

TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Wednesday March 19, 2014
Torrington High School
Major Besse Drive

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:06 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Mr. Brady, Mrs. Cappabianca (arrived late), Mayor Carbone, Mr. Hinman, Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Raider, Mr. Rovero, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Traub, Mr. Campolieta, Mrs. Kloczko

Absent: Mrs. Batchelder

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

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

There were three (3) speakers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion.

INFORMATION SHARING AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Student Representative Reports

The student council advisor, Erin Sullivan, reported.

B. Recognition of Marilyn Hoitt, TMS Library Media Specialist

Mrs. Kloczko recognized Marilyn Hoitt for being nominated to select books for Nutmeg Teen Selections.

Mr. Brady made a motion to suspend the rule and allow a member of the public to speak that did not get a chance to sign up for the School/Community Session. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

C. Superintendent Report

1. TMS Essay Contest Winner-Lay a Wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

D. Concept of All-Day Kindergarten

Mrs. Kloczko presented.

Mr. Brady spoke about the gains of all-day Kindergarten.

Mr. Raider spoke about the transition from pre-school to Kindergarten.

Mr. Hinman spoke about the socioeconomic aspects of all-day Kindergarten.

Mr. Kissko spoke about savings and spending.

Mr. Nargi wondered how many parents were in favor of all-day Kindergarten.

Mr. Rovero spoke about economic development tied with all-day Kindergarten.

E. Receive Superintendents 2014-2015 Budget

Mr. Traub reiterated the purpose of this discussion item.

Mrs. Kloczko presented.

The Chairman of the Budget Committee, Mr. Rovero, explained parts of the budget to the Board that have been discussed in the budget committee meetings.

Mr. Traub asked the Board members to email any requests for information to the Superintendent or Business manager prior to the special budget meetings.

Mr. Nargi spoke about the state underproviding funding to the District. He asked what the District can do to change this.

Mrs. Cappabianca stated the budget is a work in progress.

Mr. Hinman stated he would like to invite the state legislators to a Board of Education meeting so they can discuss the funding from the state.

Mr. Kissko asked who the alliance districts are.

Mayor Carbone spoke about the tax rate in Torrington.

Mr. Traub announced the date and time of the public meeting to discuss the budget.

F. Field Trips 2013-2014

Mr. Traub explained the list of field trips and how they would discuss them.

Mr. Raider asked if there was a fund in place for students that may not be able to afford to go on a field trip.

Mrs. Hoehne asked about the Ellis Island field trip costs.

Mrs. Cappabianca said the Board has repeatedly asked for the information to be complete when the field trip requests are made.

G. Superintendent's Proposed Contract

Mr. Thibault, the Chairman of the Personnel Committee, outlined the discussion of the Superintendent's Contract from the Personnel Committee to the Board.

Mr. Traub asked for a copy of the contract to be reviewed by the Board.

Mr. Rovero asked about the Superintendent's salary. He asked about salary percentage compared to other districts. He asked if the contract automatically renewed.

Mr. Raider said he was concerned that if the current Superintendent left they could potentially have to increase the salary to replace the Superintendent.

Mr. Nargi said he would vote against the contract because of the presentation of the terms of the contract and unresolved issues. He spoke about leadership and expectations of the Superintendent.

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 Superintendent's Contract

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the Superintendent's Contract. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi.

Mr. Nargi stated his vote does not reflect "no confidence" in the Superintendent. He said the Superintendent's perception of her entitlements in the Contract is different than what he thinks they are.

C. Approval of Policy 6050 – Student Drug Policy

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve Policy 6050 – Student Drug Policy. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

D. Approval of Policy 4000 – Drug Free Workplace Policy

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve Policy 4000 – Drug Free Workplace. Mr. Hinman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

E. Approval of Policy 6004 – Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve Policy 6004 – Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

F. Approval of Policy 6192 – Suspension/Expulsion

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve Policy 6192 – Suspension/Expulsion. Mr. Hinman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

G. Approval of Field Trips – 2013-2014

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve the field trips minus the June 9th trip. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

H. Approval of BOE Packets distributed via electronically or hard copy

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to have the BOE packets distributed electronically. Mr. Brady Kissko seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Raider.

I. Approval of the Concept of All Day Kindergarten

Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the concept of All Day Kindergarten. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

J. Consent Agenda

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

1. Approval of February 19, 2014 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of Sub Committee Minutes
 - a. Grievance Committee – January 27, 2014
 - b. Policy Committee – January 8, 2014
 - c. Personnel Committee – February 5, 2014 (cancelled)
 - d. School Improvement Committee – February 15, 2014
 - e. Budget Committee – February 12, 2014
 - f. Special Budget Committee – February 26, 2014
3. Appointment and Resignations
4. Notices for Homeschooling
 - a. E.B., grade 7, Eff. 2013-2014

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Brady thanked the Board for approving the concept of all- day Kindergarten.

Mr. Raider spoke about volunteering in the schools.

Mr. Rovero asked the Board members to attend the public budget meeting and to come to the special budget meeting with one suggestion to improve the budget.

Mrs. Hoehne, as the liaison to East School, spoke about the happenings there.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked for volunteers for an event at the high school. She also thanked all the Committees and the hard work the Board members do within the Committees. She encouraged the public to attend Committee meetings.

Mr. Hinman stated his approval of all-day Kindergarten.

Mr. Thibault said he was looking forward to the budget season and reaching a mutually beneficial agreement.

Mr. Kissko spoke about a project displayed in one of the elementary schools. He also reminded the Board members of the Middle School play.

Mayor Carbone stated her appreciation of the work of the Budget Committee and the other Committees.

Mr. Traub spoke about the Invention Convention and the liaison positions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Personnel Committee – Mr. Thibault reported.
2. Policy Committee – Mrs. Hoehne reported.
3. Grievance Committee – Mrs. Cappabianca reported.
4. School Improvement Committee – Mr. Brady reported.
5. Budget Committee – Mr. Rovero reported.
6. Education Connection – Mr. Kissko reported.
7. THS Oversight Panel – Mr. Kissko reported.
8. Turf Field Committee – Mr. Traub reported.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

1. Financial Statements
2. Committee Reports
3. 2014-2015 Calendar
4. Smarter Balance Testing Overview

FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Special Budget Committee Meeting – March 24, 2014
2. Special BOE Meeting – March 26, 2014
3. Policy Committee Meeting - TBD
4. School Improvement Committee Meeting – TBD
5. Special BOE Meeting – April 2, 2014
6. Personnel Committee Meeting – April 9, 2014
7. Budget Committee Meeting – April 9, 2014
8. Regular BOE Meeting – April 23, 2014

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thibault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11pm. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.