



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, December 16, 2015  
355 Migeon Avenue**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Fiona Cappabianca; Ellen G. Hoehne; Peter Vergaro; Bill Knight; Joanne K. Brogis; Jim Lamoin; Andrew Nargi; Jessica Richardson; Daniel Thibault; Kenneth P. Traub, Chair

Administration: David Bascetta, Director of Facilities; Paula LaChance, Interim Director of Student Services; Susan M. Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent; Lynda T. Reitman, Interim Superintendent

**Absent:** Mayor Carbone

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

The Chair outlined the purpose and rules of the School/Community Session.

There were no speakers.

**WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

The Chair introduced and welcomed the new Board members; Dr. Brogis and Mr. Vergaro

**ACTION ITEM**

**A. Nomination and Election of Board Chairman**

Mr. Thibault made a motion to nominate Mr. Traub; Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion.

Ms. Richardson made a motion to nominate Ms. Cappabianca Mr. Knight seconded the motion.

Mr. Nargi made a motion to nominate Mr. Vergaro. There was no second per request of Mr. Vergaro.

A motion to close nominations was made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Mr. Lamoin. All in favor.

Ms. Cappabianca was elected Board Chairperson with six (6) votes. Three (3) votes for Mr. Traub (Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Thibault).

**B. Nomination and Election of Board Vice Chairman**

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to nominate Ms. Richardson. Mr. Knight seconded.

Ms. Hoehne made a motion to nominate Mr. Traub. Mr. Thibault seconded.

Mr. Knight made a motion to close nominations. Mr. Thibault seconded. All in favor.

Ms. Richardson was elected Vice-Chairperson with seven (7) votes. Mr. Traub received two (2), Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Thibault.

**C. Nomination and Election of Board Secretary**

Mr. Knight made a motion to nominate Ms. Hoehne. Mr. Lamoin seconded.

Mr. Nargi made a motion to nominate Dr. Brogis. Not seconded per request of Dr. Brogis.

Mr. Nargi made a motion to nominate Mr. Traub. Not seconded per request of Mr. Traub.

Mr. Nargi made a motion to nominate Mr. Lamoin. Not seconded per request of Mr. Lamoin.

Dr. Brogis made a motion to nominate Mr. Nargi. Mr. Traub seconded. Mr. Nargi turned down the nomination.

Ms. Richardson made a motion to nominate Mr. Vergaro. Mr. Nargi seconded.

Mr. Knight made a motion to close nominations. Mr. Lamoin seconded. All in favor.

Mr. Hoehne was elected Board Secretary with two (2) votes for Mr. Vergaro by Mr. Nargi, and Ms. Richardson. Chairperson Cappabianca and Mr. Vergaro abstained.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

**A. Superintendent's Report**

**1. THS Football Recognition**

Ms. Reitman informed the Board of the recognition of the THS Football team.

2. Music Program Recognition

Ms. Reitman informed the Board of the awards won by the music department.

3. Forbes Solar Project

Ms. Reitman and Mr. Thibault spoke about the Forbes Solar Project and the rebates it has brought back to the district.

4. Lunch Policy Review

Ms. Reitman updated the Board on the Policy review.

Mr. Knight asked about notification to parents of low funds in student's accounts.

Mr. Vergaro asked about using an automated phone system to inform parents. He spoke about the tone used to talk to teachers and administrators.

Ms. Hoehne explained she was in the process of looking at each school and seeing how this policy is being enforced.

Mr. Traub asked who supervises the lunch manager.

5. Veterans Day Recognition

Ms. Reitman informed the Board of the recognition received from the community for the District's Veterans Day celebrations.

**B. Board Clerk**

Mr. Traub introduced the new Board Clerk.

**C. 2015-2016 Budget Adjustments Review**

Ms. Reitman updated the Board on the process and reviewed the adjustments made to the 2015-16 budget.

Dr. Brogis asked if the amount of the budget changed. She asked if the online Latin class would be continued in the future.

Mr. Nargi asked about early retirement. He also asked about the hiring of a Latin teacher that was budgeted for. He also wanted to know the number of students taking Latin online.

**D. Capital Budget 2016-2017**

Mr. Bascetta spoke to the Board regarding the facilities portion of the Capital Budget for 2016-2017.

The Southeast School building was discussed and what the intent was.

Ms. Richardson asked about the costs associated with the building.

Mr. Vergaro asked about the softball field and the costs associated with it.

The Migeon Avenue building was discussed.

Mr. Nargi asked about the heating system in this building.

Getting an extension from the DEEP to remove the oil tank was discussed.

Ms. Reitman spoke about technology in the district.

Mr. Vergaro asked for input from the teachers regarding the number of devices needed.

Data storage was discussed.

Mr. Vergaro asked for hardware vs. programing costs.

Internet speed was discussed.

Mr. Nargi asked about sources of funding technology expenditures.

Mr. Traub made a motion to add item 7H-- Returning the Southeast School building to the City of Torrington in the next fiscal year. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

#### **E. Staffing Reports**

Mr. Thibault updated the Board on the Staffing Reports.

#### **F. Special Education Update Report**

Ms. LaChance updated the Board on the Special Education Report.

Funding and analysis was discussed.

#### **G. New Course Curriculum for UCONN IV Spanish Speakers**

Ms. Reitman informed the Board of the new course curriculum. She asked to visit this item at a later date because she was not happy with it as is.

The policy regarding new course curriculum was discussed.

#### **H. Field Trips**

Ms. Reitman informed the Board of the upcoming field trips to Quebec and Italy.

The number of attending students, chaperones, substitutes and costs were discussed.

Fundraising was discussed.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Monthly Financials**

Mr. Knight made a motion to accept the monthly financials. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **B. Approval of 2015-16 Budget Adjustments**

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to approve the 2015-16 budget adjustments. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **C. Southeast School**

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to approve item 7H. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve returning the Southeast School building to the City of Torrington in the next fiscal year. Mr. Vergaro seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Ms. Richardson, Chair abstained.

### **D. Approval of Capital Budget 2016-2017 and Submission to the City**

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to approve the Capital Budget 2016-17 and submission to the City. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi, Chair abstained.

Mr. Vergaro asked if there was a Capital Budget subcommittee.

Ms. Richardson made a motion to remove Action Item 7.D. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **E. Approval of Field Trip to Italy**

Mr. Vergaro made a motion to approve the field trip to Italy. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **F. Approval of Field Trip to Quebec**

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the field trip to Quebec. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

## **G. Consent Agenda**

1. Approval of November 18, 2015 Regular BOE Meeting minutes
2. Approval of Subcommittee minutes
  - a. Budget Committee Meeting – November 16, 2015
  - b. Policy Committee Meeting – November 4, 2014
  - c. Policy Committee Meeting – November 12, 2015
  - d. School Improvement Committee Meeting – November 4, 2015
  - e. Personnel Committee Meeting – November 16, 2015
  - f. THS Oversight – September 23, 2015
  - g. THS Oversight – October 14, 2015
  - h. THS Oversight – November 4, 2015
3. Appointments & Resignations
4. Notices for Homeschooling
  - a. N.R., (DOB 1/23/01), eff., 2015-16
  - b. P.N., (DOB 4/19/99), eff., 2015-16

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. The vote passed with two (2) opposed, Mr. Nargi and Mr. Vergaro. The Chairperson, Dr. Brogis and Ms. Richardson abstained.

## **COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. Knight thanked Mr. Traub for his services.

Mr. Lamoin thanked Mr. Traub and spoke about rehabilitating existing buildings and renting them.

Mr. Traub stated he didn't want to attend the Administrative Negotiations Meeting and asked Mr. Nargi to attend. He also congratulated Ms. Cappabianca.

Dr. Brogis said she was looking forward to working with everyone. She asked for policy procedures regarding visiting the schools.

Mr. Thibault thanked Mr. Traub and welcomed the new Board members.

Mr. Vargaro thanked Mr. Traub.

Ms. Cappabianca thanked Mr. Traub.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Budget Committee – Ms. Cappabianca reported.
- B. Grievance Committee – Mr. Lamoin reported.
- C. Personnel Committee – Mr. Thibault reported.
- D. Policy Committee – Ms. Hoehne reported.
- E. School Improvement Committee – Ms. Richardson reported.
- F. THS Oversight Panel – Mr. Lamoin reported
- G. Turf Field Committee – Mr. Nargi reported.

## **ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA**

- A. Financial Statement
- B. Committee Reports
- C. Development of Special Education Committee
- D. Discussion on changing the Board attorney and concept of having two (2) Board meetings a month.
- E. Update on Superintendent Search
- F. Board member training

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

- A. Wednesday, January 6, 2016 (Migeon Ave.)
  - 6:00 p.m. – School Improvement and Community Relations Committee
  - 7:00 p.m. – Policy Committee
- B. Wednesday, January 13, 2016 (Migeon Ave.)
  - 6:00 p.m. – Personnel Committee
  - 6:30 p.m. – Budget Committee
- C. Wednesday, January 20, 2015 (THS)
  - 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Education Meeting

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Traub made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.