



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, August 17, 2016
355 Migeon Ave.**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Fiona Cappabianca, Chair; Joanne Brogis (6:11p.m.); Ellen G. Hoehne; Bill Knight; Jim Lamoin; Jessica Richardson; Daniel Thibault; Kenneth P. Traub (6:35 p.m.); Peter Vergaro

Administration: David Bascetta, Director of Facilities; Jerry Domanico, Director of Business Services; Le'Tanya Lawrence; Director of Student Services; Susan M. Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent; Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent; Elinor Carbone, Mayor

Absent: Armand Maniccia

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

There were no speakers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the agenda with the additions of C(1) Fiscal Year Close and D(1) Special Ed. Ad Hoc. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

A. Energy Efficiency

1. Eversource

Mayor Carbone shared that years ago a pledge was signed to reduce our energy consumption by 20% by 2018. It may be a lofty goal but she has faith we can do this.

A spokeswoman from Eversource shared a presentation regarding Energize CT, K-12 Energy Education and the Energy Efficiency Projects and Upgrades. Energize CT is a statewide branding initiative to help consumers save money and use clean, affordable energy. Energy efficiency is the least expensive methods to reduce energy use, helps reduce air pollutants, saves money, reduces need for more energy generation and creates jobs.

Torrington signed the Clean Energy Community Pledge in 2015. They earned a \$15,000 bright idea grant. Hosted two LED light bulb swaps, served 1,320 households providing a total of 6,700.

Over the past three years, the City of Torrington is saving \$472,500 through energy savings including electric and gas.

In December 2015, Complete ASHRAE Level 1 Energy Assessment at Torrington Elementary School. Energy Star labeled buildings- Torrington Middle School will be audited (site visit scheduled for September).

Vogel-Wetmore School upgraded their energy efficiency programs and saved over \$41,000. Forbes annual savings in 2013 was \$46,700. The Middle School saved \$71,000 in 2012.

Retrofit measures can earn up to 40% of install costs covered. Comprehensive projects can earn up to 50% of install costs. Each municipality can have up to \$500,000 of 0% financing outstanding at one time.

The next steps are to educate, empower and engage.

2. DBS Energy Inc.

Mr. Bascetta shared on the quick study that was done at Forbes school that was done with and without solar.

DBS Energy presented when the system was commissioned and compared a five month period until when the system was fully operational. Baseline 2011 data to the 2015 date, Forbes is seeing a slight increase in energy consumption. Over time, the equipment becomes less efficient, you are seeing that natural rise in energy use.

For the five month period that the system has been running, electricity cost reduced by \$7,000. We've estimated that for a full year, it would be about \$24,000 a year. The preliminary design that was done for Torrington School was discussed.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Addition of Title I Literacy Support Position

Mr. Winzler shared regarding the Title I Grant. He shared that all you can do with the grant is what you say you are going to do with the grant, otherwise they can take the money back. Otherwise, you can re-write the grant and they have to approve that. With the Title I Federal Grant, it is used to help students that are in need, gives them extra support to keep them out of Special Education. In this particular case, there were monies leftover this year. Since this is a grant to directly support kids, we cannot reinstate a secretarial position. So rather than leaving money in the grant unused, we were able to pay out of the grant, one of the literacy positions that were eliminated.

Mr. Traub questioned if the Board had to rescind its' vote because it voted to eliminate the position from Title I. The Chair stated that the Board voted to eliminate the position from the general budget, the Board would only have to re-vote if the position was added to the general budget.

Ms. Lubomski shared that the grant money is still the same at \$699,096

2. Authorized Signature Change Form

Mr. Winzler shared that since Ms. Reitman is no longer Interim Superintendent, the authorize signature form simply needs to reflect that change.

3. Paid Lunch Equity and Increase in School Meal Prices

Mr. Winzler shared that increasing the cost of school lunch helps off set the free and reduced lunch costs. Last year, there was no increase done and you can only increase in ten cent increments. We are recommending an increase to \$2.58 but not to begin in September but to increase it as of November 1st since there is not enough time to notify families.

Mr. Domanico stated that this will ensure that the program is operating in a break-even way. We are currently thirty cents below the Federal Standard. We are recommending for both lunch and breakfast a ten cent increase.

4. Guidance Counselors-additional hours

Mr. Winzler stated that there is a concern that the school year is going to open and there are only so many days which guidance counselors can work to ensure that the students' schedules are in order and in place so there isn't a line down the hall on the first day of class. The bottom line is that the counselors have already been getting calls. We have gone from six guidance counselors and now will open the school year with only three.

Mr. Traub questioned if in the future a request like this will come through budget first. Mr. Winzler stated he will absolutely give future requests to budget first.

5. Field Trip-Band Trip to Big E – 9/22/16

Mr. Winzler shared that the field trip should have come to the Board sooner. Protocol was not followed, however, this is a routine field trip that they do each year.

C. Fiscal Year Close

The Chair wants to clarify that we are not at a surplus, we might be at less of a deficit than we thought we were going to be in. When the books close and there is extra money, we have two options, one would be to do the carryover of capital or

secondly the money could be returned to the city. However, the Chair feels that this is premature since the books have not been closed and there are still invoices coming in.

Mr. Domanico stated we overspent our budget just not as much as we thought.

D. Special Education Ad Hoc

The Chair shared that when an Ad Hoc committee is formed it is supposed to have a purpose and a time frame. She would like to recommend that they have a Special Education workshop with the entire Board. We can then determine as a Board what we would like the Ad Hoc committee to do.

Mr. Thibault questioned if we need another workshop to tell us the information that we already have.

Ms. Richardson stated she feels a workshop would be helpful since we have new board members as well.

Mr. Winzler advised that perhaps waiting to plan the workshop until after classes started may be more beneficial.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS NON-BARGAINING UNIT CONTRACTS

At 7:40 p.m. Mr. Traub made a motion to move into executive session to discuss non-bargaining unit contracts, inviting in Mr. Winzler and Mr. Domanico. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

The Chair declared the meeting back in open session at 8:26 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Monthly financials

Mr. Traub made a motion to approve the monthly financials. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

B. Approval of 2016-2017 Budget and Summary Sheets

Mr. Traub made a motion to approve the 2016-2017 Budget and Summary Sheets. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

C. Approval of Authorized Signature Change Form

Mr. Traub made a motion to approve the authorized signature change form. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

D. Approval of Paid Lunch Equity and Increase in School Meal Prices

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the paid lunch equity and increase in school meal prices. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

E. Approval of Guidance Counselors-additional hours

Mr. Traub made a motion to approve additional days up to seven for Guidance Counselors. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

F. Approval of Field Trip

Dr. Brogis made a motion to approve the Band Trip to Big E on 9/22/16. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. All in favor.

G. Approval of Technology Specialist Agreements (2)

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the Technology Specialist Agreements as amended. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. The motion passed with one opposed, Mr. Traub.

H. Approval of Consent Agenda

Ms. Richardson had asked about the Title 9 request during the July 25th meeting, she would like to make sure that Mr. Bascetta's response is reflected in those minutes. Mr. Bascetta stated that the Title 9 complaint about the girls' softball field would be withdrawn because of the capital project that is moving forward.

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the change made to the July 25th Special Board of Education minutes. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Lamoin stated he will be back at the High School soon doing School Governance. The first meeting is set for the September 12, 2016..

Mr. Thibault encouraged everyone to go to the CT statutes and read section 10-220.

Dr. Brogis questioned whether there is adequate follow up when parents decide to homeschool their children to make sure academic progress is met.

Mr. Traub hopes that everyone makes it a point to check their email once a day for cancellations and changes to meetings.

Ms. Hoehne stated that she feels we need to go forth positive and to trust the Interim Superintendent.

Mr. Vergaro stated that he would like the discussion of liability insurance explored. If the community is willing to step up and volunteer we need to make sure they are covered.

The Chair also agreed with Mr. Traub's comment and encouraged the Board to check their email. She also stated that the Board just needs to keep moving forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Budget Committee – Mr. Traub reported that they are working on closing out last year.
- B. Grievance Committee – Mr. Lamoin reported that the first meeting is scheduled for September 12, 2016..
- C. Personnel Committee – Mr. Thibault reported that they will be doing their three year review.
- D. Policy Committee – Ms. Hoehne reported they will be starting up in September and the main topic is technology in the schools.
- E. School Improvement Committee – No meeting held.
- F. Education Connection- Dr. Brogis reported there was no meeting held however the name will be changing.
- G. Turf Field Committee- The Chair reported that she will be reaching out to the City so they can see about dissolving that Committee.
- H. Special Education Committee – No report

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

- A. Starting to look at the process of closing a school (Mr. Traub)
- B. Online learning program and possibly expanding (Mr. Thibault)
- C. Insurance for volunteers (Mr. Vergaro)
- D. New courses (The Chair)

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, September 7, 2016 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – School Improvement and Community Relations Committee

7:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

Wednesday, September 14, 2016 (Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – Personnel Committee

6:30 p.m. – Budget Committee

Wednesday, September 21, 2016 (at THS)

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Traub made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.