



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION RETREAT PART III  
Tuesday, August 30, 2016  
355 Migeon Avenue**

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

**ROLL CALL:**

**Present:** Fiona Cappabianca, Chair; Joanne Brogis; Ellen Hoehne; Jim Lamoin; Armand Maniccia; Jessica Richardson; Daniel Thibault; Kenneth P. Traub; Peter Vergaro

Administration: None

**Absent:** Bill Knight and Mayor Carbone

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION-** Attorney client privileged communication regarding board members roles and responsibilities.

The Chair made a motion to move into executive session at 6:03p.m. inviting in the Board of Education Clerk. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

The Chair called the meeting back into general session at 7:15 p.m.

**BOARD GOALS**

The Chair questioned if the Board feels that we can accomplish the goals. We want them to be something tangible.

Mr. Maniccia stated that the term "investigate" is a term that is difficult to evaluate. He suggests "create ways to make the budget process more effective".

Mr. Traub suggests that the Board creates its goals for 2017-2018 and keep the ones that were already created for 2016-2017. If we create a goal now, it can have zero cost effect because our budget is already froze.

Dr. Brogis stated that she feels the goals should stay the same just changed to be measureable.

The Chair stated she is hesitant to put "investigate re-districting" as a goal because our enrollment projects only show two years out. She has reached out to a company for a free ten year enrollment project.

Mr. Vergaro stated he would like to take use of the current Interim Superintendent's knowledge because he has been through a re-districting.

Ms. Hoehne questioned if we want to keep the 2016-2017 goals, add to them, or tweak them.

The Chair stated she feels that the Board should do goals for this Board for this year due to the situation that they are in.

Dr. Brogis, Mr. Vergaro and Mr. Maniccia expressed their desire to amend the current goals.

Mr. Traub stated that the goals took the Board about nine months to create and we don't have a leadership structure to measure them currently. He would keep the current goals.

Mr. Thibault stated he doesn't see a reason to change them, the first half of the year will be spent trying to find a Superintendent and then we will be doing budget basically with goals we've never looked.

Mr. Lamoin would amend the current goals to what we are going to do the first six months and then what we are going to do the second six months because it is going to be with two different people.

Ms. Richardson agreed.

Ms. Hoehne believes our two goals are budget and hiring a Superintendent and that our current goals are not measurable.

Mr. Traub stated the Board needs to decide how many goals it feels are attainable this year.

The Board decided to eliminate goals number one and two.

Mr. Maniccia stated he feels that the third goal should stay but it should be altered.

The third current goal was discussed and amended to read "create a sustainable marketing and communication strategy at Torrington Public Schools.

Mr. Traub recommended that the next goal read "conduct a study of student enrollment for the next decade and its potential impact on the building configuration of the district schools".

Mr. Lamoin recommended that the next goal be "become informed about the many aspects of Student Services and its relation to the Board of Education budget".

Mr. Traub stated a goal for 2017-2018 should be "explore with other area Boards of Education and with elected state officials (representative, senators, etc.) the regionalization of programs and resources. He would like to see the number two goal for 2017-2018 be "develop and implement a five year strategic plan reflection vision and growth, strengthening the curriculum, academic rigor and course selection, thereby increasing the community confident in the schools as measured by a 15% reduction in students option out of Torrington education.

## **ORGANIZATIONAL PROCEDURE OF BOARD**

Mr. Thibault stated that he doesn't see a point in creating an agenda 48 hours after their last meeting. He stated items come up last minute all the time and this will just turn into a lot of amended agendas.

The Chair stated if 48 hours doesn't seem reasonable then we can adjust that.

Ms. Richardson wants to know what amount of wiggle room there is. She worries about the last minute items that come up as well.

The Chair stated that if you want administration's time then they need advance notice.

Mr. Traub questioned if someone from the public has an item that they would like the Board to address, what is the procedure.

The Chair stated this should be done during Public Comment at a meeting or to go through the chain of command until it came to the Board.

Mr. Traub stated some subcommittee meetings have a public comment section and some don't. He stated if some have them then all should have them. There should be a template so we are all functioning the same.

Ms. Richardson would prefer that we keep the public comment at the subcommittee meetings.

The Chair questioned if they should include a time limit for each agenda item. The Board decided to take out any reference to time.

The Chair stated it will be a working document that we can change as we see fit.

#### **AJOURNMENT**

Mr. Thibault made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Richardson seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 p.m.