

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Thousand Islands Board of Education
Tuesday, December 20, 2022
MS/HS Library**



Members Present: Tim (Tucker) Wiley Erik Swenson
 Carolyn Delaney Sarah Riddoch
 Shawn Cherchio Erin Churchill
 Jenny Bach Bruce Mason

Absent: Dan Ward

Also present: Michael Bashaw, Jr., Superintendent
 Angela Picunas, Business Manager
 Jessica Steblen, BOE Secretary/District Clerk
 Kenny Garnsey, Director of Facilities
 Andrea Lomber, Executive Principal, Grades 6-12
 Lisa Freitag, Principal, Guardino Elementary School
 Chelsea Nohle, Principal, Bashaw Elementary School

President Wiley called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Presentations

Principals from all three buildings presented a slideshow highlighting grades 3-8 ELA Assessments and Regents Results. Handouts were provided to show local, regional and state results and standings. Administrators explained that while results are still somewhat skewed from COVID, strong and consistent groups are beginning to form. Overall Thousand Islands shows mostly steady but often impressive scores comparative to school districts regionally and in New York State.

Business, Finance and Property:

Motion by Erin Churchill, second by Erik Swenson, to approve the following:

- Approve Minutes of November 15, 2022 meeting.
- Approve Hourly Compensation Adjustments per Minimum Wage Increase- enclosures.
- Approve Amendments to Thousand Island CSD 403(b) Retirement Plan Document- enclosures.
- Approve the Corrective Action Plan (CAP) to address comments in the Management Letter as a result of the June 2022 external audit performed by Bowers & Company CPAs, PLLC- enclosure.
- Approve Claims Auditing Reports for July 1, 2022- September 30, 2022 - enclosure.
- Approve monthly Treasurer's Reports and Statement of Savings for July, August, and September 2022- enclosure.
- Approve surplus of Music Department guitars, inventory #0952, 12447, 12435, 12436, 12443, 12446, 12451, 12452, 12453, 12454.

After no further discussion, vote was taken; all voting aye.

8:0

Motion by Erik Swenson, second by Jenny Bach, to approve the following:

- Accept results of Capital Project Vote of \$23,000,000.00 on December 15, 2022 – 163 Yes, 5 No
CAPITAL RENOVATIONS/ ADDITIONS TO SCHOOL FACILITIES-
RESOLVED, The Board of Education of The Thousand Islands School District is hereby authorized to undertake a District wide project including, but not limited to, reconstruction and improvements to the buildings and grounds

at Guardino Elementary, Bashaw Elementary, Cape Vincent Bus Garage and the Middle/High School, including, for all, site and infrastructure improvements, sidewalk and pavement improvements, athletic field and playground improvements and original furnishings, fixtures and equipment, and all other costs incidental to such work at a total estimated cost not to exceed \$23,000,000 and obtain the necessary funds by using up to \$5,000,000 from the Capital Reserve, \$1,000,000 of available District funds and, for the balance, the levy of a tax in the amount of \$17,000,000 upon the taxable property of the District to be collected in annual installments in the years and in the amounts as the Board of Education shall determine and in anticipation of such tax bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$17,000,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the interest on said obligations when due- enclosure.

After no further discussion, vote was taken; all voting aye.

8:0

Motion by Erin Churchill, second by Jenny Bach, to approve the following:

- Approve Capital Project Bond Resolution – Roll Call Vote

WHEREAS, the qualified voters of the Thousand Islands Central School District, Jefferson County, New York (the “District”), at a special meeting duly called and held on December 15, 2022, did vote and adopt a proposition authorizing a capital project consisting of, but not limited to, reconstruction and improvements to the buildings and grounds at Guardino Elementary, Bashaw Elementary, Cape Vincent Bus Garage and the Middle/High School, including, for all, site and infrastructure improvements, sidewalk and pavement improvements, athletic field and playground improvements and original furnishings, fixtures and equipment, and all other costs incidental to such work (collectively, the “Project”) at a total estimated cost not to exceed \$23,000,000 and obtain the necessary funds by using \$5,000,000 from the District’s Capital Reserve fund, \$1,000,000 of available District funds and, for the balance, the levy of a tax, subject to available State aid or to any other revenues available for such purpose, which is hereby voted in the amount of \$17,000,000, which tax shall be levied and collected in annual installments in such years and in such amounts as may be determined by the Board of Education and in anticipation of the collection of such tax, bonds and notes of the District are hereby authorized to be issued at one time, or from time to time, in the principal amount not to exceed \$17,000,000, and a tax is hereby voted to pay the principal and interest on said obligations when due; and

WHEREAS, the District is a local agency pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (“SEQRA”), ECL Section 8-0101, et seq., and implementing regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617 (the “Regulations”); and

WHEREAS, the District’s Board of Education has reviewed the scope of the Project, as presented by its architects, to assess the environmental impact of the Project as required by the Regulations and has concluded that the project is a Type II Action as defined in SEQRA and determined by resolution dated December 20, 2022 that no further review is required under SEQRA; and

WHEREAS, the District now desires to authorize the Project and financing of the cost thereof; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, ON DECEMBER 20, 2022, BY THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF THE DISTRICT, (BY FAVORABLE VOTE OF NOT LESS than two thirds of all members of said board of education) AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Subject to the provisions of Section 3 hereof, the District is hereby authorized to accomplish the Project and purchase such furnishings, fixtures, equipment, machinery and apparatus as may be required for the purposes for which the Project is to be used and to expend therefor an amount, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and to financing thereof, not to exceed the estimated maximum cost of \$23,000,000; and the said amount is hereby appropriated therefor. The estimated total cost of said specific object or purpose, including preliminary costs and costs incidental thereto and the financing thereof, is \$23,000,000 and the plan of financing includes spending \$5,000,000 from the District’s Capital Reserve Fund, \$1,000,000 of available District funds and, for the balance, spending any available state and federal aid, and the issuance of serial bonds or notes in the aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$17,000,000, and the levy and collection of taxes on all

the taxable real property in the District, to the extent necessary, to pay the principal of said bonds or notes and the interest thereon as the same shall become due and payable, subject to applicable amounts of state assistance available or to any revenues available for such purpose from any other source. It is hereby determined that the requirements of SEQRA have been met.

Section 2. Bonds and bond anticipation notes, including renewals thereof, of the District are hereby authorized to be issued pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law of the State of New York (the “Local Finance Law”), in a principal amount not to exceed \$17,000,000 to finance said appropriation for the Project.

Section 3. The following additional matters are hereby determined and declared:

(a) Under the Local Finance Law, the period of probable usefulness of the Project is thirty (30) years pursuant to Section 11 of the Local Finance Law;

(b) Current funds are not required by the Local Finance Law to be provided prior to the issuance of the bonds and any notes issued in anticipation thereof authorized by this resolution; and

(c) The proposed maturity of the bonds authorized by this resolution will exceed five (5) years.

Section 4. The temporary use of available funds of the District, not immediately required for the purpose or purposes for which the same were raised or otherwise created, is hereby authorized pursuant to Section 165.10 of the Local Finance Law, for the capital purposes described in Section 1 of this resolution. The reasonably expected source of funds to be used to initially pay for the expenditures authorized by Section 1 of this resolution shall be from the District’s General Fund. It is intended that the District shall then reimburse expenditures from the General Fund with the proceeds of the bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized by this resolution and that the interest payable on the bonds and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of such bonds shall be excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes. This resolution is intended to constitute the declaration of the District’s “official intent” within the meaning of Treasury Regulation Section 1.150-2 to reimburse the expenditures authorized by this resolution with the proceeds of the bonds and bond anticipation notes authorized herein. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are reasonably expected to be, received, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the objects or purposes described herein.

Section 5. Each of the bonds authorized by this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation thereof shall contain the recital of validity as prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds shall be general obligations of the District, payable as to both principal and interest by general tax upon all the taxable real property within the District without limitation of rate or amount. The bonds may be issued such that annual principal and interest payments will be substantially similar or declining as provided by law. The full faith and credit of the District are hereby irrevocably pledged to the punctual payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds and any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds and provision shall be made annually in the budget of the District of appropriation for (a) the amortization and redemption of the bonds and any notes in anticipation thereof to mature in such year and (b) the payment of interest to be due and payable in such year.

Section 6. The validity of the bonds authorized by this resolution and of any notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said bonds may be contested only if:

(a) such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the District is not authorized to expend money, or

(b) the provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of such resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity, is

commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or

(c) such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Section 7. The power to issue and sell the bonds and any notes issued in anticipation thereof (including any renewal notes), including all powers or duties pertaining or incidental thereto, is hereby delegated to the President of the Board of Education, as Chief Fiscal Officer, except as herein provided. The bonds shall be of such terms, form and contents as may be determined by the Chief Fiscal Officer, pursuant to the Local Finance Law. The Chief Fiscal Officer is authorized to execute and deliver any documents, including a financing agreement with the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York, if applicable, and to take such other action as may be necessary and proper to carry out the intent and provisions hereof.

Section 8. Theodore A. Trespasz, Jr., Esq. is appointed bond counsel to the District for the Project.

Section 9. This resolution shall take effect immediately. The District Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish a summary of the foregoing resolution, together with a Notice in substantially the form prescribed by Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law in the newspapers having general circulation in the District and designated the official newspapers of District for such publication- enclosure.

Roll Call Vote: AYE – Wiley, Mason, Bach, Cherchio, Churchill, Delaney, Riddoch, Swenson

8:0

Personnel:

Motion by Sarah Riddoch, second by Bruce Mason, to approve the following:

- **Joe Hughes-** Appointment as Interim Dean of Students at a per diem rate of \$326.00, effective November 30, 2022.
- **Barry Davis-** Appointment as Interim Assistant Principal 6-12 at a per diem rate of \$400.00, effective January 2, 2023.
- **Raegan Becker & Mikael Ann Melfi-** Appointment as SAFE club co-advisors for the 2022-2023 school year.
- **Kiara Weber-** Appointment as a Substitute Teacher and Substitute Teacher Aide for the 2022-2023 school year, pending issuance of criminal clearance by the New York State Education Department.
- **Bryan Weed-** Appointment as a Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year, pending issuance of criminal clearance by the New York State Education Department.
- **Garrett Cipullo-** Appointment as Substitute Cleaner for the 2022-2023 school year, acknowledging issuance of criminal clearance by the New York State Education Department.
- **Lynne Hoover-** Appointment as Girls Modified Basketball Coach for the 2022-2023 school year at a stipend per TIEA contract.
- **Madison Bernhardt-** Appointment as Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.
- **Michael Campany-** Appointment as Substitute Teacher for the 2022-2023 school year.

Acknowledged receipt of criminal clearance from the New York State Education Department for **Corrine Willis** and **Sean Wright**.

After no further discussion, vote was taken; all voting aye.

8:0

Superintendent's Report:

Superintendent Bashaw addressed the board with the question of whether or not to continue funding student lunches throughout the rest of the 2022-2023 school year, to which the board unanimously agreed to do so.

Superintendent Bashaw also presented the issue of funding Senior caps and gowns this year in response to their inability to successfully fundraise during the pandemic. The board discussed the option of purchasing district-owned gowns for students to use and return in the future, and therefore only needing to purchase individual caps.

Superintendent Bashaw added acknowledgement of the recent fossil fuel ban in New York States, expecting new laws to be upcoming.

Students and Programs

Motion by Sarah Riddoch, second by Erin Churchill, to approve the following:

- Recommendations by Committee on Special Education for amendments and meetings held on November 9, 2022, November 15, 2022, November 30, 2022, December 6, 2022 and December 9, 2022.

After no discussion, vote was taken; all voting aye. **8:0**

Motion by Jenny Bach, second by Erik Swenson, for the Board to move into Executive Session to discuss personnel. Vote was taken; all voting aye. The Board entered Executive Session at 6:07 p.m. **8:0**

The Board reconvened at 6:59 p.m.

Personnel

Motion by Erik Swenson, second by Jenny Bach, to approve the following:

- **Karen Bourcy**- Approve tax collector salary increase of 5%, effective July 1, 2022.
- **Tyra Jaring**- Resignation with last date of employment being January 27, 2023.

After no further discussion, vote was taken, all voting aye. **8:0**

Motion by Erik Swenson, second by Sarah Riddoch, to adjourn the meeting. Vote was taken; all voting aye. **8:0**

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Date

Clerk