

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
May 15, 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: Mrs. Cappabianca (arrived late), Mr. Cavagnero, Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Merola, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Rovero, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Traub, Mrs. Batchelder, Mrs. Domanico, Mr. Joslyn, Mrs. Kloczko

Absent: Mr. Brady, Mayor Bingham, Austin Kelson, Kevin Finn, Rachael Kelly

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

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

There were no speakers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

INFORMATION SHARING AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

A. Student Representatives – School News

There were no student speakers.

B. Superintendent Report

1. Secretary of State 5th Grade Inventions Competition

Mrs. Kloczko presented the Board with the winning student.

2. National Youth Service Day Recognition

Mrs. Kloczko presented the Board with the participants.

C. 2013-2014 Budget

Mr. Traub spoke about the budget and the meeting with the Board of Finance.

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the administration concession of their bonus for not reaching their smart goals. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The motion was withdrawn.

Mr. Nargi had questions about the percent of reduction and the effect of that one percent (1%).

A Board member asked who the concession affected.

Mrs. Cappabianca suggested moving responsibilities of certain positions around to save costs.

Mr. Cavagnero asked about the key responsibilities of the position held by Mr. Joslyn. He suggested filling the position with a lawyer who knows education to save legal costs.

Mr. Nargi agreed with Mr. Cavagnero's suggestion. He asked to see the costs associated with this suggestion.

Mrs. Kloczko reminded the Board that the Administration also needs legal representation separate from the Board for Expulsion Hearings and other legal matters.

Mr. Rovero asked if Mr. Joslyn had suggestions for the Board. He also spoke about the custodial positions and reconfiguration.

Mr. Joslyn said there is a balance of education and law for his position.

Mr. Kissko stated that the cuts have a punitive appearance compared with the bonus the administration is giving up. He said he does not like to take cuts from personnel. Mr. Kissko discussed reconfiguration and positions.

Mr. Merola asked about a Latin class. A discussion of cutting or keeping the Latin program took place.

Mrs. Hoehne said she agreed with Mrs. Cappabianca about moving responsibilities around.

The proposed cuts to employment positions were discussed.

Line items and costs were discussed.

Mr. Merola spoke about discussing classes “in which their time has come.”

Mrs. Cappabianca discussed the sports program at the Middle School.

Cutting or reducing line items and letting the Administration allocate the money was discussed.

Mr. Kissko added the new hire to the list of cuts.

Mr. Traub read down the list of proposed cuts and each Board member stated if they would like to keep or cut that item.

D. Policy 6095 – Graduation Requirements

Mr. Joslyn presented a first read to the Board.

E. Policy 2025 – On Line Learning

Mr. Joslyn presented a first read to the Board.

F. Policy 6192 – Suspension and Expulsion, 2nd read

Mr. Joslyn presented the second read of Policy 6192 to the Board.

Mr. Cavagnero said he would like this Policy to pass and eventually would like the Board to approve a Policy that would dissuade bullying in the schools.

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to amend the Agenda by adding item 5. I – Approval of TPSAA Concession. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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 Revised 2013-1014 Budget

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the Revised 2013-2014 Budget. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote passed with two (2) opposed, Mr. Kissko and Mr. Merola.

Mr. Cavagnero expressed his disappointment in the language of reconfiguring the TAG Program.

Mr. Nargi asked about the insurance reduction.

Mr. Merola stated that he would have liked to have the discussion of programs whose time has come and the unlikeliness of the Administration finding the funds for some of the programs the Board has reconfigured.

Mr. Rovero stated he believes it is a horrible idea to reconfigure the TAG program.

C. Contract Approval – Capitol Project Southwest School

Mr. Rovero made a motion for the Approval of the Capitol Project at Southwest School Contract. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

D. Approval of Policy 6192 – Suspension and Expulsion

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to Approve Policy 6192 minus the forms. Mr. Merola seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

E. Approval of Application for \$50,000 Grant – Adult Ed Program Improvement Project

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve the Application for \$50,000 Grant for Adult Ed Program Improvement Project. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Nargi asked how much the entire program costs.

F. Approval of Distinguished Alumni Award Recipients

Mr. Cavagnero made a motion to approve the Distinguished Award Recipients. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Cavagnero stated that the School Improvement Committee agreed to only give out this award when it was justified. He spoke about the recipients.

G. Consent Agenda

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

1. Approval of April 24, 2013 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of May 2, 2013 Special Board of Education Expulsion Meeting Minutes

3. Approval of May 2, 2013 Special Board of Education Expulsion Meeting Minutes
 4. Approval of May 2, 2013 Special Board of Education Expulsion Meeting Minutes
 5. Approval of May 8, 2013 Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes
 6. Approval of Sub Committee Minutes
 - a. School Improvement Committee – No Report
 - b. Policy Committee – April 3, 2013
 - c. Budget Committee – April 10, 2013
 - d. Personnel Committee – April 10, 2013
 7. Appointments and Resignations
 8. Notices for Homeschooling
 - a. M.C., Grade 9, Eff. 2012-2013
- H. Field Trips – 2013-2014

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the Field Trips for 2013-2014. Mr. Nargi seconded the motion. Mr. Rovero amended his motion to approve all field trips except those with missing information, specifically four (4). The motion was withdrawn.

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to approve the West Point field trip. Mr. Cavagnero seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Merola.

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to approve the 2013-2014 field trips with the exception of the Opryland Music Festival. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Merola.

Mr. Rovero stated his concerns regarding subs.

Mr. Cavagnero stated that the Board has already spent time discussing the way field trips are approved so they would not have to have long discussions on individual trips at the meetings.

The West Point trip and the Music Festival Opryland trip were discussed.

Mr. Cavagnero stated that he would only support this based on the belief that next year the field trip forms will be filled out completely.

Mr. Nargi asked who the field trip forms are submitted to. He also asked for the discussion of field trips in the June meeting.

I. Approval of TPSAA Concession Proposal

Mr. Merola made a motion to approve the TPSAA Concession proposal. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Cavagnero asked when the Board would see the recommendations from the Athletic Director.

Mr. Nargi spoke about the Budget process and how he felt the Board was not gaining enough information to evaluate anything.

Mrs. Cappabianca stated that she believed the number of kids recognized for their Community Service was much larger than what was presented to the Board. She also said she would support a Policy change regarding Field Trips.

Mr. Rovero suggested any Board members who have questions regarding the Budget should email the Budget Committee members so they can get the information. He also said he would like to see a reconfiguration of the TAG program ahead of time.

Mr. Kissko said the changing demographics of Torrington are positive. He also reminded the Board of the NHS induction ceremony at the High School.

Mr. Thibault made a motion to extend the meeting past 10:00pm. Mr. Cavagnero seconded the motion. The vote passed with three (3) opposed, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Merola.

Mr. Traub informed the Board of the Pacific Life Projects being recognized at the State Capitol building and the TEA retirement dinner.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Personnel Committee – Mr. Thibault reported.
- B. Policy Committee – Mrs. Hoehne reported.
- C. Grievance Committee – Mrs. Cappabianca reported.

- D. School Improvement Committee – No report.
- E. Budget Committee – Mr. Rovero reported.
- F. Education Connection – Mr. Kissko reported.
- G. THS Oversight Panel – Mr. Kissko reported.
- H. Wellness Project – Mr. Merola reported.
- I. Juvenile Court Update – No Report.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMMING AGENDA

- A. Financial Statement
- B. Committee Reports
- C. School Projects for Referendum
- D. Forbes School Solar Project
- E. Next year BOE Calendar
- F. Reconfigure of TAG program
- G. Policy 6095 and Policy 2025 2nd read and approval
- H. Education Connection Graduation
- I. Lunch Prices
- J. Non-Certified Contracts
- K. Athletic Handbook
- L. Retirees Bio-Mr. Bill Joslyn

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Policy Committee Meeting – June 5, 2013
- B. School Improvement Committee Meeting – June 5, 2013
- C. Budget Committee Meeting – June 12, 2013

D. Personnel Committee Meeting – June 12, 2013

E. Regular BOE Meeting – June 19, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to adjourn at 10:05pm. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.