



## Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI  
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSSON  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

### Special Meeting of the Board of Education Tuesday, April 28, 2020, 5:00 P.M. Remote Meeting

Members of the public were able e-mail Fiona Cappabianca regarding items on the agenda. They were able to listen to the meeting through dialing in and watching the meeting via Zoom.

#### Minutes

1. Call to Order: 5:04 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Spino, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Todor, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Ms. Fappiano  
Also Present: Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Ms. Schulte, Mr. Arum, Ms. Klimaszewski, Mr. Barlow
3. 2020/2021 Budget Discussion: At the last Board of Finance meeting, there was a discussion addressing the need for all City Departments to reach a 2.5% increase in their 2020-2021 proposed budgets. In response, Ms. Lubomski presented possible reductions from the Board of Education 2020-2021 Budget Proposal totaling a 2.5% increase rather than a 4.8% increase. The proposed decreases included: Workers Compensation – \$50,746, Liability Insurance – \$12,000, Natural Gas – \$12,000, Severance - \$19,000, Electricity – \$53,352, Retiree Insurance – \$50,000, Health Insurance – \$891, 833 at a moderate claims rate and 100%. This was the most recent suggested rate quoted to the Mayor, the Board Chair, Interim Business Manager and Superintendent. The reductions would total \$1,088,931. Staffing savings would total \$679,062 which would bring the budget down to a 2.5% increase. This would not include classroom teacher reductions. The board discussed each reduction. All Board members agreed to present this reduction to the Board of Finance. The Board members also requested that the City post their monthly financials online. They also requested a copy of the City's monthly financials and the current 2020-2021 City Budget Proposal.
4. School/Community Service/Public Participation: **E-mail or Dial in Only**

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on May 27, 2020.

The Board Chair read comments that were e-mailed to her. The following comments are paraphrased unless quoted.

JP – “Do not cut paraprofessional and teachers; do not cut the humans that love and teach our students; let’s invest in our future by investing in our teachers and children.”

JA – Expressed how important the music program is important to her kids.

SM – “Thank you to central office and the BOE for crafting this budget. The children of our city are our future.”

VG - Spoke in support of the Board of Education’s 4.8% increase budget proposal.

KC – “Thank you to the Superintendent and BOE for putting forth a budget that will help move us forward.”

MM – Spoke in favor of the budget proposed.

TC – Spoke against the budget increase.

JL – “Thank you for the community, administration and BOE for working tirelessly since the Coronavirus. We need to bolster education now more than ever.”

5. Comments for the Good of the Order:

The entire board shared the following sentiments “Thank you to superintendent and all administration for their work on this budget. We are happy to see that we can get down to 2.5%. We need to present a budget that represents what our students need while also being financially responsible. We are glad we were able to make reductions without taking more stuff away from the students.

Ms. Lubomski – To the Board members: “Thank you, all of you, for advocating on the behalf of our students and staff and for believing in our future.”

Board Chair – At 7 P.M., there will be a remote candlelight vigil, “Light the Night for Kris” for the THS student that passed away.

6. Adjournment: Mr. Kissko made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:34 P.M.