

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 21, 2013
Torrington High School
Major Besse Drive**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Mr. Brady, Mrs. Cappabianca, Mr. Cavagnero (arrived at 7:09), Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Merola, (left at 9:36), Mr. Nargi, Mr. Rovero, Mr. Traub, Mrs. Batchelder, Mr. Campolieta

Absent: Mr. Thibault, Mrs. Kloczko, Mayor Bingham

SCHOOL COMMUNITY SESSION

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

There were two (2) speakers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

INFORMATION SHARING AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Superintendent Report

Prior to the start of the meeting a presentation was shown to the Board titled "Happenings during 2013 Summer."

B. Superintendent Goals

This item was moved to next month's meeting.

C. Secondary Education Reorganization

The Board heard two (2) speakers regarding the reorganization of secondary education.

Mr. Traub discussed the chain of command within the reorganization. He also explained the CIAT (curriculum, instruction, assessment, and technology) administrator positions.

Mrs. Cappabianca had a question about who parents are supposed to contact with any concerns they may have. She also asked who teachers are supposed to contact with their concerns.

Mr. Rovero asked about the chain of command for the Life Skills program in grades 9-12.

Mr. Nargi asked who administers the teacher evaluations. He then asked if the concept of a vice-principal was eliminated, and what kind of administrator the Director of Secondary Education is. He asked if the grade nine (9) administrator would be fixed or would rotate.

Mr. Traub stated the Board of Education is in negotiations with the TPSAA regarding the questions Mr. Nargi is asking.

Board of Education concerns regarding line functions and responsibilities of administrative positions were discussed.

Mr. Cavagnero asked when the Board would be able to discuss teacher and administrator evaluations. He also requested information from the Superintendent regarding an upcoming State mandate for teacher evaluations.

Mr. Kissko asked about the negotiations going on with the TPSAA.

A board member asked if they could have a comparison of the old way of doing teacher evaluations and the new way of doing teacher evaluations.

Mrs. Hoehne asked for a break down of what is expected in a teacher evaluation.

Mr. Merola asked about the net gain of administrators.

The direction of education was discussed.

D. District Annual Performance Reports and Determinations 2011-2012

Mr. Traub read aloud the report.

E. CMT and CAPT Results

Mrs. Cappabianca asked for comparisons.

F. THS Football Field and Track Grant

Mr. Traub explained the Board did not apply for this grant; he gave the Board all the information he had regarding this grant. He stated he is trying to get a copy of the grant but has not been able to obtain one.

Costs, procedures and other improvements were discussed.

G. Athletic Handbook

Mr. Nargi had concerns about the language regarding alcoholic beverages, drugs and other illegal substances at athletic events. He also questioned the wording regarding sportsmanship. He asked about student arrests. Mr. Nargi asked if Torrington could only compete against other schools with the same academic requirements.

Mr. Merola stated this section of the handbook should reflect the Board of Education policy. He also asked about minimum academic requirements and the code of conduct for students.

Missing pages in the handbook were discussed.

Mr. Rovero asked if Torrington had to adhere to the CIAC minimum academic requirements for students or if they have their own academic requirements. He stated there is a conflict within the Board of Education's policy and the Athletic Handbook.

Mr. Cavagnero stated concerns regarding student's behavior and punishment regarding athletics.

Mr. Traub reiterated to the Board and asked if the Board wants a policy regarding student conduct and extra-curricular or co-curricular activities. He then asked the Athletic Director to reference the Board of Education policy regarding alcohol, drugs and tobacco in the Athletic Handbook.

Mr. Brady made a formal request to have the policy committee craft a new policy regarding all extra-curricular and/or co-curricular activities and student behavior, discipline, and felony crimes committed by students.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked hypothetically, how a student would be suspended from playing football due to that student's behavior if it is not football season.

H. THS and TMS Handbooks

A standardized handbook was discussed. Mrs. Hoehne asked when the handbooks would go out to the students and if the grammatical corrections would be made prior to the handbooks being given out.

Mr. Nargi had questions regarding cell phones and electronic devices on school grounds.

Mr. Traub announced to the Board that he was informed the grammatical errors in the handbooks would be corrected before they are given out.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Financial Statement

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

B. Approval of PMHP Grant

The PMHP Grant was explained to the Board.

Mr. Cavagnero asked about parent involvement. He voiced concerns regarding outsourcing parent responsibilities.

Mr. Kissko echoed Mr. Cavagnero's concerns adding his displeasure at the language of the grant. He asked if the personnel information had to be included in the writing of the grant.

Mr. Merola asked about local contributions. He had questions about the number of hours worked by the staff on this program.

Mr. Rovero asked who would be overseeing this program.

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to approve the PMHP Grant. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

C. Approval of Technology Investments Common Core Standards, etc.

Mr. Traub explained this grant to the Board.

Mr. Cavagnero stated he would vote against this grant. He has concerns regarding the Common Core Standards.

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve the Technology Investments Common Core Standards grant. Mr. Kissko seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Cavagnero.

D. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of June 19, 2013, Board of Education Meeting Minutes

- b. Approval of June 26, 2013, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes**
- c. Approval of July 16, 2013, Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes**
- d. Approval of Sub Committee Minutes**
 - i. School Improvement Committee – June 5, 2013
 - ii. Policy Committee – June 5, 2013
 - iii. Budget Committee – June 12, 2013
 - iv. Personnel Committee – No Report
- e. Appointments & Resignations**
- f. Notices for Home schooling**
 - i. Z.R., grade 3, Eff. 2013-2014
 - ii. M.S., grade 9, Eff. 2013-2014
 - iii. C.C., grade 10, Eff. 2013-2014

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Kissko seconded the motion. This motion was withdrawn.

Procedure for withdrawing a name from the Consent Agenda was discussed.

Mr. Traub called a recess to contact the Board attorney regarding the procedure to remove a name from the Consent Agenda. When the recess ended Mr. Traub read aloud the procedure for removing a name from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Nargi stated he wanted Eric Baim removed from the Consent Agenda.

Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of Eric Baim. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote passed with two (2) opposed, Mrs. Cappabianca and Mr. Merola.

E. Approval of Eric Baim as Director of Secondary Education

Mr. Nargi made a motion to approve Eric Baim as Director of Secondary Education. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote passed with two (2) opposed.

Mr. Cavagnero asked what they were allowed to comment on. He had questions regarding the contract of this position. He stated his concerns regarding the process of hiring new employees. He said it is irresponsible for the Board to approve this hire without seeing the resume of the candidate.

Mr. Nargi expressed concerns about the Superintendent hiring new employees with and/or without Board approval.

Mrs. Cappabianca expressed her opinion on the hiring process to fill this position. She stated the Board votes to approve or not to approve based on their confidence in the hiring committee.

Mr. Campolieta explained who the comprised the hiring committee.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Cavagnero said he believes the Superintendent needs to do a better job of communicating with the press and the public.

Mr. Nargi asked for the final number for the health benefits. He requested that all conversations between the Superintendent and the Chairman with the Board's Attorney be documented and made available to all Board members.

Mr. Kissko stated his disappointment in this reorganization and the process of implementing the reorganization. He said he believes they found a good candidate to fill the position that will bring needed improvements to the district.

Mrs. Cappabianca thanked Mrs. Batchelder for her work in breaking down the budget by building for the Board members to see.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

- Financial Statement
- Committee Reports
- TAG Restructuring
- Law Suit – Updates
- CT State Statue 10-151
- Superintendent Goals
- Evaluation Requirements
- Communication between BOE Chairman, Superintendent and Attorney
- Adult Education Program
- Propane Contract

- New Candidates for Superintendent

FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Policy Committee Meeting – September 4, 2013
2. School Improvement Committee Meeting – September 11, 2013
3. Budget Committee Meeting – September 11, 2013
4. Personnel Committee Meeting – September 4, 2013
5. Regular Board of Education Meeting – September 18, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rovero made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:56pm. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.