2010  
Minutes

School Board members present: Melinda Johnston, Giff Kriebel, Teri Gabbeitt, Barry VanDeMoere, and Scot Woolfenden  
Administration present: SAU 48 Assistant Superintendent Kathy Boyle  
SAU 48 Facilities Director Jonathan Francis  
Principal Jonathan Bownes  
Public present: approximately 32; comprising of Thornton Central School Teachers, parents, and two Pemi Baker Regional School Board members (Carolyn Varin and Peter Pettengill)

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m.

I. Agenda Review and Disposition

Under V. Privilege of the Floor #1, add Jonathan Francis and Carolyn Varin – Biomass Energy Plant and TEA

II. Minutes of January 25, 2010 and February 1, 2010

On a motion by Scot Woolfenden, seconded by Barry VanDeMoere, the January 25, 2010 minutes were accepted unanimously as written.

On a motion by Giff Kriebel, seconded by Barry VanDeMoere, the February 1, 2010 minutes were accepted as written. Vote 4 in favor, 1 abstention.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Scot Woolfenden, the Bond Hearing minutes were accepted as written. Vote 4 in favor, 1 abstention.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Scot Woolfenden, the Budget Hearing minutes were accepted as written. Vote 4 in favor, 1 abstention.

III. Principal's Report

Mr. Bownes reported the basketball teams have completed their seasons. Both teams ended the season in third place.

Mrs. Wrath and Miss Amenta held a very successful Poetry Night on February 4. All but one eighth grader attended.

Winter recess will take place February 22-29.

Cultural Arts Night will take place on Wednesday, March 17, 2010 at 6:00 p.m. at Plymouth Regional High School.

The annual school play, *Everything's Groovy*, will be presented on April 1, 2010.

The Destination Imagination team will compete in regional competition in Tilton on March 6, 2010.

#### IV. Privilege of the Floor #1

Jonathan Francis gave a brief overview of the proposed Bio Mass Energy Plant for the Plymouth Regional High School. Carolyn Varin and Peter Pettengill spoke in favor of the plant.

Thornton Education Association representative Ellen Lonergan read a letter from the TEA in support of Ann Knowles and retaining her position as kindergarten teacher as well as maintaining small class sizes.

Seth Cooper spoke on behalf of Ann Knowles in support of her tenure at Thornton Central School and felt that she had done a wonderful job with his children. He questioned the process for reducing personnel. Melinda Johnston stated the Board has supported smaller class sizes over the years but felt that class sizes of 9 and 8 were viewed as too small by the Board and townspeople. The Board also realizes what a reduction in force means to an individual and it was a very hard decision to make. It was strictly an administrative decision. Greg Campbell asked if funds could be added back into the budget at the annual District meeting to support Ann Knowles and her teaching position. The funds could be voted back in from the audience and if passed would be added to the bottom line of the budget, but the School Board would not be obligated to use the money for that purpose. Stephen Switzer asked if funds in the budget could be shuffled around to support Ann Knowles and her position. Funds could be shuffled around but not without effect. The TEA thanked the Board for listening to their concerns and most left the meeting.

#### V. Discussion Items

- A. Prep for District Meeting – The Board discussed ways to prepare for the District meeting and Bond vote; explaining the tax impact, put an article regarding the building project in area newspapers, put an ad on Channel 3, in the Penny Saver and on the Thornton Central School website, also put the proposed floor plans on the website as well as the District meeting date. Handouts for the District meeting will be: Building Priorities with tax impact information on back, Warrant Articles, Current Enrollment, Budget Overview and Revenues, and the proposed floor plans. If needed, Scot will present the slide show for the building project. Discussion continued.
- B. NECAP results – Mr. Bownes reported that Thornton students continue to improve from year to year in reading and math. In 2008-09 75% of students were proficient or above in Reading, this year 83% are proficient or above. In 2008-09 64% of the students were proficient or above in math, this year 78% are proficient or above. Annual Yearly Progress for the school has not been determined yet by the State.
- C. Abbreviated Budget Balance – The current budget was handed out and reviewed. The District is in good shape financially and should remain so unless something major happens between now and the end of the school year.

#### VI. Recognition and Awards

Mr. Bownes recognized Jennifer Wrath and Paula Amenta on their efforts with organizing the very successful Poetry Night.

VII. Privilege of the Floor #2 – none

VIII. Nonpublic Session

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Scot Woolfenden, the Board voted unanimously to enter nonpublic session.

The Board entered nonpublic session at 6:46 to discuss personnel issues.

On a motion by Scot Woolfenden, seconded by Teri Gabbeitt, the Board voted unanimously to enter public session.

The Board entered public session at 7:37 p.m.

On a motion by Barry VanDeMoere, seconded by Giff Kriebel, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol A Tyler  
Board Secretary