



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, November 20, 2017, 6:30PM  
50 Major Besse Drive**

1) **CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:35PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Fiona Cappabianca; Joanne Brogis; Edward Corey; John Giansanti; Ellen G. Hoehne; John Kissko, Armand Maniccia; Molly Spino; Peter Vergaro

Administration: David Bascetta, Director of Facilities; Denise L. Clemons, Superintendent; Susan M. Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent

**Absent:** Daniel Thibault, Le'Tanya Lawrence; Director of Student Services, Steven Manley, IT Director

2) **WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS**

The Chair welcomed new Board Members: Mr. Corey, Mr. Giansanti, Mr. Kissko, and Ms. Spino.

3) **ACTION ITEMS**

A. Nomination and Election of Board Chair

Ms. Hoehne nominated Fiona Cappabianca to be elected Board Chair, seconded by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

Dr. Brogis commented that Ms. Cappabianca does an admirable job as board chair and she spends a lot of hours making sure the board is informed of everything going on.

B. Nomination and Election of Board Vice Chair

Mr. Maniccia nominated John Kissko to be elected for Board Vice Chair, seconded by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

Mr. Vergaro commented that Mr. Kissko has the time and experience and he will do a great job as vice chair.

C. Nomination and Election of Secretary

Mr. Vergaro nominated Ellen Hoehne to be elected Secretary, seconded by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

Mr. Vergaro commented that Ms. Hoehne has a great work ethic and pays attention to detail.

4) **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Ms. Hoehne made the motion to amend the agenda removing 7K and 9H since the Board took a vote at the City Council meeting, seconded by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

8:48PM - The Chair entertained the motion to extend the meeting till 9:15PM. Ms. Hoehne made the motion to approve the extension, Mr. Maniccia seconded. Y-7, N-1 (Kissko). Motion carries. Meeting is extended till 9:15PM.

9:10PM - The Chair entertained the motion to extend the meeting till 9:30PM. Mr. Vergaro made the motion to approve the extension, Mr. Giansanti seconded. Y-5, N-3 (Kissko, Maniccia, Brogis). Motion carries. Meeting is extended till 9:30PM.

## **5) INFORMATION SHARING SESSION (Part 1)**

- A. Superintendent's Recognition – The Superintendent and the Chair recognized the following staff member and students, stated nice sentiments and presented them with a recognition award:
1. Cynthia Amoroso
  2. Wayne Spletstoeszer
  3. Brandy Zima
  4. Nathaly Ruis (Student – Vogel Wetmore)
  5. Melisa Duman (Student – Vogel Wetmore)
- B. Superintendent's Report – Ms. Clemons stated that she is proud of the administrators and the work they have done in moving forward to becoming an alliance district. The first meeting with the State is January 8, 2018. She wished everyone happy holidays.
- C. Presentation of Options for Torrington Public School Restructure Effective July 1, 2018 – Ms. Clemons was charged by the Board to come up with 3 different options that can be utilized with the temporary closing of East School.
- Option 1: Divide the 4 elementary schools into grade schools. This would also resolve the racial imbalance citations.
- Option 2: 2 grade level sister schools.
- Option 3: Proposal of the New Elementary School.
- In order to decide the best possible option an Ad Hoc Committee would be created including Board Members, Central Office, Administration, Building Level Administration, Teacher, Para & Parent from each building as well as a Secretary, Nurse and Custodian District Wide. This committee would meet every Monday and Tuesday and they will come back for the Board of Education meeting in January to give us a recommendation.
- Mr. Bascetta presented to the Board and the public the current issues at East School: East school estimated capital needs by priority: boiler replacements, energy/HVAC controls, unit ventilators, hot water heater, rooftop units and hvac, sprinkler protections, window upgrades, flooring material, lighting upgrades, interior doors and hardware change outs, exterior doors, plumbing fixtures and bathrooms, paving, parking, bus drop off, elevator upgrades, interior walls and interior painting, exterior walls, roof replacement, security upgrades and fire alarm system, playfield upgrades, ceiling repairs. Estimated cost for all of this is \$8,062,350.00 and this plan may span 5-8 years.
- The Chair needs an assessment of every building and what every building needs so the Board can prioritize what needs to be done.
- Ms. Clemons reported to the Board that she already has a needs assessment done for THS and she will present it to the Board.

## **6) SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

Carissa Machtire spoke about East School and Redistricting.

Brian Thomas spoke about East School and his concerns about the closure.

Erin French spoke about her concerns about the change in the Pre-School program at THS.

Keri Hoehne spoke about her concerns about the change in the Pre-School program at THS.

Elizabeth Hagymasis spoke about the transparency in the District.

Ken Traub spoke about the process and though that went behind East School closure.

Ebony Parish spoke about the East School closure.

Liza Rosa asked the Board a couple of questions regarding East School closure and her appreciation of the Boards effort to make sure every student gets the same educational opportunity.

Jason Lafreniere spoke about the racial imbalance and that sports need to be brought back to TMS.

Tabatha Gales spoke about the timeline of East School.

Michael spoke about his support for the closure of East School.

Kristen had questions about the survey that will be going out to the public.

Travis Battstori had questions on the Alliance District.

## **7) INFORMATION SHARING SESSION(Part 2)**

### **D. Field Trip – THS Boston, MA, April 2018**

The form was provided in the packet. The Board had no questions.

### **E. Monthly Financials**

The Budget Committee reviewed the monthly financials and they are looking at some special education items. Everything appears to be in order.

### **F. 2017/2018 Budget Update**

This item was discussed at the Budget Committee meeting. There are some issues of capital and revenue and final numbers on the state. We will find out what we have to do to get through the end of the year in a few weeks. This is just a fair warning to the public.

### **G. Capital Improvements Proposal**

Mr. Bascetta talked about the TMS window replacement. There is about 158 probably non-operable window which is about 54% of them. The standards must be met or we will get fined. Mr. Bascetta is recommending to present it as a 2 year plan since there are a lot of changes in the District and as time goes on, things get move expensive. The Board asked the members of their opinions and it was decided to replace all of the windows at TMS.

### **H. Director of Human Resources**

The candidate for the position, Kimberly Schulte, introduced herself. She is the current Director of HR in Hartford and she is excited to be here.

### **I. Network Manager**

Mr. Fimbers is the current Network Manager and he has stepped up and provided us extra support and the administration would like to increase his salary by 10,000. With the salary increase, we can use our Network Manager as our IT Director moving forward.

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on January 24, 2018.

- J. Food Charging Policy #6194  
Ms. Hoehne reported that information was added that should have been included in the policy.
- K. ~~M.O.U. For Consolidated Business Offices~~  
Removed.
- L. Executive Session – Review the Tentative Agreement Between the Torrington Board of Education and the Torrington Education Association  
The Chair entertained a motion to go into Executive Session to Review the Tentative Agreement between the Torrington Board of Education and the Torrington Education Association. Mr. Maniccia made the motion to go into executive session inviting Ms. Clemons in, seconded by Mr. Vergaro. All in favor. The Board entered executive session at 9:10PM. The board returned back into open session at 9:21PM.

## **8) COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Budget Committee  
Everything was discussed in the information sharing session.
- B. Ed-Advance  
No meeting in December.
- C. Curriculum Committee  
Mr. Maniccia reported that he was unable to attend but they are bridging curriculum between levels.

## **9) ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Field Trip – THS Boston, MA, April 2018  
Mr. Kissko made the motion to approve the field trip, seconded by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.
- B. Closure of Current Torrington Public Schools Restructure Committee  
Dr. Brogis made the motion to close the current TPS Restructure Committee, Mr. Kissko seconded, all in favor. TPS Restructure Committee is closed.
- C. Creation of Ad Hoc Committee for Implementation of Torrington Public Schools Restructure with Board Members, Central Office, Administration, Building Level Administration, Teacher, Para & Parent from each building as well as a Secretary, Nurse and Custodian District Wide.  
Mr. Vergaro made the motion to create the Ad Hoc Committee for Implementation of Public Schools Restructure, seconded by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.
- D. Capital Improvement Plan to City  
Mr. Kissko made the motion to approve the Capital Improvement Plan as amended by the Board earlier, Mr. Giansanti seconded. All in favor.
- E. Director of Human Resources  
Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the Director of Human Resources, seconded by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
- F. Network Manager  
Ms. Hoehne made the motion to approve the additional salary for Network Manager, seconded by Mr. Giansanti. All in favor.

G. Food Charging Policy #6194

Ms. Hoehne made the motion to approve the Food Charging Policy, seconded by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

~~H. M.O.U. For Consolidated Business Offices~~

~~Removed.~~

I. ~~Possible Action~~ – Approve the Tentative Agreement between the Torrington Board of Education and the Torrington Education Association

Ms. Hoehne made the motion to approve the Tentative Agreement between the Torrington Board of Education and the Torrington Education Association, seconded by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.

J. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes – November 29, 2017

Mr. Vergaro made the motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Hoehne. Only the board members who were present at the meeting were able to vote. The members who were present voted yes. Motion passes.

K. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes – December 15, 2017

Ms. Hoehne made the motion to approve and amend the date on the minutes to December 15, seconded by Mr. Vergaro. Member who were at the meeting voted yes. Motion passes.

L. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Monthly Financials
2. Receive Subcommittee Minutes:
  - i. School Improvement Committee – November 1, 2017
  - ii. Budget Committee – November 8, 2017
3. Appointments & Resignations

Ms. Hoehne made the motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.

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

Mr. Vergaro – Did not like some of the comments made by the public tonight, they did not reflect the great sense of unity that Torrington has.

Mr. Kissko – Thanked the Board members for their confidence in him.

Mr. Maniccia – Wished everyone happy holidays!

Dr. Brogis – Wished everyone happy holidays!

Mr. Corey – Thanked everyone for being so welcoming.

Mr. Giansanti – Stated that he is happy to be here.

Ms. Spino – Stated that she is happy to be here and thanked everyone for being so welcoming.

Chair – Wished everyone happy holidays! She wants to create a retreat in January and requested that everyone tell her what subcommittee they would like to be on.

## **11) ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA**

1. Monthly Financials
2. Redistrict
3. Capital

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on January 24, 2018.

## **12) FUTURE MEETINGS**

### ***Wednesday, January 3, 2018 (at Forbes School)***

6:00 p.m. – School Improvement and Community Relations Committee

7:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

### ***Wednesday, January 10, 2018 (at Migeon Ave.)***

6:30 p.m. – Personnel Committee

7:00 p.m. – Budget Committee

### ***Wednesday, January 24, 2018 (at THS)***

6:30 p.m. – Regular Board of Education Meeting

## **13) ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Hoehne made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Brogis seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:30PM.