

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Wednesday April 24, 2013**

**Torrington High School Media Center
Major Besse Drive**

CALL TO ORDER The meeting was called to order at 7:04pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Brady, Mrs. Cappabianca, Mr. Cavagnero (arrived at 7:17pm), Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Merola, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Rovero, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Traub, Mrs. Batchelder, Mrs. Domanico, Mr. Joslyn, Mrs. Kloczko

Absent: Mayor Bingham, Austin Kelson, Kevin Finn, Rachael Kelly

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Mr. Traub read aloud the purpose and rules of the School/Community Session.

There were five (5) speakers, William Battle, Michael Curi, Matthew Parkhouse, Mike Meliszewski, and Leigha DeSmith regarding school programs, childhood obesity and teacher cuts.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Cavagnero asked about the Appointments/Resignations list in the Consent Agenda.

INFORMATION SHARING/DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Student Representatives – School News

No Report.

B. Superintendent Report

1. Fund Raiser at TMS for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital

Mrs. Kloczko presented to the Board.

2. East School Artsonia Website

Mrs. Kloczko presented to the Board.

3. Grants

Mrs. Kloczko presented to the Board.

C. 2012-2013 Revised TPS Calendar

Mrs. Kloczko presented the Revised Calendar to the Board.

D. Healthy Food Certification – Further Information

Greg Brisco, the Executive Director of the YMCA, presented the Board regarding the Fit Together Committee and making the Community healthier through the Healthy Food Certification.

E. Report on Teacher Certification

Mr. Joslyn spoke to the Board regarding Teacher Certification.

F. Policy 6192 – Suspension and Expulsion

Mr. Joslyn presented a first read of Policy 6192.

Mr. Cavagnero asked if this was in connection with the Athletics code of conduct. He also asked about the process of reporting crimes committed by students. He then said he would like to have a discussion regarding the removal of privileges from students who have been accused of crimes involving police.

Mr. Traub asked each Board member if they would like to move this forward for a second read and have more discussion on this subject.

Stipulated agreements, sample agreements and standardized forms were discussed.

G. Organization for TMS and Impact on Curriculum

The Board heard a presentation regarding the Organization for TMS and the Impact on Curriculum.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked about the discrepancies between the Middle School and High School numbers.

Mr. Cavagnero said the Board has to think outside the box when deciding which languages to teach.

H. Reorganization of Maintenance and Custodial Positions

The Board heard a presentation regarding the Reorganization of Maintenance and Custodial Positions from the Director of Facilities.

Mr. Traub asked about lawn mowers.

Mr. Nargi asked about the meaning and dollar value of a Head Custodian.

I. Online Learning Program Update

Mrs. Kloczko updated the Board.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked for information regarding the number of students re-taking any online classes. She also asked how a student takes PE and Health online.

Mr. Rovero asked about disparities between online courses.

Mr. Nargi asked if online learning would be broadened to include more students. He asked for data on the availability of time and seats.

Mr. Thibault asked if all seven (7) periods were being used by students involved in credit recovery.

J. Advanced Placement and UCONN ECE Course History – THS

Mrs. Domanico presented.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked about lack of enrollment.

K. Summary of Mandates and Initiatives Requiring THS Response

Mrs. Domanico presented.

L. Course Selections and Impact on Course Offerings at THS

The Board heard a presentation regarding Course Selections and the impact on Course Offerings at THS.

Mr. Merola asked about classroom sizes.

Mr. Kissko asked about the English classes.

Mr. Cavagnero asked about an Art History class. He then spoke about class requirements and selective pathways for students.

The mission of a comprehensive high school was discussed.

Mr. Nargi asked about discrepancies between the requests for courses and the number of students that take the class. He asked how the administration justifies the expense of keeping courses that have a small demand and not expanding the courses that have a greater demand.

Mr. Rovero asked why there was a woodworking class for women only.

Mrs. Hoehne asked about a class that was not offered.

M. Transportation – Propane Fuel

Mrs. Batchelder presented.

N. Three (3) year Budget

Mrs. Batchelder presented.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked about the Torrington High School capitol.

Mr. Nargi asked about additional revenue from the State. He said the School Improvement Committee should look into alternative education.

Mr. Rovero asked about normal rates of retirement.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Rovero made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Local 1579, Council 4 – BOE nurses. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Joslyn and Mrs. Batchelder were invited to attend.

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to come out of Executive Session. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Financial Statement

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the Financial Statement. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

B. Approval of Healthy Food Certification

Mr. Brady made motion to approve the Healthy Food Certification. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote passed with six (6) yeas and three (3) opposed, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Kissko and Mrs. Cappabianca.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked who would administer the program. She also wanted to know if they would be tracking the amount of time spent on this program. She said the more time the school principals have to spend on this is less time spent educating the kids which is what they are supposed to be doing.

How to approve fundraisers and other activities was discussed.

Mr. Cavagnero said the Board has to project a positive stance against unhealthy behaviors. He said the school district has an ethical responsibility to act in the best interest of the students. He said this would get the kids thinking about making better choices.

Mr. Kissko said he is not interested in telling parents what to do with their kids. He said the school is not the food and fitness police. He asked why the Board has to impose this on the students. He asked what the concern is, do they not trust parents, or think parents are not educated enough to give their kids healthy foods.

Mrs. Hoehne said they lead by example and educate people.

Mr. Rovero said he thinks good eating habits start at home. He said you can't teach moderation by depriving the child of the choice. He said the only reason that he will vote to approve this is because they will get money from it.

Mr. Thibault said he doesn't agree with not having a choice. He would vote to approve this only if there are exemptions.

Mr. Kissko made a motion to table this discussion until the next meeting. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote did not pass with seven (7) opposed and two (2) yeas, Mr. Kissko and Mrs. Cappabianca.

Mr. Brady made a motion to extend the meeting past 10:00. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Kissko.

C. Approval of All Star Transportation Contract

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the All Star Transportation Contract. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote passed with eight (8) yeas and one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi.

D. Local 1579, Council 4 – Approval of Nurses Contract

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the Local 1579, Council 4 – Nurses Contract. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote passed with eight (8) yeas and one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi.

E. Local 1579, Council 4 – Agreement Regarding Para Educator Differential Pay

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the Local 1579, Council 4 – Agreement regarding para educator differential pay. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote passed with eight (8) yeas and one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi.

Mr. Traub said the attorney's office stated the Board has to write a protocol for the Consent Agenda and then the attorney's office will look it over and approve.

F. Consent Agenda

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Kissko seconded the motion. The vote passed with eight (8) yeas and one (1) opposed, Mrs. Cappabianca.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked about non-renewable/non-tenured staff.

1. Approval of March 13, 2013 Board of Education Meeting Minutes

2. Approval of Sub Committee Meeting Minutes

- A. School Improvement Committee – February 6, 2013
- B. Special Budget Committee – February 27, 2013
- C. Special BOE Meeting – Expulsion – March 1, 2013
- D. Budget Committee – March 6, 2013
- E. Policy Committee – March 11, 2013
- F. Personnel Committee – March 13, 2013
- G. Special BOE Meeting – Expulsion – March 22, 2013
- H. Special BOE Meeting – March 27, 2013
- I. Special BOE Meeting – Expulsion – April 2, 2013
- J. Special BOE Meeting – April 3, 2013
- K. Special BOE Meeting – April 8, 2013

3. Non-Renewal of Certified Teachers Contract

4. Appointments & Resignations

5. Notices for Homeschooling

- A. E.M., grade 2, Eff. 2012-2013
- B. C.J., grade K, Eff. 2012-2013

Mr. Brady made a motion to add action item G to the agenda. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

G. Resignation of William Joslyn

Mr. Thibault made a motion to accept the Resignation of William Joslyn. Mr. Kissko seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Nargi asked when Mr. Joslyn's resignation would become effective.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Kissko reminded the Board members of the concert the next night.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked for any community donations regarding project graduation.

Mr. Nargi asked if the copiers were fixed within the twenty four hour period as the contract states. He asked if there was a gray area in the hiring of staff and employees regarding police background checks.

Mr. Thibault asked for an update regarding the technology RFP.

Mr. Traub said they need to modify the technology RFP.

Mr. Cavagnero asked when the Board of Finance meeting was.

Mr. Kloczko gave the Board members information on the amount received from the Arts grant. She had information regarding the Athletics department. She said on May 21st there is a community conversation regarding health safety and welfare of our youth.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Personnel Committee – Mr. Thibault reported.
2. Policy Committee – Mrs. Hoehne reported.
3. Grievance Committee–No Report
4. School Improvement Committee–Mr. Cavagnero reported.
5. Budget Committee–No Report
6. Education Connection–Mr. Kissko reported.
7. THS Oversight Panel–No Report
8. Wellness Project–Mr. Merola reported
9. Juvenile Court Update–No Report

Mrs. Kloczko informed the Board that she received a report from DCF exonerating Torrington School District from any negligence regarding the hazing incident last fall.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMMING AGENDA

- Financial Statement
- Committee Reports
- School Projects for Referendum
- Forbes School Solar Project
- Field Trips

- BOE budget
- Student Athletic handbook

FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Policy Committee Meeting – May 1, 2013
2. School Improvement Committee Meeting – May 1, 2013
3. Budget Committee Meeting – May 8, 2013
4. Personnel Committee Meeting – May 8, 2013
5. Regular BOE Meeting – May 15, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:16 Mr. Brady made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.