



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, March 28, 2018, 6:30PM  
50 Major Besse Drive**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:33PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Joanne Brogis; Fiona Cappabianca; Edward Corey (6:37PM); Ellen G. Hoehne; John Kissko, Armand Maniccia; Molly Spino; Daniel Thibault; Peter Vergaro

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

**Absent:** Kim Schulte, Human Resources Director

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Vergaro made the motion to approve the agenda with the amendment to add 4J (E-Rate), 4K (ADA Interior Compliance), 7G (Action E-Rate) and 7H (Action ADA Interior Compliance). Mr. Maniccia second. All in favor.

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

Diane spoke about the Alliance District and the THS NEASC evaluation. Mary spoke about the 2018/2019 Calendar and this year's April vacation.

**INFORMATION SHARING SESSION**

**A. Student Recognition** – The following were recognized by Mr. S, the Superintendent and the Chair for their musical talent:

1. Ashley Civelli
2. Ashton Tyler
3. Ayden Kevorkian
4. Jayson Bubel
5. Carmen Pochet
6. Aubrie Dell'Agnes
7. Emma Andrighetti
8. Katherine Hass
9. Jacob Cousens
10. Julia Fritz
11. Jayson Kozlowski
12. Kaitlyn LaPierre

13. Maggie Schnyer
14. Mazda Delgado
15. MJ McGillicuddy
16. Natalie Garrison
17. Natalie Kwasnick
18. Sarah Pastre
19. Paul LaRosa
20. Pedrocarlo Otarola
21. Richard Buttafuso
22. Spencer Miers
23. Kate Stedman
24. Justin Torres
25. William Wilson

**B. Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent reported that the Alliance District grant has been released. She encouraged everyone to support the Litchfield County Sports magazine. The staff has been busy working on the upcoming Budget.

**C. Board Member Attendance**

The Chair reminded members that based on the Bylaws members have to serve on the assigned subcommittees. If a member is unable to attend then they must notify the Chair of the committee 24 hours in advance.

**D. Field Trip - THS: Botanical Gardens - Bronx, NY, 4/27/18**

It was noted by the board that if there is additional costs that it will be absorbed by the students.

**E. Executive Session to Discuss a Personnel Matter in Regard to a Sabbatical Request**

Dr. Brogis made the motion to go into executive session inviting the Superintendent. Ms. Spino second. All in favor. The board entered an executive session at 6:49PM. The board returned to open session at 7:09PM.

**F. PowerSchool Upgrade to Cloud – Sequence of Events**

Mr. Thibault had questions on the need for upgrading the PowerSchool. Mr. Fimbers reported that the yearly cost lowers if you host a server on their cloud and that the state was requiring reports that they were unable to file without the upgrade.

**G. Monthly Financials**

Most of the overages are due to Special Education overages. There is a request put in for the excess cost from the city of about 1.4 million dollars.

**H. Capital Projects**

A list was provided to the board of what projects should be done with the money that was not used for the Solar Project.

**I. 2017/2018 School Calendar**

After discussion, the board decided that it was best to add April 16 and April 17 to the school calendar to account for the snow days. If students had planned vacations their absence would be excused for those two days. April 16 and April 17 will be early dismissal days. April 26 and May 17 will be full school days. June 20, 21, and 22 will be early dismissal for the elementary schools and TMS. June 19-22 will be early dismissal days for THS. Graduation will still occur on Sunday, June 24.

**J. E-Rate**

If we get connectivity through Connecticut Education Network then it is a lower cost to us. It is only a one year contract.

**K. ADA Interior Compliance**

Approved in the Budget Committee and if the board approves then the State will give us direction before we can proceed.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**A. Policy Committee**

None.

**B. School Improvement Committee**

None.

**C. Budget Committee**

Mr. Manicia reported they have been working hard on next year's budget.

**D. Personnel Committee**

Dr. Brogis reported that they discussed substitute fill rates.

**E. Grievance Committee**

Mr. Thibault reported there was a grievance but it ended on a positive note and the grievance has been closed.

**F. Ed-Advance**

Dr. Brogis reported that they are offering 4 scholarships and they discussed UCONN and the plan to sell the Torrington Campus.

**G. Curriculum Committee**

None.

**H. Torrington Public Schools Redistrict Ad-Hoc Committee**

The Chair reported that they have formed 4 subcommittees to address communication, staff transitions, parent and student transitions, materials, etc.

**NEW BOARD MEMBER**

**A. Introduction and Appointment of New Board Member**

Jessica Richardson was introduced. Mr. Kissko made the motion to appoint Jessica Richardson as a new board member. Ms. Spino second. All in favor.

**B. Swearing In of New Board Member**

Ms. Hoehne administered the oath to Jessica Richardson.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Field Trip - THS: Botanical Gardens - Bronx, NY, 4/27/18**

Dr. Brogis made the motion to approve the field trip. Mr. Vergaro second. All in favor. (Richardson abstained). Motion carries.

**B. Sabbatical Request**

Mr. Kissko made the motion to reject the sabbatical request. Ms. Spino second. All in favor. (Richardson and Vergaro abstained). Motion carries and request is denied.

**C. Capital Project**

Dr. Brogis made the motion to submit the capital projects allowing the city to transfer the funds. Mr. Vergaro second. All in favor. (Richardson abstained). Motion carries.

**D. 2017/2018 School Calendar**

Dr. Brogis made the motion to allow staff members sick, personal, or unpaid time off on April 16 and April 17, making those into half days, and making PLC days into full days. Mr. Vergaro second. All in favor. (Richardson abstained). Motion carries.

**E. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes – February 28, 2018**

Mr. Corey made the motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Vergaro second the motion. All in favor. (Richardson and Brogis abstained). Motion carries.

**F. Approval of Consent Agenda**

1. **Approval of Monthly Financials**
2. **Receive Subcommittee Minutes:**
  - i. **Budget Committee – February 14, 2018**
  - ii. **Personnel Committee – March 14, 2018**
3. **Appointments & Resignations**

Dr. Brogis made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Vergaro second. All in favor. (Richardson abstained). Motion carries.

**G. Approval of E-Rate**

Dr. Brogis made the motion to approve the E-Rate contract. Mr. Vergaro second. All in favor. (Richardson abstained). Motion carries.

**H. Approval of ADA Interior Compliance**

Dr. Brogis made the motion to approve the balance of funds of the THS ADA Interior Compliance Project 143-0072CV to be used for Phase 2 Miscellaneous Code Violations, pending Change Order Review and Approval by State of CT Office of School Construction Grants . Mr. Vergaro second. All in favor. (Richardson abstained). Motion carries.

**COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. Maniccia – TMS had many things going on recently. They had a play and the Wizards basketball game, which were awesome.

Dr. Brogis – Requested an update on the AP process and an updated on the registration process of THS.

Ms. Spino – Reported on Torrington and that April is Autism awareness month.

Ms. Hoehne – Reported that East School is dividing their sunflower seeds to give to other schools so there will be a piece of East School on every campus.

Mr. Kissko – Announced that next SIC and Policy meetings will be held at Torrington School and welcomed Ms. Richardson.

Ms. Richardson – Thanked everyone for making her feel welcomed and looks forward to helping out.

Mr. Thibault – Noted that he will be in New Jersey the last week of April.

Chair – Reported that she attended the dodgeball game and it was a great event. She welcomed Ms. Richardson.

**ITEMS FOR UPCOMMING AGENDA**

Monthly Financials

Budget

Redistricting

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

***Monday, April 2, 2018 (at THS)***

5:30 p.m. – Budget Committee

***Tuesday, April 3, 2018 (at Vogel)***

7:00 p.m. – Pubic Hearing Re: Budget

***Wednesday, April 4, 2018 (at Migeon Ave.)***

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

7:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

***Wednesday, April 11, 2018 (at Migeon Ave.)***

6:00 p.m. – Personnel Committee

7:00 p.m. – Budget Committee

***Wednesday, April 25, 2018 (at THS)***

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Kissko made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Hoehne second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:13PM.