



**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, June 17, 2014
Torrington High School
Major Besse Drive**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:08 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Fiona Cappabianca; Jeremy Hinman (arrived 6:48 p.m.); Ellen Hoehne; John Kissko; Bill Knight; Jim Lamoin; Andrew Nargi; Jessica Richardson; Daniel Thibault; Kenneth P. Traub, Chair

Administration: Evette Aird, David Bascetta, Joseph Campolieta, Cheryl F. Kloczko, Susan Lubomski, Hugh Potter

Absent: Mayor Carbone

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

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

There were three (3) speakers; Jason Lafreniere regarding field trip approval process, William Battle regarding common core, and Chase Jespersen regarding grounds keeping outsourcing bid.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

A. Fire Truck ride on the first day of Kindergarten raffle drawing

Zachary Styga drew the winner, Noah Brown.

B. Student's Report

No report.

C. Superintendent's Report

1. THS Academic Awards and Scholarships

Ms. Kloczko introduced Eric Baim. Mr. Baim reported.

2. Superintendent announcement

Ms. Kloczko announced her retirement from Torrington School District.

3. Raider Rally on May 29 raised \$17,000 for FISH, Susan B. Anthony Project, and Helping Hands

Mr. Baim informed the Board of the rally and the achievements. He presented the senior surveys to the Board.

Ms. Cappabianca asked if they could have a list of the colleges the seniors would be attending.

4. Student Innovation Expo 2015: Lisa Debany, THS Science Teacher and THS Science Club Advisor

Lisa Debany informed the Board of the Expo and introduced the speakers to the Board. Three students presented their project to the Board.

5. TPS and Northwestern Connecticut YMCA Partnership

Ms. Kloczko reported to the Board of the partnership.

6. Kidsmarathon Grant Report – The Community Foundation of Northwestern Connecticut

Ms. Kloczko reported to the Board regarding the grant and the funds accrued.

7. East Elementary School Garden and grants for Forbes and SW

Ms. Kloczko reported on the grants for the schools.

8. Eversource financial incentive

Mr. Bascetta updated the Board.

9. Torrington Library Summer Reading Program

Ms. Kloczko informed the Board of the summer reading program.

Mr. Nargi asked about utilizing online learning over the summer.

Mr. Kissko asked about opening the school libraries during the summer in previous years.

10. State Board of Education report on racial imbalance statistics

Ms. Kloczko updated the Board on the racial balances of the schools.

Ms. Richardson asked about the degree of the imbalance.

Mr. Kissko asked how race is identified.

Mr. Nargi asked about academics involved in demographics.

D. Clerk to the Board of Education job description

Mr. Thibault reviewed the job descriptions for the Clerk of the Board of Education.

Mr. Nargi asked about consolidating this position with the Assistant to the Superintendent position. He asked about eliminating the clerk position, or splitting the duties between more than one position already in place.

Ms. Cappabianca asked for clarification on the duties outlined for the position. She asked if the assistant to the superintendent salary changed with the duties of the clerk.

Mr. Traub pointed out that an extremely small and separate stipend is given the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent in compensation for covering the duties of Board of Education Clerk. Mr. Traub asked about another position in the district being able to absorb these duties.

Hours and rates were discussed.

E. Preliminary site plans for women's softball field

Mr. Bascetta presented the plans to the Board.

Mr. Hinman asked about advertisement on the permanent fencing.

Ms. Hoehne asked about lights for night games. She asked if a September start for the project would be enough time for the spring season.

Mr. Nargi asked for a breakdown of costs per parts of the new field. He asked about renting out the field. He asked if it would be used as a practice field.

F. Out-of-district special education transportation

Mr. Potter informed the Board of the changes in transportation contract.

Ms. Cappabianca asked about changes made regarding background checks for drivers.

Mr. Nargi asked about costs for other districts. He asked if there was a correlation between the Medicaid fund and transportation costs.

Mr. Kissko asked if there were any problems with the current provider.

Mr. Traub asked for the costs for this year and what the amount is budgeted for next year for transportation costs.

G. Discussion: Board of Education Retreat

The Board discussed the date of the retreat.

Mr. Traub spoke about receiving a copy of the code of ethics and reviewing them. He reviewed the topics to be discussed and requested emails from Board members for more topics to be discussed.

Mr. Traub informed the Board members their attorney would be present at the retreat for training purposes and questions.

H. Request for 2016-17 Board of Education Goals

Mr. Traub requested the Board members send him any emails for requests for goals.

I. Year-end projections

Mr. Potter presented the projections to the Board.

Mr. Nargi asked about revenue and capital projects.

Mr. Thibault asked about a grant.

Ms. Cappabianca asked about making decisions on capital projects.

Scheduled capital projects were discussed.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Board of Education meeting calendar for 2015-16

Ms. Cappabianca made a motion to approve the Board of Education calendar. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

B. Approval of contract for grounds work outsourcing

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the contract. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. No vote was taken due to not having the most current information.

Ms. Richardson asked about how the companies were vetted and selected. She asked about revisiting the issue of pesticide.

Ms. Cappabianca asked about the contracts and how to check on the companies.

Personnel requirements were discussed.

Mr. Kissko asked about criminal record checks for the staff of the company chosen. He also said the Board cannot approve the contract at this point because the Board members did not have the most current and correct contract.

Mr. Traub asked about the use of pesticide. He also asked for the differences in the bids.

Mr. Nargi asked about licensing. He asked who drafted the contract.

Requirements of the bidders were discussed.

Mr. Knight made a motion to table the vote on the groundwork outsourcing contract. Mr. Hinman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

C. Approval of out-of-district special education transportation contract

Mr. Thibault made a motion to renew the current out-of-district special education transportation contract in lieu of putting out an RFP. Mr. Hinman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

D. Approval of out-of-district field trips for 2015-16

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the field trips for 2015-16. Ms. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Cappabianca spoke about information gathering for the field trip process.

E. Consent Agenda

Ms. Cappabianca made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Cappabianca asked about reasons for resignations.

Ms. Richardson spoke about format of meeting minutes.

1. Approval of May 20, 2015, Regular Board of Education meeting minutes
2. Approval of Subcommittee minutes
 - a. Policy Committee meeting – May 6, 2015
 - b. School Improvement Committee meeting – May 6, 2015
 - c. Personnel Committee meeting – May 13, 2015
3. Approval of May 18, 2015 Special Board of Education Meeting
4. Approval of May 26, 2015 Special Board of Education Meeting, Student A minutes
5. Approval of May 26, 2015 Special Board of Education Meeting, Student B minutes
6. Appointments & Resignations

Mr. Hinman made a motion to extend the meeting fifteen (15) minutes past 9:00 p.m. Ms. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote passed with four (4) opposed, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Knight, Mr. Nargi and Mr. Thibault. The chair abstained.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Nargi commented on the employees and retirees obtaining information regarding insurance.

Mr. Knight spoke about the Fun Run.

Ms. Richardson spoke about receiving updated information.

Mr. Lamoin asked for invoices.

Mr. Hinman spoke about improving attention to detail and organization. He also spoke about advertising for sporting events and chaperoning student events.

Mr. Traub spoke about Awards night and the number of students receiving awards.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Budget Committee – Ms. Cappabianca reported.
- B. Grievance Committee – Mr. Lamoin reported.
- C. Personnel Committee – Mr. Thibault reported.
- D. Policy Committee – Ms. Hoehne reported.
- E. School Improvement Committee – Mr. Kissko reported.
- F. THS Oversight Panel – Mr. Kissko reported.
- G. Education Connection – Mr. Kissko reported.
- H. Turf Field Committee – No report.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

- A. Financial Statement

- B. Committee Reports
- C. Clerk position
- D. Ad hoc committee for field trips

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Special Board of Education Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Thursday, June 18, 2015 (THS)
- B. School Improvement and Community Relations Committee, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2015 (Migeon)
- C. Policy Committee, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2015 (Migeon)
- D. Personnel Committee, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 8, 2015 (Migeon)
- E. Budget Committee, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 8, 2015 (Migeon)
- F. Policy Committee, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 5, 2015 (Migeon)
- G. School Improvement and Community Relations Committee, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 5, 2015 (Migeon)
- H. Personnel Committee, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 12, 2015 (Migeon)
- I. Budget Committee, 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, August 12, 2015 (Migeon)
- J. Regular Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 19, 2015 (THS)

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:11 p.m. Mr. Thibault made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Hinman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.