

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, December 18, 2013  
Torrington High School  
Major Besse Drive**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 P.M.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Mr. Brady, Mrs. Cappabianca, Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Raider, Mr. Rovero, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Traub, Mrs. Batchelder, Mr. Campolieta, Mrs. Kloczko, Mayor Carbone, Kassie Perusse, Emily Ethegarry

**ITEM OF ACTION**

**Nomination and Election of Board of Education Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Secretary**

**Chairman:**

Mr. Thibault nominated Mr. Traub for Board of Education Chairman. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the nomination. The nomination passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi, and one (1) abstention, Mr. Kissko.

Mr. Nargi nominated Mr. Rovero for Board of Education Chairman. Mr. Kissko seconded the nomination.

Mr. Rovero declined the nomination.

Mr. Kissko stated his reasons for not supporting the nomination of Mr. Traub.

**Vice-Chairman:**

Mrs. Hoehne nominated Mrs. Cappabianca for Board of Education Vice-Chairman. Mr. Brady seconded the nomination. The nomination passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi, and one (1) abstention, Mr. Kissko.

Mr. Nargi nominated Mr. Kissko for Board of Education Vice-Chairman.

Mr. Kissko declined the nomination.

**Secretary:**

Mrs. Cappabianca nominated Mrs. Hoehne for Board of Education Secretary. Mr. Thibault seconded the nomination. The nomination passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi, and one (1) abstention, Mr. Kissko.

Mr. Nargi nominated Mr. Thibault for Board of Education Secretary. Mr. Kissko seconded the nomination.

Mr. Thibault declined the nomination.

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

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

There were two (2) speakers, Mr. Battle and Mr. Cavagnero.

**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. Student Representative Reports**

Kassie Perusse and Emily Ethegarry reported.

**B. Welcome new Board of Education member: Paul Raider**

Mr. Traub welcomed Mr. Raider to the Board of Education.

**C. Superintendent's Report**

**1. Connecticut Academic Performance Test (CAPT) Recognition Letters**

Mrs. Kloczko presented.

**2. Litchfield County Superintendent Association Student Recipients**

Mrs. Kloczko presented.

#### **D. How Education Connection served Torrington in 2012-2013**

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked for the amount of funds that are being transferred from the Board of Education to Education Connection.

Mr. Raider asked which faculty attended which workshops.

#### **E. TPS and District Performance Reports**

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

Mr. Raider asked if the target number would increase. He commented on the understanding of how the reports are used and what they are used for.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked if the number of students in the sub-categories was available.

Mr. Kissko asked if all this information would be posted on the website.

Mrs. Hoehne for clarification on how the report is distributed and used.

Mr. Nargi asked about accountability for the regression of the Torrington School District.

Mr. Campolieta spoke about the elimination of the Bell Curve and expectations put on the students to perform at a higher level.

#### **F. Update on Investigation of THS Grade Changes**

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

Mr. Traub clarified the term “Administrators” and which positions it applies to.

Mr. Thibault suggested the alternate term “Systems Administrators” when referring to certain positions.

Mr. Nargi asked about grades on a transcript. He asked about tutoring grades. He asked about confidentially. Mr. Nargi asked if the way teachers grade the students’ work is monitored.

Mr. Traub asked if the letter “T” was next to a tutoring grade. He spoke about protocol.

Certification of tutors was discussed.

Mr. Kissko asked if tutors are certified in the area of expertise the student is being tutored in. He asked if the guidance counselor has access to which teacher gave which grade.

Mr. Brady asked if there was any corroboration of these allegations.

Mr. Rovero asked what steps are being taken to not violate the confidentiality laws.

Mrs. Hoehne asked about procedures. She also asked about the posting of students' success.

Mrs. Cappabianca spoke about credit recovery.

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the Superintendent's Report and direct her to implement her conclusions as outlined. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Kissko.

### **G. Social Promotions**

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

Mr. Raider asked for the actual number of students socially promoted. He spoke about the students engaging in their academic careers.

Mr. Nargi asked for clarification on the course of action for the students socially promoted with disruptive behavior and chronic absences. He spoke about the basic foundation for academics.

Mr. Thibault asked for clarification on the age of the students retained in eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked if the parent can override the schools decision to retain a student.

### **H. Executive Session Rules**

Mr. Traub outlined the rules of and for an executive session.

Mr. Kissko commented on topics being discussed in an executive session.

Mr. Nargi spoke about the questions he asked the Freedom of Information Commission.

Risk of divulging confidential information and the By Laws were discussed.

Mrs. Cappabianca recommended the Policy Committee immediately add something into the by-laws to protect the divulging of confidential information discussed during an executive session. She also recommended the Board have a vote on what issues to obtain a legal opinion on.

Mr. Raider brought up the ethical aspect of confidential information.

Mr. Thibault asked if a Board member violated the code of ethics and if so, can they be sent to the Board of Ethics for review.

**I. Connecticut State Statue 10-151**

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

Mr. Campolieta spoke about time limits and professional development.

Mr. Raider asked if the forty (40) month amount of time for tenure was current. He wanted to know the procedure for termination of a tenured teacher.

Mr. Nargi had a question regarding the interpretation of this law as it applied to the termination of the superintendent's contract.

**J. Early Retirement Incentive**

Mr. Rovero reported.

Mr. Raider asked how many staff members were eligible for early retirement. He asked about the amount of credit given to a new hire.

The inclusion of medical insurance was discussed.

Mr. Campolieta spoke about the hiring of new teachers.

Mr. Nargi asked about being self- insured. He also asked about why they want to offer an early retirement incentive package.

Discrimination of employees with pre-existing conditions was discussed.

Mr. Kissko stated now is the time to be hiring new teachers.

Mr. Rovero said this package is designed for people who would retire early if they had the health insurance.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**A. Financial Statement**

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

## **B. Approval of Budget Transfers**

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

Mr. Raider asked if the department that the funds are being taken from gets a say in the transfer.

## **C. Approval of Board of Education Goals**

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve the Board of Education Goals. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Raider asked how they will measure the goals.

## **D. Approval of Early Retirement Incentive**

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to approve the Early Retirement Incentive. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **E. Approval of Superintendents Evaluation**

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to move the vote on the Approval of the Superintendent's Evaluation to after the Consent Agenda. Another Board member seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Thibault made a motion to accept the Superintendents Evaluation. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi, and one (1) abstention, Mr. Raider.

## **F. Consent Agenda**

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi.

1. Approval of November 20, 2013 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of November 26, 2013 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of Revised October 16, 2013 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes
4. Approval of Sub-Committee Meeting Minutes
  - a. School Improvement Committee: No Report
  - b. Policy Committee: November 6, 2013
  - c. Personnel Committee: November 6, 2013
  - d. Budget Committee: November 13, 2013
  - e. Grievance Committee: November 20, 2013
5. Appointments and Resignations

## **COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. Kissko reminded the Board members about multi-cultural night at Vogel-Wetmore.

Mr. Thibault asked the Board to consider beginning contract negotiations with Mrs. Kloczko to extend her contract as Superintendent.

Mr. Nargi spoke about issues with the tutors in the District, how they are selected and who they are governed by.

Mrs. Cappabianca thanked the Mayor for attending.

Mr. Brady also thanked the Mayor for attending and welcomed Mr. Raider to the Board.

Mr. Raider said he would be reading the Polar Express to second (2<sup>nd</sup>) graders.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

1. Budget Committee: Mr. Rovero reported.
2. Personnel Committee: Mr. Thibault reported.
3. Policy Committee: Mrs. Hoehne reported.
4. School Improvement Committee: No report.
5. Grievance Committee: Mrs. Cappabianca reported.
6. Education Connection: Mr. Kissko reported.
7. THS Oversight Panel: Mr. Kissko reported.
8. Juvenile Court Update: Mr. Nargi stated his recommendations.
9. Turf Field Committee: Mr. Traub reported. This topic was discussed.

## **ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA**

1. Financial Statements
2. Committee Reports
3. Law Suit Updates
4. Breakdown of Common Core Standards
5. Tutors
6. Program at THS
7. Superintendent's Contract Extension
8. Update on Bond information for Technology Grant

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

1. Policy Committee Meeting: January 8, 2014
2. Personnel Committee Meeting: January 8, 2014
3. Budget Committee Meeting: January 15, 2014

4. School Improvement Committee Meeting: January 15, 2014
5. Regular Board of Education Meeting: January 22, 2014

Mr. Traub spoke about committee assignments.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:49 P.M. Mr. Thibault made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.