

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
April 8, 2013  
Torrington High School Media Center  
Major Besse Drive**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:10pm.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**Present:** Mr. Brady, Mrs. Cappabianca, Mr. Cavagnero (arrived at 6:26pm), Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Merola, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Rovero, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Traub, Mrs. Batchelder, Mr. Joslyn, Mrs. Kloczko

**Absent:** Mrs. Domanico, 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 three (3) speakers. Mindy Scutt, Jerry Traub, and Kathi Petersen spoke to the Board regarding the budget, Board of Education meeting attendance, athletics, and parent surveys.

**APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT’S 2013-2014 PROPOSED BUDGET**

**Torrington BOE’s Working Budget as of April 3, 2013**

2013-2014 Superintendent’s Proposed Budget	\$71,622,258.00
2012-2013 BOE’s Budget	<u>\$66,444,310.00</u>
Increase over 12/13	\$5,177,948.00

**Areas of Reduction made by the BOE on 4/3/13 from the Superintendent’s 2013-2014 Budget**

<u>School/Dept.</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
Special Ed.	Other Professional Services	\$90,000.00
THS	C.N.A. Program	\$70,000.00
DW	Elimination of a Bus Route	\$50,000.00
DW	Propane Buses – Fuel	\$212,000.00
DW	Safety & Security	\$300,000.00
DW	Savings from Retirements	\$250,000.00

<u>School/Dept.</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
Capitol Budget	Technology	\$160,000.00
Capital Budget	Maintenance	\$288,000.00
THS	Decreased supplies, equip.	\$43,000.00
THS	Decreased Option Program Teacher by .2FTE from .4FTE	\$14,034.50

**Areas of Increase made by the BOE on 4/3/13 from the Superintendent's 2013-2014 Budget**

THS	Added back one (1) guidance counselor	\$50,364.00
THS	Added back two (2) Teachers	\$100,000.00
THS Athletics	Added back Junior Varsity and Freshman Sports (THS) – Recommended from A.D. For cutting costs	\$0.00
TMS Athletics	Added back TMS Athletics	\$68,502.00
DW	Added back TAG Program	\$75,792.00
		<b>\$1,182,376.50</b>

	<u>Increase</u>	<u>Total Amt.</u>	<u>Percent Increase</u>
<b>BOE's Working 2013-2014 Budget</b>	<b>\$3,995,571.50</b>	<b>\$70,439,881.50</b>	<b>6.01%</b>

5561.01-Sped. Tuition Public DCF	\$130,000.00(Student Services)
5563.03-OOD PreK	\$120,000.00(Student Services)
5561.01-Sped. Public DCF	\$70,000.00
Para OT	\$25,000.00
Professional Ed Services-SRO	\$10,000.00
Hospital Tutors	\$8,000.00
Repair Equipment	\$20,000.00
Sped. PD	\$3,225.00
Sped. Transportation	\$150,000.00
Transportation Summer School	\$15,000.00
THS Postage	\$2,000.00
Sped. Printing/binding	\$500.00
Detention Center	\$25,000.00
Regular Ed. Tuition	\$42,300.00
Sped. Travel	\$1,000.00
Instructional Supplies	\$5,000.00
Non-Instructional Supplies	\$5,000.00
Instructional Equipment	\$10,000.00
Sped. Entry Fees	\$1,500.00
Misc. Exp.	\$1,000.00
Electric	\$75,000.00

Natural Gas	\$75,000.00
5111.50-Stipends	\$10,000.00(THS)
5111.50-Stipends	\$10,000.00(TMS)
5112.30-Clerical Retirement	\$25,000.00(DW)
5112.80-Custodian Retirement	\$25,000.00(DW)
5220-Social Security/Medicare	\$30,000.00(DW)
5270-Workers Compensation	\$15,000.00(DW)
5564-Regular Ed. Tuition	\$95,700.00(Student Services)
5530-Communications	\$40,000.00(Technology)
Add back FRP's to twelve (12) month employees	
Reduction of one (1) custodian	

**\$1,050,720.00**

**Area's of Reduction from the Superintendent's 2013-2014 Budget**

Requested by Mayor Bingham – **BOE has NOT Approved this yet**

<u>School/Dept.</u>	<u>Line Item</u>	<u>Reduction</u>
DW	5231-Retirement Contributions	\$30,000.00(pg57)
		<b>\$30,000.00</b>

Mr. Brady made a motion to take the Approval of Superintendent's 2013-2014 Proposed Budget off the table from the April 3, 2013 meeting and open it for discussion. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion.

Mrs. Cappabianca stated she would like to take two (2) items off of the Mayor's proposed cut list because they are proposed mandates and not increases due to inflation. Mrs. Cappabianca also said she and Mrs. Hoehne looked over the Special Education budget and would like to make numerous cuts.

Mrs. Batchelder passed out a summary of the entire budget to the Board members.

The Special Education budget was discussed.

Mrs. Cappabianca listed all the cuts to the Special Education budget she would like to make. She also listed cuts to the facilities portion of the Regular budget she would like to make.

Mr. Thibault asked about reinvesting savings from the operating budget.

Mrs. Cappabianca listed one (1) more cut she would like to make to the Regular budget under the Other Professional Services line item.

Mrs. Batchelder passed out a summary of the cuts already made from the previous meeting.

Mr. Merola asked about cutting paraprofessionals overtime and meeting the needs of the students. He also asked about natural gas and electricity savings.

Mr. Nargi said he thought the numbers were not carefully scrutinized by the administration.

Mr. Traub explained what the Mayor and City Council had asked the Board to do regarding cutting the budget down as much as possible.

Mrs. Cappabianca stated that in the past the Board has never had enough information about the Special Education budget to make any cuts. Other areas of the budget have taken cuts repeatedly and now that the Special Education budget can be analyzed there is room to make some cuts.

All the Board members agreed with the cuts Mrs. Cappabianca proposed.

Mrs. Kloczko stated that the Administration knows that cuts have to be made and they will do the best they can with what they have. There are some concerns regarding costs associated with in-district and out-of-district special needs students.

The Special Education budget surplus from last year and the projected Special Education costs of the 2013-2014 proposed budget were discussed.

Out-of-district and in-district costs and savings were discussed.

Mrs. Batchelder passed out a health insurance summary and explained it.

Different types of insurance plans were discussed. Mr. Nargi asked for the net amount for the past five (5) years.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked where and how the broker fees are paid.

Including insurance costs in the Board of Finance presentation was discussed.

Insurance rates and co-pays were discussed.

Mr. Traub asked if any other Board members had budget cuts they would like to discuss.

In-house and out-sourced substitute teachers were discussed.

Mr. Cavagnero said he would like to have the substitute teachers in house. He wanted to cut the Kelly Services substitute service line item from the budget. He said it is too easy for teachers to take time off. Kids need to be taught by certified teachers not substitutes.

Mr. Rovero said that it would cost more to have the substitutes in-house.

Mrs. Batchelder pointed out which line item reflected the law regarding taking time off.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked if the district was under contract with Kelly Services.

Mr. Nargi spoke about salaries. He asked about the 13% increase in salaries over the past two (2) years. He had questions about expenses and revenue pertaining to health insurance. Mr. Nargi said the numbers do not make sense and the budget process does not make sense.

Mr. Nargi wanted to cut one (1) of the assistant principals from the High School. He also wanted to cut the added guidance counselor at the High School.

Mrs. Cappabianca clarified which budgets they were working on and voting on.

Mr. Traub pointed out they have reductions requested by the Mayor and reductions approved by the Board of Education.

The CNA program was discussed.

Mr. Traub stated that, at the last meeting, they decided to let the Administration find the efficiencies within the system they have to add the CNA program.

Mr. Cavagnero said he thought the Board was going to discuss making cuts to staff to fit in the CNA program.

Mr. Rovero had a question regarding a Special Education account.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked for clarification of approving new curriculum.

Some Board members asked for the number of students interested in this program and if any students would not be able to take this course that may want to.

Mr. Nargi asked why they would be keeping up utilities in the Migeon Avenue building after it is closed. He then proposed eliminating one (1) central office administrator.

The Board requested a presentation about eliminating one (1) central office administrator and consolidating the duties to three (3) administrators.

Before proceeding Mr. Traub summarized the proposed budget cuts and add-ons.

Stipends for teacher lunch duty were discussed.

Clerical and custodial retirement was discussed.

Mr. Rovero asked if retirements were generally taken in the middle of the school year.

Social Security/Medicare was discussed.

Having a contingency fund was discussed. Mr. Cavagnero said wanted to have a line item specifically for contingencies. Mr. Thibault said he would also like to have a maintenance emergency fund.

Workers Compensation was discussed. One of the Board members asked if there was a cap for workers compensation.

Regular education, out-of-district was discussed.

Communications for Technology were discussed. Expenses for this line item were discussed.

Mrs. Kloczko requested the Board consider a contingency for Special Education.

Mrs. Cappabianca wanted to clarify for the public that the numbers they have now are the correct numbers. She stated that she is comfortable with the budget but the elimination of World Language at Torrington Middle School should not be done within the budget; it should be done with the curriculum.

Mr. Traub said he has spoken to Mrs. Kloczko about getting curriculum changes from the end of summer into fall so the Board can vote on a budget dictated by curriculum changes; not make curriculum changes based on a budget.

World Language at Torrington Middle School was discussed.

Mrs. Batchelder asked the Board about bringing the FRP secretaries back to twelve (12) months.

Mrs. Hoehne and Mrs. Cappabianca said they would like to add the FRP secretaries back to twelve (12) months.

Removal of retirement contributions was discussed.

Severance was discussed.

Mr. Cavagnero wanted to know if any families are moving to Torrington specifically for the Special Education services.

Mrs. Cappabianca wanted to eliminate two (2) custodians and restructure the department.

Mr. Kissko asked if the city was still considering intergrading city and school custodians.

Mr. Traub explained that a custodial contract cannot be sub-contracted.

Mr. Cavagnero suggested creating a caucus of Education Boards to come together to fight legislation that behooves the Board of Education.

The Board agreed to restore the Family Resource Personnel (FRP's) to twelve (12) month secretaries and reduce custodians by one (1) by not backfilling an upcoming retirement position.

Additional cuts were made totaling \$1,050,720.00 bringing the total budget number to \$69,389,161.50. This is a difference from the 2012-2013 BOE budget of \$2,944,851.00; a 4.43% increase.

Mr. Merola made a motion to accept the amended Superintendent's 2013-2014 Proposed Budget. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi.

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

Mr. Nargi said salaries and benefits keep taking up larger portions of the budget and they are not getting more efficient, qualitative programs for the district.

Mr. Kissko reminded everyone of the choral concert.

Mr. Brady thanked Mrs. Hoehne and Mrs. Cappabianca for the work they did with Special Education.

Mr. Merola told everybody they did an excellent job.

Mrs. Hoehne thanked the spectators.

Mr. Traub thanked the Administration and the Board for putting in a good effort.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

At 9:02pm Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.