

TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2013 (Postponed)
Wednesday, January 23, 2013 (Rescheduled)
7:00 pm

Torrington High School
Major Besse Drive

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Brady, Mr. Cavagnero, Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Merola,
Mr. Nargi, Mr. Rovero, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Traub, Mrs. Domanico,
Mr. Joslyn, Mrs. Kloczko

Absent: Mrs. Cappabianca, Mrs. Batchelder, Mayor Bingham, Austin Kelson,
Kevin Finn, Rachael Kelly

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Public Participation

Mr. Traub read aloud the purpose of the School/Community Session. Then he related all emergency exit information.

Mrs. Mary Svetz-Juliano, President of the TEA, spoke to the Board regarding teacher sick days.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to amend and approve the amended agenda by adding items 4.B.2 Graduation, 4.B.3 Sequestration Invoice, 5.E.3 Appointments and Resignations, and correcting the date for City Council (January 22, 2013) and Education Specification (January 23, 2013). Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION SHARING AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4A Student Representatives—School News

The student representatives were not present.

4B Superintendent Report

1. Southwest School PTO and Playground Committee

Mrs. Kloczko informed the Board of the donation of a new playground from the Southwest School PTO and Playground Committee. Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to accept the new playground for Southwest School. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

2. Graduation

Mrs. Kloczko presented a diploma to a graduating student.

3. Sequestration Invoice

Mrs. Kloczko presented the Board with the Sequestration Invoice.

4C THS Distinguished Alumni Award

Mrs. Domanico presented the Board with information regarding the Distinguished Alumni Award.

Mr. Cavagnero stated that he wants the nominees to be truly distinguished and an inspiration to the current students.

Mr. Thibault made a motion to release the press release regarding the Distinguished Alumni Award. Mr. Cavagnero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

4D Options of Education for Secondary Students (TMS/THS)

Mrs. Kloczko and Mrs. Domanico presented.

Mr. Cavagnero said the School Improvement Committee would like to look into fusing courses together. He would also like feedback from other Board members and teachers.

Mr. Nargi suggested looking into a block schedule because it would give students an opportunity to graduate early. He requested a presentation about block schedules.

Mr. Cavagnero said a block schedule only works if there is enough staff. He stated that with budget cuts many electives get cut and there is not enough staff to accommodate a block schedule.

Mrs. Domanico presented the Board with Career Pathways.

Mr. Nargi said he has heard concerns from people about a segment of the student body that is disconnected or disengaged. This segment of the student body has no plans for their future. He asked if the purpose mission of the high school is to get all students to go to college. He wanted to know what the Board plans to do to reconnect these students.

Mrs. Kloczko said the Career Pathways will help some of those students get an idea of what is available to them and what kinds of careers they can pursue.

Mr. Traub stated that these options are geared toward those students who may not know what they want to do yet.

Mr. Cavagnero said this is exactly why they have to take a look at the courses to see which ones are relevant to the students' needs.

4E Connecticut School Climate Assessment

Mr. Joslyn presented.

Mr. Nargi stated that the results were not as positive as he would have liked. He asked about the response percentages. He also wanted to know who exactly is positive and supportive within the cultural and emotional climate of the school. He stated concerns about how to interpret the assessment.

4F Juvenile Court

Mrs. Kloczko presented.

Mr. Nargi stated that he has concerns regarding the safety and security of the students and faculty. He wanted to know who oversees the process of informing the public of violent acts by students.

Mrs. Kloczko said the juvenile court proceedings are private, not public. Juvenile records are not public information.

Mr. Traub said they have the responsibility to protect their students the best they can with the information they have, but they cannot know what a particular student has been arrested for and what their punishment may be. He then asked Mr. Nargi if he would like to head up an ad-hoc committee to find out how to get some of the regulations changed for the safety of the students.

Mr. Merola asked if they receive any information from the courts regarding students.

4G Teacher Sick Days---How Can BOE Proceed

Mr. Traub stated that right now there are no policies or actions the Board can take regarding the misuse of teacher sick days. He recommended the Personnel Committee assess the data of absences and work with the TEA to reach a protocol for how misuse is handled.

Mr. Cavagnero stated his concerns regarding misuse of teacher sick days.

Mr. Traub outlined some ways to look into this problem.

Mr. Brady asked to see a comparison to other schools of the same size.

Mr. Nargi spoke about the number of sick days per year and the definition of a sick day. He also talked about an honor code system.

Mr. Thibault stated that the Personnel Committee gets reports on all staff, not just teachers.

4H Consent Agenda—Legal Opinion

Mr. Traub presented the Board with the legal opinion on the Consent Agenda.

Procedures were discussed.

4I Evaluative—Definition—Legal Opinion

Mr. Traub presented the legal opinion to the Board.

Definitions, examples and procedures were discussed.

4J School Lunch

Mrs. Kloczko presented.

USDA regulations were discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

5A Approval of Education Specification for Forbes School Roof Project

Mr. Joseph Alicata was available for any questions.

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the Education Specification for Forbes School Roof Project. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote passed with seven (7) yeas. Mr. Cavagnero and Mr. Kissko were not present for this vote.

5B Approval of Policy 6156—On Campus Recruitment

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve Policy 6156—On Campus Recruitment. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote passed with seven (7) yeas. Mr. Cavagnero and Mr. Kissko were not present during this vote.

5C Approval of Policy 6102—Management Plan and Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies and/or Glycogen Storage Disease

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve Policy 6102—Management Plan and Guidelines for Students with Food Allergies and/or Glycogen Storage Disease. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote passed with seven (7) yeas. Mr. Cavagnero and Mr. Kissko were not present for this vote.

5D Financial Statement

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the Financial Statement. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote passed with seven (7) yeas. Mr. Cavagnero and Mr. Kissko were not present for this vote.

5E Consent Agenda

1. Approval of December 12, 2012 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of Sub Committee Minutes
 - a. Personnel Committee—No Minutes
 - b. School Improvement Committee—November 28, 2012
 - c. Budget Committee—December 5, 2012
 - d. Policy Committee—November 28, 2012
 - e. Grievance Committee—December 3, 2012
3. Appointments and Resignations
4. Notices for Homeschooling
 - a. J.R., grade 7, Eff. 2012-2013

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

Mr. Nargi made a motion to amend the Consent Agenda. There was no second. The motion died.

5F Subcommittee Assignments

Mr. Traub read aloud the Subcommittee Assignments.

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the Subcommittee Assignments. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote passed with eight (8) yeas. Mr. Cavagnero was not present for this vote.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Thibault stated that he would like to discuss PowerSchool being brought back in-house at the next meeting.

Mr. Nargi wanted to know what legal right teachers have to use their cell phone cameras to take pictures of students violating the law.

Mr. Merola expressed concerns regarding at what point a conversation between two (2) Board members becomes a meeting due to the structure of the committees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 7.1 Personnel Committee—No Report
- 7.2 Policy Committee—Student Suspension and Expulsion Policy and Use of Electronics
- 7.3 Grievance Committee—No Report
- 7.4 School Improvement Committee—No Report
- 7.5 Budget Committee—Budget season looks good
- 7.6 Education Connection—Early Head Start
- 7.7 THS Oversight Panel—Moving along
- 7.8 Wellness Project—Almost ready to present.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMMING AGENDA

- 8.1 Financial Statement
- 8.2 Committee Reports
- 8.3 Capital Projects
- 8.4 Solar Projects
- 8.5 Juvenile Court Update

- 8.6 Teacher Sick Day Data—Kelly Services
- 8.7 Power School In-House
- 8.8 Teachers film student misconduct
- 8.9 Student Representatives

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 9.1 Special BOE Meeting: January 30, 2013—Cancelled
- 9.2 Special Budget Committee Meeting: January 30, 2013
- 9.3 Policy Committee Meeting: February 6, 2013
- 9.4 School Improvement Committee Meeting: February 6, 2013
- 9.5 Budget Committee Meeting: February 12, 2013
- 9.6 Personnel Committee Meeting: February 13, 2013
- 9.7 Regular BOE Meeting: February 20, 2013
- 9.8 Special Budget Committee Meeting: February 27, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:05pm Mr. Kissko made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.