



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, November 16, 2016  
50 Major Besse Dr.**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Fiona Cappabianca, Chair; Ellen G. Hoehne; Bill Knight; Jim Lamoin; Armand Maniccia; Jessica Richardson; Kenneth P. Traub; Peter Vergaro (6:13 p.m.)

Administration: David Bascetta, Director of Facilities; Joseph L. Campolieta, Director of Human Resources; Jerry Domanico, Director of Business Services; Le'Tanya Lawrence; Director of Student Services; Susan M. Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent; Mark Winzler, Interim Superintendent

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

Ms. Fritch spoke regarding a school potentially closing. She stated that if a school has to close that the community should be involved in the process. She also congratulated that Board on finding a new Superintendent so quickly.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to approve the agenda with the amendment of moving the October Budget Committee meeting minutes to the next meeting. Ms. Richardson seconded the motion. All in favor.

**INFORMATION SHARING SESSION**

**A. Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Winzler stated that the big word right now for our schools is "transition". The new Superintendent will be coming in on Friday to spend the day with him. He has started to work with administration to get the information they will need for the budget process so that the new Superintendent is involved right off the bat.

Mr. Winzler shared positive things that are happening in Torrington Public Schools with staff and students. He feels that this is a great way to start each Board meeting and is a start to marketing for TPS.

**B. Contracts Policy – #3000**

C. Purchasing Policy – #3010

D. Payments Policy – #3011

Ms. Hoehne requested that items (B-D) be discussed as one. She stated that they separated the policy into 3 separate policies.

Mr. Traub stated that the policies are lacking titles at the top.

E. Proposed New Courses

Ms. Richardson shared that the School Improvement and Community Relations Committee had three new course proposals come before them; Chemistry in the Community, Modern Western Traditions and Integrated Science (I and II). The Chemistry course would be a practical science class with real world concepts. The Modern Western Traditions class would be a ½ year UCONN ECE class. The Integrated Science class would be sectioned in two and would give students that struggle a chance to recover.

Mr. Winzler suggested having a Curriculum Committee would make the process more effective.

The Chair stated that having a Curriculum Committee would be valuable because it would include teachers and people that have more knowledge about curriculum.

Mr. Traub stated that it is great offering an ECE course but that doesn't transfer to most colleges. Most colleges only take AP courses.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Budget Committee- Mr. Traub reported that they talked about monthly financials, we didn't have anything glaring, and everything seems to be running fairly well. Two budget transfers were moved to the full Board, they were to cover the Superintendent Search and NEASC. We discussed the filing of the ED01. We got an RFP update.
- B. Grievance Committee- Mr. Lamoin reported there was one grievance that was denied and came up with an alternate. The other grievance that was brought forward was cancelled.
- C. Personnel Committee- Mr. Thibault stated they reviewed the appointments and resignations sheets. The Board discussed whether that is the Personnel Committee's responsibility to approve the appointments and resignations. The Chair stated that she feels it is helpful for the Board to get the information to see what positions are filled or vacant. A straw poll taken- receive the appointments and resignations and not vote on; all in favor.
- D. Policy Committee –Ms. Hoehne reported that they talked about Student Activity fees, was not worth pursuing. She was very disheartened to hear that the BYOD network at the high school is not working, not really productive for our students.

Students contacted her and would like to bring in devices other than the eleven inch screens.

- E. School Improvement Committee- Ms. Richardson reported NEASC committee chairs gave them an update. In January, they plan on coming back to give an update on the progress. They have been working on marketing and communication in regards to the BOE Goal for 2016-2017.
- F. Education Connection- Dr. Brogis was absent, no report. Mr. Domanico stated they changed their name to Ed Advance.
- G. Turf Field Committee- The Chair reported no update, hopefully a meeting scheduled in the next couple weeks.
- H. Special Education Ad-Hoc – currently on hold

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **A. Approval of Board of Education Procedures**

Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the Board of Education Procedures. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. The motion passed with one opposed, Mr. Thibault.

### **B. Approval of 2016-2017 Board of Education Goals**

Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the 2016-2017 Board of Education Goals. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **C. Approval of 2017-2018 Board of Education Goals**

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to approve the 2017-2018 Board of Education Goals. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

### **D. Approval of Field Trip**

Mr. Traub expressed his concern regarding the cost of the trip. He stated there are a lot of other environmental studies that can be done in our area to save a lot of money. Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the field trip. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. The motion passed with one opposed, Mr. Traub.

### **E. Approval of Consent Agenda**

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

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

Mr. Vergaro shared his concern that he feels that it is becoming political and that the roll call shouldn't show which political figures are absent from meetings. Mr. Traub made a motion to re-open the Consent Agenda. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. Mr. Lamoin made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. The motion passed with one opposed, Mr. Vergaro.

Mr. Thibault stated he would like the Board to consider moving the meeting to 6:30p.m. in the future.

Mr. Traub stated he would like to see the Board go back to a 7:00 meeting.

Mr. Maniccia agreed a later meeting time would work better for him.

Mr. Knight agreed with a later meeting time. He shared that Torrington School has been very active, they unveiled their first fundraisers for the year, one being selling Yankee candles the other being selling LED lightbulbs. They also held a dance on Friday.

Mr. Lamoin reported that School Governance is looking for three more parents and a community leader, if anyone wants to volunteer the first Monday of every month.

Ms. Hoehne stated that we are Board of ten and we all really need to work together, we need to look going forward and not looking back. We can agree to not agree, we need to not take things personally.

Ms. Richardson stated she would also agree with a later start time. She has also heard good things and thanked the staff.

The Chair thanked the staff for the way they handled the situation at East School on Friday. She wants the Board to work in a more cohesive direction going forward.

## **ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA**

- A. Superintendent Search (The Chair)
- B. Financials (The Chair)

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

### ***Wednesday, October 5, 2016 (at Migeon Ave.)***

6:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

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

### ***Wednesday, October 12, 2016 (Migeon Ave.)***

6:00 p.m. – Personnel Committee

6:30 p.m. – Budget Committee

### ***Thursday, October 13, 2016 (at THS)***

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Thibault made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Traub seconded the motion. All in favor.  
Meeting adjourned at 8:21 p.m.