



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 22, 2017
50 Major Besse Drive**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Fiona Cappabianca, Chair; Joanne Brogis; Ellen G. Hoehne; Bill Knight; Jim Lamoin; Armand Maniccia; Jessica Richardson; Kenneth P. Traub; Peter Vegaro

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

Absent: Daniel Thibault

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Mary Svetz-Juliano spoke about redistricting. She stated that she wants the BOE to report accurate data and that all proposals be communicated to the teachers.

Jason Lafraniere spoke about redistricting. He stated that he noticed some errors in the staffing reports as well. He wants more accurate information to be presented. Mr. Lafraniere also wants there to be public participation after the information has been presented by the BOE before the action items are voted on.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

A. Recognition of:

1. The National Coach of the Year, Mike Fritch, will be recognized next month.
2. Superintendent Clemons recognized the students that earned the Superintendents awards by presenting them with certificates:

Emreen Bharara was not able to attend. She takes advanced classes at Northwestern Community College, is in Band and is on the Student Council.

Zoe Orie is a student from TMS who belongs to the National Honor Society

and she plays volleyball.

Christopher Small is a student from East Elementary School who is a team player and has a passion for physical education.

Sofia Calabrese is a student from Forbes Elementary School who is on the Student Council, Forbes Flyers, and an announcer for the student announcements.

Hailey Gillotti is a student from South West Elementary School who is on the Student Council, plays the violin and belongs to the American Kennel Club.

Matthew McCarthy is a student from Tarringford Elementary School who excels in mathematics, plays the saxophone, plays soccer, and enjoys skiing.

Tehenyat Chowdhury is a student from Vogel-Wetmore Elementary School who is polite, eager to learn, and excels in mathematics.

B. Student Representative Report

Emreen Bharara was unable to attend. Darnell Battle filled in for her. He will be the Student Representative for the BOE next month. He will be bringing a junior with him so they can be trained for next year. Darnell wants to enhance the image of THS. He reported on all the great things that are happening or have happened recently at THS.

C. Executive Session

Ms. Hoehne made a motion to go into Executive Session. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor. Ms. Clemons and the Attorney for the BOE were invited in.

Executive Session began at 6:21 pm to discuss Attorney-Client Privileged Communication concerning steps for addressing a Medicaid matter.

The Chair called the meeting back into open session at 6:53 pm.

D. THS Oil Tank Replacement Project Meeting and subsequent confirmation letter from DAS

Mr. Bascetta stated that they have a group meeting with the State Department of Administrative Services. He received a confirmation letter awarding the project as bid applicable.

E. Autism Program Enhancement Services Bid

Mr. Domanico received two applications. After reviewing them, the bid that is being proposed to the board is Institute of Professional Practice Inc. The bid is for 45 days of service. Once the bid is approved, then the 45 days will begin.

F. THS ADA Interior Bid

Mr. Bascetta stated that the bid was brought forward to the Budget Committee. After presenting the 3 bids that they received, the recommendation is to award the bid to Burlington Construction.

Mr. Traub stated that Burlington Construction were low bidders, have a great reputation, and are a local business.

G. Recording of Regular Board of Education Meetings

The Chair reported that starting next month the BOE regular meetings are going to be recorded.

H. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Clemons has been meeting with the leadership from Torrington Public Schools. Her vision is to achieve educational excellence and a respectful learning environment. She strives to provide diverse opportunities which will give students college opportunities. She is pleased to be involved in a city that is passionate in improving education skills in the community. She proposed 3 ideas that would lead the central office to become more fiscally responsible: closing Migeon Avenue. Possible closure of East Elementary School or, remodeling East Elementary School, and moving students in grade 5 to TMS and students from grade 8 to THS. There is a parent survey provided and there will be a survey for the staff as well. She stated that this is all just phase one and her initial thoughts on the process. The surveys will help her gain more insight. Her goal is to get the results of the survey, have a public forum, and then have further discussion with the BOE. The board will get to review the final survey before it is released into the community. Next month the surveys will be looked at and there will be a more formal proposal.

I. Budget Update

Ms. Clemons reported that the budget is still being worked on. She intends to present the budget on March 8, 2017.

J. Health Insurance Update

The Chair stated that they are not in a good position to put out the bid. The claims were high for the last year. The plan is to start to put out the bid in November in hopes that the claims will be down and there will be adequate time to do the bid process. Every option is being looked at currently. She is looking for a way into increasing the stop loss for the future. She stated that the cost projection for insurance next year will not be favorable.

K. Board of Education Sub Committees Roles, Structure and Bylaws

The Chair reported that some members of the BOE are concerned that subcommittees are making decisions when the decisions should be made by the full board. The bylaws are not clear whether subcommittees should be voting or not voting. It is up to the board to decide. She also stated that once the Comments for the Good of the Order have been made, there cannot be discussion. Once everyone has a turn to make their comment, then those who would like to make another comment are allowed to but they have to refrain from engaging into discussion with another person.

Ms. Richardson agreed that subcommittees voting should be clarified. She believes that nothing should be rejected during the subcommittee meetings that has not been reviewed by the full board.

Ms. Hoehne stated that the subcommittees are not run like a full board as they are not as formal. There is a chance for anyone to make a comment and propose suggestions.

Mr. Traub stated that before subcommittees existed, there were 2 full board meetings a month and nothing was accomplished. The purpose of the subcommittees is to vet topics before they are brought to the full board. They are created to do the lower leg work and be an aid to the board. He also stated that the only authority that subcommittees have is to move an item to the full board or decide that the item is not ready to be moved to the full board.

It was decided that all the subcommittee agendas will be emailed to every board member so if there is a topic that interests other board members they can attend.

L. Curriculum Committee Proposal

Ms. Lubomski is working on developing a Curriculum Committee. Some of the topics that should be discussed in this committee will be district wide articulation K-12, report cards, graduation requirements, as well as other subjects that will impact the entire district. She proposes that the Curriculum Committee should be made up of Administrators, teachers, special education teachers, BOE liaison. Meetings would be held every other month. Mr. Maniccia indicated that he is interested in helping with the Curriculum Committee.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Budget Committee – Mr. Traub reported that the budget is in a good position at this point. There was one personal transfer and no budget transfers. He stated that this was the first attempt at the HR module to create the staffing report. The intent was to give a snapshot in time for January. The few mistakes that occurred on the staffing report will be fixed.
- B. Grievance Committee – Mr. Lamoin reported that there is none at this time.
- C. Personnel Committee – Mr. Thibault was not present but it was indicated that there is nothing that is being moved forward at this time.
- D. Policy Committee – Ms. Hoehne reported that they talked about food service. There is a new director and they are in a better place. She stated that things are moving along. In March, they are doing a wellness course adoption and are looking at graduation requirements.
- E. School Improvement Committee – Ms. Richardson reported that they reviewed the criteria for distinguished alumnus award. Nominations must be made by February 24, 2017. Nominations will be considered in the March meeting.
- F. Education Connection – Dr. Brogis reported that they had a good meeting. There will be a March on the Hill on March 8, 2017. She stated that anyone can sign up for advocacy highlights that provides legislative updates. She strongly believes that Ed Advanced is a great resource for the BOE.

- G. Special Education Ad-Hoc (Postponed) – The Chair reported that there will be a State of the Union on March 15, 2017.
- H. Ad-Hoc Capacity Committee – Mr. Vegaro reported that 92 classrooms would be needed based on the number of students per teacher. He stated that there can definitely be some reduced capacity.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Action regarding Attorney-Client privilege communications concerning steps for addressing a Medicaid matter

This item was removed.

B. Structure of proposed Curriculum Committee

Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the structure of proposed Curriculum Committee. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

C. Approval of the THS ADA Interior Bid

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the THS ADA Interior Bid. Dr. Brogis seconded the motion. All in favor.

D. Autism Program Enhancement Services Bid Approval

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to approve the Autism Program Enhancement Services Bid. Dr. Brogis seconded the motion. All in favor.

E. Approval of the Dissolution of the Capacity Ad-Hoc committee

Mr. Vegaro made a motion to approve the Dissolution of the Capacity Ad-Hoc committee. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

F. Dissolution of Special Education Ad-Hoc Committee to be recreated with tasks and timeline to be determined by the Board

Mr. Lamoin made a motion for the Dissolution of Special Education Ad-Hoc Committee to be recreated with tasks and timeline to be determined by the Board. Dr. Brogis seconded the motion. All in favor.

G. Action regarding Sub Committees

This item is removed. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

H. Approval of Consent Agenda

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. All in favor.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Vergaro shared his concerns for prom weekend. He states that there are great programs in place for project graduation and we need to make prom weekend safer.

Dr. Brogis thanked the superintendent for the weekly reports.

Mr. Knight shared the same concerns about prom weekend. He also thanked the Ad-Hock Capacity Committee.

Ms. Hoehne stated this will be an exciting month for East Elementary School and reported all of things happening at the school.

Ms. Richardson reported that she had a great time attending boys' basketball games at THS. She stated that there was positive student interaction.

The Chair attended the play at THS about a school shooting that was written and produced by a THS student. She stated that it was done in very good taste and it gave everyone a lot to think about. She wanted to extend her appreciation to the staff that worked with these students to produce this play. Their time and dedication is appreciated. The chair also sadly reported that Monday night she received Mr. Lamoin's resignation. Tonight was Mr. Lamoin's last meeting. She thanked Mr. Lamoin for all of his time on the BOE and let him know that he will be greatly missed.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

- A. Monthly Financials
- B. Budget
- C. Subcommittee
- D. School Improvement

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, March 1, 2017 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

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

Wednesday, March 8, 2017 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:30 p.m. – Personnel Committee

7:00 p.m. – Budget Committee

Wednesday March 15, 2017 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. Special Education State of the Union

Wednesday, March 22, 2017 (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 7:57 pm.