



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 24, 2018, 6:30PM
50 Major Besse Drive**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Fiona Cappabianca; Joanne Brogis; Edward Corey (6:32PM); Ellen G. Hoehne; John Kissko, Armand Maniccia; Molly Spino; Daniel Thibault (7:07PM); Peter Vergaro

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

Absent: John Giansanti, Le'Tanya Lawrence; Director of Student Services

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Brogis made the motion to approve the agenda with the removal of page 2 of the Consent Agenda, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.

Mr. Kissko made a motion to remove item 7-A, second by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

8:58PM – Dr. Brogis made the motion to extend the meeting for 5 minutes, second by Mr. Corey. Y-7, N-1 (Kissko.) Motion carries.

9:03PM – Mr. Corey made the motion to extend the meeting for 3 minutes, second by Dr. Brogis. Y-6, N-2 (Kissko, Thibault.) Motion carries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Hoehne made the motion to go into executive session, second by Dr. Brogis. The board invited in the Superintendent and the attorney. All in favor.

The Board entered into executive session at 6:35PM for discussion concerning attorney client communication regarding next steps for addressing a matter related to school grants.

The board returned into open session at 7:27PM.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Keith Hudak spoke about the redistricting.

Keri Hoehne spoke about the redistricting.

Brian Thomas spoke about the redistricting.

Mr. Thibault made the motion to extend School/Community Session for 5 minutes, second by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

Carissa Mctire spoke about the redistricting.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

A. Staff Recognition:

1. The Superintendent and the Chair recognized Rene LaMere from Vogel Wetmore School. Rene LaMere is the last teacher to leave the building and guides her team to success. She is leading the change to the new science curriculum.

B. Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent made some comments regarding her leadership, education and professionalism. She is concerned about the discriminatory comments that are being made. She asked the audience what Torrington really wants to change.

The board discussed about creating a discretionary fund for the Superintendent like the principals have.

C. Field Trips:

1. THS: Spanish Theatre, NYC
2. THS: MET Museum, NYC
3. TMS: Mt. Snow, Vermont

The Board discussed the options they have with the way these field trips were presented. They talked about approving to pay for the field trips but not approving to pay for the substitute teachers. The chair wants to make this decision on a philosophical level.

D. Emergency Unanticipated Repairs as of 1/19/18

Mr. Bascetta presented a list of emergency unanticipated repairs that was brought to the Budget Committee. There was a hot water replacement done at TMS which exceeded the \$10,000 limit. He also presented a list of the other things that had to be done, mostly emergency repairs. These repairs were unanticipated not because of the lack of taking care of the equipment simply because a lot of the equipment is aging and breaking.

E. Monthly Financial

Ms. Clemons reported that we are trying to hold on. She has asked the principals and the administrators to submit a budget with a 0%, 1%, and a 2%.

F. Budget Transfers

None.

G. Board of Education Calendar July 2018 through June 30, 2019

The board agreed to move the July 4th meetings to July 18th.

H. Committee Assignments

The Chair informed every one of their assignments. Each committee has a mixture of old members and new members. She urges the alternates to attend as many meetings are possible. The goal of an alternate is that they are able to step in and vote in which case they need to be informed and up to speed on what has been happening at the meetings.

I. School Liaisons

The Chair informed the members that it is really important for them to attend any events

at their assigned school. She wants each member to reach out to the principals of their school, a week prior to the regular BOE meeting, and find out what they want to report to the board. There will be a “School Liaison Report” on the agenda from now on.

J. Alliance District

Ms. Clemons presented a PowerPoint on Alliance District. An alliance district must submit an annual plan and it has to be approved by the state. Torrington received a grant. There are 4 categories which area this money is being targeted for: Talent, Academics, Culture and Climate, and Operations. Ms. Clemons has requested that this money is going towards the following: 2 literacy coaches – elementary level, 4 mathematic coaches – all schools, team mentoring stipend – 3 teachers, human resource – develop and implement hiring and placement process, coherence and capacity study – LEAD CT and Connecticut Center for School Change, create and implement an alternative transitions program – special education teachers and guidance counselors, non-certified bilingual staff members to service as a parent liaison to increase family engagement – improve attendance and assist with translation services, and upgrade PowerSchool.

K. PowerSchool Upgrade

Ms. Clemons reported that we need a PowerSchool upgrade because we have an outdated version and a self-hosted server. Mr. Thibault requested a report.

L. Expulsion Update

Ms. Clemons reported that we currently have 5 students who are expelled. With the new expulsion law, we are working with a new community to get them updated. We are trying to work with other communities so we can have one program where the expelled students can attend. The new law states that we have to mirror what they would have in a regular school.

M. Technical School Legislation

Ms. Clemons reported that she was told that the district would not pay for the tuition of the Technical Schools. We want to make sure that is a definitive and that at no point in time will the district be required to pay for the Technical School tuition.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Budget Committee – The Chair reported that they talked about the monthly financials. Also, they spent time talking about the rental of facilities and how to improve the process. The studio that rented TMS for their Dance Recital will not be charged the custodian fee because there was no custodian there.
- B. Grievance Committee – None.
- C. Ed-Advance – Dr. Brogis reported that there was a legislative breakfast and they use a process called “Through Exchange.”
- D. Curriculum Committee – Mr. Maniccia stated that there is nothing new to report.
- E. Torrington Public Schools Redistrict Ad-Hoc Committee – The Chair reported that they had their first meeting last Tuesday and 49 people were in attendance. It was a very good meeting with a lot of good questions. Next meeting will be at Vogel-Wetmore School on January 25. They will be reviewing the second option. The Chair also wanted to clear up some false rumors being spread around on social media: The Committee never discussed OT, PT, and Speech Therapy being done in the classroom. Also, the Committee never discussed that 20 teachers are losing their job.

ACTION ITEMS

~~A. Possible Action Related to a School Grant Matter~~ Removed.

B. Field Trips

1. **THS: Spanish Theatre, NYC**

Mr. Corey made the motion to approve this field trip, second by Dr. Brogis. Y-6, N-2 (Maniccia, Hoehne.) Motion carries.

2. **THS: MET Museum, NYC**

Dr. Brogis made the motion to approve this field trip, second by Mr. Thibault. Y-6, N-2 (Maniccia, Hoehne.) Motion carries.

3. **TMS: Mt. Snow, Vermont**

Mr. Thibault made the motion to approve this field trip, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.

C. Emergency Unanticipated Repairs as of 1/19/18

Mr. Kissko made the motion to receive the hot water replacement as the cost exceeded \$10,000, second by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

D. Board of Education Calendar July 2018 through June 30, 2019

Mr. Corey made a motion to approve the calendar with the change of the July 4th meetings to be moved to July 18th, second by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

E. Committee Assignments

Ms. Spino made the motion to approve the committee assignments, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.

F. School Liaisons

Ms. Spino made the motion to approve the school liaisons, second by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

G. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes – December 20, 2017

Dr. Brogis made the motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.

H. Approval of Consent Agenda

1. **Approval of Monthly Financials**

2. **Receive Subcommittee Minutes:**

i. **Budget Committee – December 13, 2017**

3. **Appointments & Resignations**

Dr. Brogis made the motion to approve the amended consent agenda, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Thibault – “Welcome to 2018!”

Ms. Spino – She is pleased with how the subcommittee meetings are going.

Mr. Vergaro – He stated that it is interesting to hear the comments made by the public and he is wondering where the reality really gets distorted. With all the curveballs that are happening, he commended the Superintendent for the great job that she is doing.

Mr. Maniccia – He reported that he visited Forbes school on Monday and that the kids and teachers were great.

Dr. Brogis – She would like to see some school representatives coming to the meetings. She likes to hear what the students have to say. Also, Dr. Brogis echoes Mr. Vergaro’s sentiments about the Superintendent.

Mr. Corey – He reported that he paid a visit to the CJR in Litchfield and had a lot of nice

sentiments to say about the facility.

Mr. Kissko – Recognized the loss of a history teacher.

The Chair – She thanked the board members for all the time they have been putting in outside of the meetings and all of the meetings as well. She wants the community to be involved in the process of redistricting and for them to understand how things work, if they do not, she encourages them to reach out to her. She stated that the board meetings have to be run in a parliamentary way.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

1. Monthly Financials
2. Redistrict Update
3. Budget Transfer
4. School Calendar

FUTURE MEETINGS

Thursday, January 25, 2018 (at Vogel)

5:30 p.m. – Torrington Public Schools Redistrict Ad-Hoc Committee

Thursday, February 1, 2018 (at Torringtonford)

5:30 p.m. – Torrington Public Schools Redistrict Ad-Hoc Committee

Wednesday, February 7, 2018 (at Southwest School)

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

7:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

Thursday, February 8, 2018 (at Southwest)

5:30 p.m. – Torrington Public Schools Redistrict Ad-Hoc Committee

Wednesday, February 14, 2018 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:30 p.m. – Personnel Committee

7:00 p.m. – Budget Committee

Thursday, February 15, 2018 (at Forbes)

5:30 p.m. – Torrington Public Schools Redistrict Ad-Hoc Committee

Wednesday, February 28, 2018 (at THS)

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

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Hoehne made the motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:06PM.