



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, July 1, 2015
355 Migeon Avenue**

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

ROLL CALL:

Present: Fiona Cappabianca; Jeremy Hinman; Ellen Hoehne; John Kissko; Bill Knight; Andrew Nargi; Jessica Richardson; Daniel Thibault; Kenneth P. Traub, Chair

Administration: David Bascetta, Joseph Campolieta, Cheryl F. Kloczko, Susan Lubomski, Hugh Potter

Absent: Mayor Carbone, Jim Lamoin

DISTRICT IT

Mr. Traub informed the Board that the IT contract with Protected Harbor IT Services, which was approved by the Board in June 2014, was never executed. Attorneys from Shipman & Goodwin were consulted and the attorneys recommended the contract now be signed. Mr. Traub further pointed out that the contract contains incorrect math and thus payments in the last year were incorrect resulting in overpayment. An agreement between Torrington Public Schools administration and Protected Harbor has been made, and Protected Harbor has agreed to pay back the overpayment in the form of providing an additional IT support person representing the worth of four quarterly payments of \$35,600. This agreement was presented to the Board in the form of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Mr. Traub commended the administration business office for finding the discrepancy during its audit.

Members questioned the advice from the attorneys. Ms. Cappabianca expressed she was not comfortable with the amount of legal advice not being sufficient and would like more options presented to the Board.

Ms. Hoehne inquired about supervisory accountability between administration and the vendor, and it was pointed out that section 2.1 of the contract addresses that issue.

Mr. Traub pointed out that Mayor Carbone has sent him a letter regarding the contract and other contracts. Ms. Richardson read the letter aloud. Mr. Traub pointed out that one item in the letter was currently being addressed at this meeting.

A consensus was not reached as to whether the Board would accept the MOA.

SEARCH FOR NEW DISTRICT ADMINISTRATORS

Mr. Traub began a discussion to determine Board member preferences regarding the search for candidates to fill two administrative positions which will become vacant: Superintendent and Director of Student Services.

Mr. Kissko began a discussion of how superintendents were hired in the past.

Members agreed that the Board should be involved in the hiring of both positions, and most felt that a consultancy need not be brought in initially.

Members discussed whether to consider an interim superintendent or to begin a search to hire. Mr. Hinman expressed a preference for hiring an interim superintendent allowing the Board time for an exhaustive search and to be able to consider a higher salary offer for the next fiscal year budget as the current Torrington superintendent salary is among the lowest in the region; a higher salary allowing the most capable candidates to be considered.

Mr. Kissko expressed a preference for the hiring of a superintendent who could then hire the new Director of Student Services.

Most members felt it best to consider hiring an interim superintendent and then budgeting a competitive salary next year while examining candidates during the budget season.

Mr. Traub told the Board that Board leadership had considered the possibility of an interim superintendent and that they recommend Torrington High School administrator Lynda Reitman as a good candidate. Mr. Nargi suggested that former Ed Arum, a former interim superintendent, would also be a good candidate. Mr. Kissko inquired as to whether the assistant superintendent had been considered, and Mr. Traub said yes but that the assistant superintendent will be starting the process of 093 certification in July and would not wish to serve as interim during that process.

Mr. Hinman and Mr. Knight both expressed the need for more information on both the recommended candidates.

Mr. Campolieta was asked and agreed to post for an interim superintendent the following day. The posting would be done on Applitrack, which automatically posts on CTREAP and CEA, as is the normal Human Resources procedure.

Mr. Campolieta pointed out that the position of Director of Student Services is an administrative union position. A discussion of whether or not that could be changed was had. Mr. Campolieta agreed to post for a Director of Student Services the following day.

GROUNDSKEEPING OUTSOURCING

Mr. Bascetta presented background material requested by the Board at the Regular Meeting in June regarding Tim McDonagh Contracting, which Mr. Bascetta had put forward as the winning bid for the grounds outsourcing contract. Mr. Thibault told the Board that the pesticide arm of the McDonagh company was actually held in the name of Mr. McDonagh's wife, and with this fact in mind and other considerations recommended re-bidding the contract. Mr. Hinman expressed agreement, and all remaining Board members, except for Mr. Nargi, were in agreement.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ms. Richardson suggested that prevailing wages be considered in the upcoming hiring.

Mr. Thibaut requested that IT be part of the next meeting so that the vendor could answer allegations that were put his way during the meeting.

Ms. Cappabianca agreed that IT should be brought back for the next meeting and that BOE attorneys should provide legal options which could be taken.

Mr. Hinman expressed a need for the Board to create stronger policy procedures which could address issues such as discussed at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Knight moved to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.