

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 15, 2014
Torrington High School
Major Besse Drive**

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Cappabianca, Mayor Carbone, Mr. Hinman, Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Nargi (arrived at 6:08), Mr. Raider, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Traub, Mr. Campolieta, Mrs. Kloczko, Mr. Potter, Mrs. Labomski

Absent: No absences.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Mr. Traub outlined the purpose and rules of the School/Community Session.

There were no speakers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to approve and amend the agenda by adding items four (4), five (5), and six (6). Mr. Hinman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

BOARD OF EDUCATION NEW MEMBER DISCUSSION

Mr. Traub explained the responsibility of the Board in appointing a new BOE member.

Mr. Raider asked Mr. Traub who “deemed” you mishandled the situation.

Mr. Kissko said he would like to move forward with the nominee from the Town Republican Party.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked when the Republican town committee was notified of the BOE resignation and when they put a candidate forward.

Mr. Nargi asked about the Town Charter. Mr. Nargi agreed with Mr. Kissko. He asked why the names of the candidates were not released previously.

Mayor Carbone agreed with Mr. Kissko and Mr. Nargi.

The Town Committee was discussed.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked what would have happened if the Board did not appoint a new member within the specified time limit. She suggested filling both vacancies at this meeting.

Mr. Thibault suggested reviewing both candidates and making a decision.

Mr. Kissko made a motion to entertain the Republican Town Committee new Board of Education member recommendation. Mr. Nargi seconded the motion. The vote did not pass with three (3) yea and four (4) no, Mr. Thibault, Mrs. Cappabianca, Mrs. Hoehne, and Mr. Hinman.

Mrs. Cappabianca said she has concerns about the timing and lack of communication.

Mrs. Hoehne said they don't know anything about either candidate.

Mayor Carbone read aloud from the Charter and the Statute.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Thibault made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss the Republican Town Committee's candidate for the vacant Board of Education seat. Mr. Hinman seconded the motion. A vote was not taken due to the candidate's statement that he was satisfied with an open session.

Mr. Nargi asked what the legal standard for this executive session is.

Mr. Traub read aloud the bio of Mr. William Knight, the Republican Town Committee's candidate.

Mr. Nargi, Mr. Kissko and Mayor Carbone endorsed Mr. Knight.

Mr. Thibault expressed concerns regarding the timing of the Republican Town Committee's recommendation of Mr. Knight.

APPROVAL OF NEW BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBER

Mr. Nargi made a motion to approve Mr. William Knight as a member of the Board of Education. Mr. Kissko seconded the motion. The vote passed with three (3) abstentions, Mr. Hinman, Mrs. Hoehne, and Mr. Thibault.

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to entertain the second candidate for the Board of Education vacancy. Mr. Nargi seconded the motion. The vote did not pass with three (3) against and four (4) abstaining.

Mr. Nargi asked about party affiliations.

Mr. Thibault stated until the candidate is a member of the Republican Party they cannot entertain him.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

A. Student's Report

A Torrington High School student reported.

Mr. Hinman made a motion to amend the agenda to swear in Mr. Knight. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Received \$8000 grant for Healthy Initiative for Young Students

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

2. Received \$15,000 grant for Right Response CT Network Program

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

3. Torrington Discovery grant increased from \$90,000.00 to \$100,000.00 for July 1, 2014-June 30, 2015

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

4. Options Report

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

Mr. Nargi asked about cost and where the classes are held.

Mr. Knight asked for clarification and costs from the BOE budget.

5. "Lights on After School"

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

C. TAG Update

The Board saw a presentation.

Mr. Traub asked for clarification on the Cardboard Challenge.

Mr. Knight asked what was used to identify TAG students.

Mr. Raider asked if special education students were in the TAG program.

D. New Board of Education member

Item skipped over, was previously attended to.

E. Special Education report

The Board saw a presentation.

Mr. Nargi asked for dollar amounts on line items for Student Services.

Mr. Knight asked about adaptive technology.

F. Design time line for BOE self-evaluation

Mr. Thibault reported.

Mr. Raider asked for clarification on “self-evaluation”

G. Snow removal contract

Mr. Potter reported.

Mr. Traub reported.

Mr. Raider asked about changing costs and the City plowing for the schools.

Mayor Carbone asked about the amount and type of trucks needing to be replaced. She also asked about overtime and fuel, parts, and maintenance costs.

Mr. Hinman asked about maintenance of vehicles.

Mr. Nargi asked for the projected costs from the City to have them remove the snow. He asked what was budgeted for snow removal.

Mr. Kissko asked about absentee rates. He also asked about procedures for when trucks are “down” and cleaning them. Mr. Kissko asked about the timing of the contract, the language and response times.

Mr. Hinman clarified the information the Board was looking for.

Mr. Knight made a motion to extend the meeting to 9:45 p.m. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote passed with three (3) opposed, Mr. Raider, Mr. Nargi, and Mr. Kissko.

H. Turf project status

Mr. Nargi reported.

Mayor Carbone reported.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked when the construction fencing would be coming down. She asked about links between artificial turf and illnesses. She voiced concerns regarding the rush of the construction and parent concerns.

Mrs. Hoehne asked about the lights.

I. City Council request for meetings

Mr. Traub reported.

Mayor Carbone reported.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Financial Statement

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve the Financial Statement. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) abstention, Mr. Knight.

Mr. Traub spoke about coding.

Mr. Nargi asked if the funds for a Latin teacher were budgeted. He asked about costs of maintaining the athletic fields.

Utility costs were discussed.

B. Approval of Certificate of Resolution (Grant for Right Response CT Network Program)

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to approve the Certificate of Resolution. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) no, Mr. Kissko and one (1) abstention, Mr. Knight.

The Mayor questioned if this Resolution was specific to this grant.

Mr. Thibault asked about alterations and time limits.

C. Approval of time line for BOE self-evaluation

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the time line for the Board of Education self-evaluation as discussed. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) no, Mr. Nargi and one (1) abstention, Mr. Knight.

D. Snow removal contract

Item removed for more information.

E. Consent Agenda

Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) abstention, Mr. Knight.

1. Approval of September 17 Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes
2. Approval of Sub Committee Minutes
 - a. Budget Committee Meeting – September 10, 2014
 - b. Personnel Committee Meeting – September 10, 2014
3. Appointments and Resignations
4. Notices for Homeschooling
 - a. G.T., grade 12, Eff. 2014-2015
 - b. T.Z., grade 6, Eff. 2014-2015
 - c. D.S., grade 6, Eff. 2014-2015
 - d. J.J., grade 1, Eff. 2014-2015

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Nargi spoke about a news article regarding school uniforms. He also talked about relationships between the city and the Board regarding transparency.

Mr. Raider spoke of observing the high school.

Mrs. Hoehne reported on East School.

Mrs. Cappabianca spoke about transparency of the budget committee and filling vacancies.

Mr. Hinman spoke about the process for filing vacant seats and attending athletic games.

Mr. Kissko spoke about CTN and freedom of information.

The Mayor spoke about an invitation she extended to the Board. Mrs. Cappabianca asked about the line regarding “performance review.” Mr. Raider said he thought it sounds like the City Council wants the Board of Education to report to them. Mr., Kissko spoke about the charter and being separate entities. Mrs. Hoehne said the wording of the invitation does not reflect the Mayor’s intent. Mr. Thibault liked the idea of a partnership, but the elected officials should not be spoken down to. Mr. Nargi spoke about inappropriate behavior.

At 9:45 Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to table items nine (9) through eleven (11) until a later date. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Budget Committee
- B. Grievance Committee
- C. Personnel Committee
- D. Policy Committee
- E. School Improvement Committee
- F. THS Oversight Panel
- G. Turf Field Committee

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

- A. Financial Statement
- B. Committee Reports

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. Special BOE FOI meeting, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 22, 2014 (Migeon)
- B. Policy Committee, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, October 29, 2014 (Migeon)
- C. Policy Committee, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 5, 2014 (Migeon)
- D. Personnel Committee, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 12, 2014 (Migeon)
- E. Budget Committee, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 12, 2014 (Migeon)
- F. Regular Board of Education Meeting, 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, November 19, 2014 (THS)

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:45 p.m. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.