



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, January 20, 2016
355 Migeon Avenue**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Fiona Cappabianca, Chair; Joanne K. Brogis; Ellen G. Hoehne; Bill Knight; Jim Lamoin; Andrew Nargi; Jessica Richardson; Daniel Thibault; Kenneth P. Traub; Peter Vergaro

Administration: Susan M. Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent;
Lynda T. Reitman, Interim Superintendent

Absent: Mayor Carbone

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

The Chair outlined the purpose and rules of the School/Community Session.

There were (4) speakers.

Mr. Battle spoke on the importance of having a Latin teacher at THS.
(3) people spoke on options funding and their desire to see funding for the CAFTA program next semester.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the agenda with the following amendments; remove items (5-C-2) AP European History, (6) Executive Session-Administrators' Contract, (8-E) Administrators' Contract, (8-H-2-a) IT. Ms. Richardson amended the motion to add item (5-E) CAFTA funding. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

A. Superintendent's Report

1. Recognition of CAPSS/LCSA Superintendent's Award winners

Ms. Reitman congratulated all the winners for representing TPS in such a spectacular fashion.

2. School Governance Council

Ms. Reitman will be looking into concerns about cleanliness at the site and the success rate of students in combined classes.

3. Update Budget Timeline

Mr. Traub expressed concern that the timeline mirrors the compressed schedule that they faced last year.

Ms. Reitman stated that the full Board of Education sees it on February 17, 2016 and that more dates can be added if need be.

Mr. Nargi expressed a desire to be able to see what the site budgets looked like before and after cuts were made.

Ms. Reitman stated that these could be emailed to the Board.

Mr. Traub made a motion to amend the Agenda to include item (5-A-4) Student Reports. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

4. Student Reports

Ms. Emreen Bharaha from Torrington High School presented the reports.

CPR certification was earned by all seniors due to a grant obtained by the Torrington Fire Department.

A senior from THS is a 2016 Gold Scholastic Key Award winner in sculpture.

Journey to Autism club formed at THS to bring awareness.

Basketball pinkout game coming up and T-shirts are being sold to raise money for breast cancer research.

THS guidance department enrolling students in a new college and career ready program called Naviance.

THS students will attend the Yale model UN this weekend.

Woodworking auction ended today and the proceeds will go towards the THS career technical education scholarship fund.

The Torrington High newspaper is now an online publication and can be found at thsraidertimes.com.

THS students are hard at work during mid-terms.

B. Staffing Reports

Mr. Thibault reported a spike in administrator absences due to the fact that they did not receive a week off between Christmas and New Year's.

Mr. Thibault also reported a continuing trend of spending less on substitutes.

C. Drawing I

Ms. Reitman reported that the new course would be a ½ credit, semester course to allow students to have more exposure to visual arts.

Mr. Thibault questioned whether the current teachers have time in their schedules.

Ms. Reitman confirmed the teachers could handle it without any serious re-arrangements to their schedules.

D. Superintendent Search

The Chair suggested a Special Meeting of the Board of Education be held to further discuss the search.

Mr. Thibault discussed doing the Superintendent Search in-house vs. out-of-house.

Mr. Lamoin stated he would prefer to do the search in-house and perhaps use the money they would save towards salary.

A meeting will be held Wednesday, January 27, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. at Migeon Ave. according to a consensus vote.

E. CAFTA Program

Ms. Reitman stated she was told that there were no students enrolled for the program next semester so the funds were allocated elsewhere.

Dr. Brogis and Mr. Lamoin agreed that they made a commitment to the two (2) students currently enrolled in the program and that they needed to find funding to see the students through the program.

A straw poll was taken to determine whether the two students would be permitted to continue the CAFTA program second semester. All in favor.

The Board of Education recommended to administration to find the funding for the second semester of the CAFTA program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION-BUSINESS MANAGER CONTRACT

At 7:35 p.m., Mr. Traub made a motion to go into executive session to discuss the business manager contract. Ms. Reitman was invited into the session. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

At 8:42 p.m., the Chair declared the meeting in open session.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Monthly Financials

Ms. Hoehne made a motion to accept the monthly financials. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

B. Approval of New Course Curriculum

Mr. Traub made a motion to approve the course curriculum for Drawing I. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

C. Approval of changes to 2015-2016 District Calendar

Ms. Reitman stated that the changes to the District Calendar are moving the Kindergarten readiness fair from January until March as well as changing the date of the 3rd Quarter Marking Period at THS to March 24th.

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve changes to the 2015-2016 District Calendar. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

D. Approval of Out-of-State/Overnight Field Trips

Mr. Traub made a motion to approve a field trip to New York City for Torrington High School and a field trip to Ellis Island for Torrington Middle School. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

F. Business Manager Contract

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the Business Manager contract with the changes discussed in the Executive Session. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote passed with one opposed, Mr. Nargi.

Mr. Nargi stated he would like the BOE attorney to review the contract.

Mr. Vergaro stated the Board of Education's attorneys' fees are high according to budget.

G. Subcommittee Assignments

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to discuss subcommittee assignments. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. The vote passed with one opposed, Mr. Nargi.

The new subcommittee and liaison assignments were given replacing prior board members on the committees.

H. Ad Hoc Committees

1. Dissolution

a) THS Oversight

The dissolution of the THS Oversight committee vote passed with all in favor.

Mr. Traub made a motion to extend the meeting fifteen minutes. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. The vote passed with two (2) opposed, Mr. Thibault and Mr. Knight.

2. Creation

b) Special Education

Mr. Knight made a motion to create a Special Education Ad Hoc Committee that would be responsible for keeping up-to-date with items such as legislation and funding. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion.

Mr. Traub offered to chair the Special Education Ad Hoc Committee.

Mr. Knight withdrew his motion.

Mr. Vergaro made a secondary motion that the Chair appointment Mr. Traub as Chair of the Special Education Ad Hoc Committee. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

c) Turf Committee

Mr. Traub made a motion for Mr. Nargi to continue service on the Turf Committee. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

I. Superintendent Search-Special Meeting 1/27

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to hold a Special Board of Education Meeting on January 27, 2016 to discuss the search for a superintendent. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

J. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of December 16, 2015 Regular BOE Meeting minutes
2. Approval of Subcommittee minutes
 - a) Policy Committee Meeting – December 2, 2015
 - b) Budget Committee Meeting – December 9, 2015
 - c) Personnel Committee Meeting – December 9, 2015
3. Appointments & Resignations

Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Traub seconded the motion. Ms. Richardson stated the Policy Committee minutes from December 2, 2015 were amended on January 6, 2016 because she was not absent as otherwise listed. The vote passed all in favor.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Knight stated that Torrington held their winter concert and it was well attended by parents and staff.

Mr. Traub asked if the two new Board Members would be given their tablets. He also wanted to know when the turf would be turned back over.

Mr. Vergaro stated that as of April 1st they were losing two custodians and wanted confirmation that they would indeed be replaced because the staff has been working hard.

The Chair notified the Board that the city would be offering coursework for free and that she would be forwarding the email. Also, they are working to create new Board of Education binders for everyone.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Budget Committee – The Chair reported that they got approval of the transfer of the capital to the operating.
- B. Grievance Committee – Mr. Lamoin reported that there may be a meeting upcoming.
- C. Personnel Committee – Mr. Thibault reported they will soon be working on secondary education structure.
- D. Policy Committee – Ms. Hoehne reported that they have been busy and have more coming up.
- E. School Improvement Committee – The Chair reported that the committee did not meet.
- F. THS Oversight Panel – The Chair reported that it's no longer valid.
- G. Education Connection- The Chair reported there is no update but may be one in the future.
- H. Turf Field Committee – Mr. Nargi reported that there was not a meeting held, he will look to see when the turf will be getting turned over.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

- A. Board Retreat
- B. Member Training
- C. BOE Self Evaluations
- D. Financials
- E. Special Education Update
- F. 2016-2017 Draft Budget

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, January 27, 2016 (at Migeon Ave)

6:00 p.m. – Board of Education Special Meeting

Wednesday, February 3, 2016 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

7:00 p.m. – School Improvement and Community Relations Committee

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – Personnel Committee

6:30 p.m. – Budget Committee

Wednesday, February 17, 2016 (at THS)

A. 6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Education Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thibault made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. Mr. Traub seconded the motion. All in favor.