

TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR MEETING

Wednesday June 19, 2013

Torrington High School Media Center

Major Besse Drive

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Brady (arrived at 9:10pm), Mrs. Cappabianca, Mr. Cavagnero (arrived at 7:20pm), 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

ITEM OF ACTION

National External Diploma Program Graduation

The Board presented the adult graduates with their diplomas.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Mr. Traub explained the purpose and rules of the School/Community Session and related all emergency exit information.

There were four (4) speakers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve an amended agenda by removing item 7.F and changing item 5.G to a first read. Mr. Merola seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION SHARING AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Student Representatives – School News

The student representatives were not present.

B. Announcement of Kindergarten Fire Truck Ride, August 2013

Mrs. Kloczko announced the winner of the Fire Truck Ride on the first day of school.

C. Recognition of Retiring Teachers

The Board recognized the retiring teachers.

D. Superintendent's Report

1. 10th Halo Awards Ceremony – THS Theatre Students

Mrs. Kloczko informed the Board of the 10th annual Halo Awards and their recipients.

2. CAS Art Award Winner – Phil Tanner will present THS Painting

Mrs. Kloczko invited the CAS Art Award winner to present to the Board.

3. THS takes first place in Bio21 Expo – Science Club Presentation

Mrs. Kloczko invited the Science Club members to present to the Board.

4. New Board of Education Student Representatives

Mrs. Kloczko announced the new Student Representatives.

E. Policy 6095, Graduation Requirements, 2nd read

Mr. Joslyn informed the Board of the additions to this Policy.

Mr. Cavagnero stated he needs more evidence that students are not using the Online Learning credits to graduate than doing the work during the year in the classroom.

Mrs. Cappabianca said the teachers need to come forward to the Board if they feel the students are not doing their work in the classrooms so they can use the Online Learning credits for graduation.

The Board discussed how teachers can come forward to the Board and feel comfortable discussing policies.

F. Policy 2025, On Line Learning Policy, 2nd read

Mr. Joslyn outlined the changes to the Online Learning Policy.

Mr. Kissko asked about online credits for physical education and state law.

G. Policy 5071, Wellness Policy, 1st read

Mr. Joslyn presented the Policy to the Board.

Mr. Thibault expressed his concerns for fundraising and celebrations in classrooms.

Mr. Merola pointed out the guidelines of the Policy.

Mr. Traub said this Policy does not set guidelines, it only states that the Board will create guidelines and procedures.

Mrs. Cappabianca stated she wanted to see procedures before approving a policy that leaves too much out of the hands of the Board.

Mr. Kissko said it is not part of the TPS mission to dictate to students what to do in order to make them fit into someone's definition of health and wellness.

Mr. Merola said part of the core mission of TPS is to service the whole student. He spoke about the Wellness Committee, evaluations and accountability.

Mr. Nargi asked why this is a policy and not a discussion with the Superintendent. He also had concerns regarding the language of the policy. He stated that he does not want the Government to dictate at the local level.

Mr. Merola stated that the Board is mandated to have a Wellness Policy.

Mrs. Hoehne said this policy is not intended to tell people what to do; it is a learning tool to teach kids how to eat well.

Mr. Traub outlined the Board's concerns.

Mr. Cavagnero pointed out some of these concerns are technicalities. He said students today are more aware of the environment and their impact on the environment because of school policies.

Mrs. Kloczko told the Board that educators are trained to teach the whole child. Student wellness has been around for a long time and they need a Student Wellness Policy.

Juvenile diabetes and childhood obesity were discussed.

H. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy, 1st read

Mr. Joslyn presented the Policy to the Board.

The Safe School Climate Policy was discussed.

Mr. Rovero had questions about adjustments to the Policy.

Mr. Traub stated that he felt there were too many blanks with this first read.

Mr. Cavagnero had concerns about the practicality of this policy. He felt this policy will protect the school and not the kids from bullying. He gave suggestions on how the policy should work to help kids that are bullied.

Mr. Nargi said the severity of an anonymous complaint should be dealt with appropriately and not disregarded because it is an anonymous complaint. He spoke about a discussion with juvenile law enforcement officer.

Mr. Joslyn said the Policy had to be clear with current definitions and requirements. The one they have now is outdated. He then clarified the portion of the Policy that talks about anonymous complaints.

Mr. Kissko said there is not a way to deal with the negative acts such as shunning or ignoring in this Policy.

Mr. Cavagnero spoke about learning opportunities for students.

I. Policy 6041, Cell Phone/Electronic Devices Policy, 1st read

Mr. Joslyn presented the Policy to the Board.

Mr. Nargi spoke about his previous concerns and enforcement of the Policy. He also spoke about the language in the Policy.

Mr. Rovero had questions about confiscation of electronic devices and student access to the devices. He stated concerns about the material viewed by students on their devices.

Mr. Thibault said the district cannot support any more devices. He discussed his concerns over the benefits to the classroom and rules to enforce. He said he does not think electronic devices need to be in the classroom.

Mr. Cavagnero expressed his concerns about enforcing the Policy. He said electronic devices do not belong in the classroom.

J. 2013-2014 Lunch Prices

Mrs. Batchelder outlined the mandate and pricing to the Board.

Mr. Merola had questions about the difference in the number of students that have free lunches compared to free breakfasts in 2011.

Mr. Nargi has questions about where the money for the free and reduced lunch comes from.

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to amend the agenda by adding items 7.H Approval of 2013-2014 Lunch Prices and 7.I Approval of Non-Bargaining Contracts. Mr. Merola seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Kissko.

Mr. Rovero made a motion to extend the meeting past 10:00pm to 10:30pm. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Kissko.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 9:25pm Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Merola made a motion to adjourn this meeting at 10:29pm and postpone the remainder of the meeting to June 26, 2013. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Attest,

Kenneth P. Traub
Board Chair