



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 19, 2017
50 Major Besse Drive**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Fiona Cappabianca, Chair; Joanne Brogis; Daniel Thibault; Ellen G. Hoehne; Bill Knight; Armand Maniccia (6:21pm); Wendy Pataky; Jessica Richardson; Kenneth P. Traub (6:53pm); Peter Vegaro

Administration: David Bascetta, Director of Facilities; Denise L. Clemons, Superintendent; Jerry Domanico, Director of Business Services; Le'Tanya Lawrence; Director of Student Services; Susan M. Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent (6:15pm); Frank Rubino, Member of the Board of Finance

Absent: Joseph L. Campolieta, Director of Human Resources

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

No one spoke.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Mr. Traub made a motion to amend the agenda to make Action Item 6 Section E include subsections E1, E2, E3, E4. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Traub made another motion to amend the agenda to make Action Item 6 Section E include subsection E5. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

A. Recognition of Torrington High School Care Closet

Ms. Clemons recognized Michelle Anderson and Bob Sullivan for their assistance as co-advisors for the Care Closet. There are 35 students from THS that participated in a community forum addressing the issue of "unstably housed youth." The Care Closet is funded by Northwest Connecticut Community Foundation. There will be a soft opening in the beginning of June. They are hoping to open in September.

B. Student Representative Report – Darnell Battle

The Chair recognized Darnell on his college acceptance to Yale University.

Darnell reported on the amazing things happening in THS. The Softball team was able to go to Florida to play during Spring Break. The play Footloose is opening on May 4. On April 18, numerous students were recognized at the Youth Service Day ceremony. Raider Rally will be held on June 2.

C. Superintendent’s Report

Ms. Clemons stated that she is working on the budget. The budget has been approved by the board. There will be a Special Joint Meeting of BOF and BOE presentation of the BOE Budget on April 24 at City Hall. There are three key positions that are being interviewed for: Director of IT, THS and TMS Principals.

D. Teacher Non-Renewal

Ms. Clemons stated that this is a preliminary notification that non-tenure teachers will be receiving. The list of non-renewals is due to the budget and only one name on the list is due to performance. This does not mean that these positions will be definitely eliminated.

The Chair stated that this letter has to be sent out legally, “Moved that the contract of employment of the attached list of names not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2016/2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person(s) in writing of this action.”

E. Municipal Audit

The Chair received the audit findings. There are some positive things that have been done by the BOE and there are things that have to be worked on. This will be discussed at a later date.

F. Program Enhancement Project (PEP) Federal Adult Ed. Grant

This grant is being used to in terms of our outreach of Adult Education.

G. Medical Advisor RFP

Mr. Domanico stated that the main difference with this RFP compared to the one expiring in June is that the RFP does not require an institution or hospital, it just has to be someone who is licensed to practice medicine in the state of CT, preferable a pediatrician. He believes that the cost will be \$15,000.

After discussion, the Chair suggested that the RFP regarding Sports Physicals be priced ala carte so the BOE can look at what options are most beneficial.

H. Athletic Trainer RFP

Mr. Domanico stated that this new RFP the Athletic Trainer will not be paid a flat fee per season, instead, they will bill for the actual hours they provide each month. We will be billed monthly for 10 months. When asked if we could use an in house existing qualified staff, Mr. Domanico stated that we would have to pick up additional liability insurance for that individual. Another issue with an in house Athletic Trainer is that if they are unavailable then they are required to

provide coverage. The Athletic Director would track the Athletic Trainers hours.

I. Capital Funding Review

Mr. Bascetta spoke on this item and item J. THS Fuel Tank Replacement Bids simultaneously. He is requesting a money transfer from money that was allocated for the ADA project into the THS Fuel Tank Replacement Bids. The funds are in the same account but because they were allocated for a specific project he has to get the BOE permission. The money will still be reimbursed.

J. THS Fuel Tank Replacement Bids

See item I.

K. Torrington Solar Project

Mr. Bascetta stated that we have money this year for an energy project. He is bringing this to the BOE, then City Council, and then the State. The project will be similar to the one that was done at Forbes school.

L. Budget Transfer Requests

Mr. Domanico stated that there are two requests.

One request is to transfer money from NEASC to the Salaries of Guidance Counselors. In order for the Guidance Counselors to finish all of their end of the year work, they require a minimum of 5 days. They found a way to fund 2 of those days without additional expenses but they need to transfer funds in order to fund the remaining 3 days. The department did not gage properly the impact that was made by reducing the Guidance Department by two people.

The BOE discussion brought up concerns regarding the fact that there was a plan in place for this year for the Guidance Counselors to take 10 days of comp time and now the board is being told that they cannot achieve this. Mr. Traub also pointed out that the budget is very tight for the end of the year.

The second request is to transfer money from Non-Instructional Equipment to Instructional Equipment. There is a large number of students who play low brass instruments joining the band in 2017-18 and there are not enough instruments.

M. Budget Update

The Chair announced that there is a Special Joint Meeting of BOF and BOE presentation of the BOE Budget on April 24 at City Hall. Immediately following will be a public hearing. She is hoping to get support from the community.

N. Principal's Search Update

Ms. Clemons reported that there are 36 applications for the THS Principal position and 31 for TMS. They will comb through those applications down to 5 for each school. From those 5, they will come up with 3 top candidates for the final round. The final selection will be brought to the BOE.

O. Sub Committee Assignments

Due to half the board being up for Election in November, the Chair has decided to place Ms. Pataky in place of Mr. Lamoin when it comes to the sub committees.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Budget Committee – Mr. Traub reported that various RFPs and Bids were reviewed.
- B. Grievance Committee – The Chair reported that there are no grievances.
- C. Personnel Committee – Mr. Thibault stated that next meeting they will get more information on the paraprofessional issue.
- D. Policy Committee – Ms. Hoehne reported that they did not meet. Next month they will be working on wellness.
- E. School Improvement Committee – Ms. Richardson reported that they did not meet. They will be looking at the Prom date and if they wish to alter it in the future.
- F. Education Connection – Dr. Brogis reported that Education Connection is looking to see if they are able to offer their transportation services at an affordable cost.
- G. Curriculum Committee – Mr. Maniccia reported that the first meeting will be May 11.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Program Enhancement Project (PEP) Federal Adult Ed. Grant**
Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the Program Enhancement Project (PEP) Federal Adult Ed. Grant. Dr. Brogis seconded the motion. All in favor.
- B. Medical Advisor RFP**
Dr. Brogis made a motion to approve the Medical Advisor RFP with the amendment that athletic physicals will be priced ala carte. Mr. Maniccia seconded the motion. All in favor.
- C. Athletic Trainer RFP**
Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the Athletic Trainer RFP. Dr. Brogis seconded the motion. All in favor.
- D. THS Fuel Tank Replacement Bids**
Mr. Traub made the motion to approve THS Fuel Tank Replacement Bids. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.
- E. Torrington Solar Project**
 - 1. Approval of educational specifications for the Torrington Solar Project.**
Mr. Knight made the motion to approve the educational specifications for the Torrington Solar Project. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

2. Request that the City Council establish a Building Committee for the project, naming Mr. David Bascetta, Director of Facilities, as the Building Committee.

Mr. Thibault made the motion to approve the request that the City Council establish a Building Committee for the project, naming Mr. David Bascetta, Director of Facilities, as the building Committee. Mr. Traub seconded the motion. All in favor.

3. Request that City Council authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Torrington Solar Project.

Mr. Thibault made the motion to approve the request that City Council authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Torrington Solar Project. Mr. Traub seconded the motion. All in favor.

4. Request that the City Council authorize the filing of the grant application for the Torrington Solar Project.

Mr. Knight made the motion to approve the request that the City Council authorize the filing of the grant application for the Torrington Solar Project. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

5. Request that the City Council authorize the funding for the Torrington Solar Project.

Mr. Thibault made the motion to approve the request that the City Council authorize the funding for the Torrington Solar Project. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

F. Budget Transfer Requests

Guidance Counselor Transfer

Ms. Richardson made the motion to approve the Guidance Counselor Transfer. Mr. Vergaro seconded the motion. Y-3, N-5 (Traub, Thibault, Knight, Brogis, Maniccia). Ms. Pataky abstained. Motion does not carry.

Instruments Transfer

Mr. Vergaro made the motion to approve the instruments transfer. Mr. Traub seconded the motion. Y-1, N-8 (Brogis, Hoehne, Knight, Maniccia, Pataky, Richardson, Thibault, Traub). Motion does not carry.

G. Teacher Non-Renewal

The Chair read: "Moved that the contract of employment of the attached list of names not be renewed for the following year upon its expiration at the end of the 2016/2017 school year, and that the Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person(s) in writing of this action."

Mr. Thibault made the motion to approve the Teacher Non-Renewal. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. All in favor.

H. Approval of Consent Agenda

- i. Approval of Monthly Financials**
- ii. Approval of Board of Education meeting minutes**
- iii. Minutes of Special Meeting March 28, 2017 Student A**
- iv. Minutes of Special meeting March 28, 2017 Student B**
- v. Receive Subcommittee minutes**
 - Budget Committee – February 8, 2017**
 - Budget Committee – March 8, 2017**
 - Budget Committee Special Meeting – March 21, 2017**
 - Budget Committee Special Meeting – March 23, 2017**
 - Budget Committee Special Meeting – March 30, 2017**
 - Personnel Committee – March 8, 2017**
- vi. Appointments & Resignations**

Mr. Knight made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Traub seconded the motion. All in favor.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Vergaro stated that the lawyer informed him that it is not the law that the kids who have been expelled could not be educated on school property. It is up to the BOE.

Mr. Maniccia stated that the THS Drama Club is performing Footloose the first weekend of May.

Dr. Brogis and Mr. Knight stated that a number of our students were recognized at the Torrington Youth Services ceremony.

Ms. Pataky thanked everyone at THS for the Care Closet.

Ms. Hoehne reported that One School One Book event at East School was a smashing success. 300 students and their family members attended.

The Chair stated that starting next month, the items for the full board meetings must be sent to her by noon on Thursday or they will not be put on the agenda.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

- A. Budget
- B. Discussion on school structure
- C. Alternative settings for troubled TMS and THS kids.

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday April 24, 2017 (City Hall)

6:00 Special Joint Meeting of BOF and BOE presentation of BOE Budget
Public Hearing of BOE Budget immediately following.

Monday, May 1, 2017 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – Grievance Committee

Wednesday, May 3,, 2017 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

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

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:30 p.m. – Personnel Committee

7:00 p.m. – Budget Committee

Wednesday May 17, 2017 (THS Library Media Center)

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

PLEASE NOTE ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE ADDED AS NEEDED FOR BUDGET

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Traub made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. All in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.