

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Special Meeting**  
**Wednesday April 2, 2014**  
**Torrington High School**  
**Major Besse Drive**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:11 pm.

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Cappabianca (arrived at 6:18), Mr. Hinman, Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Raider, Mr. Rovero, Mr. Traub, Mrs. Batchelder, Mr. Campolieta, Mrs. Kloczko

Absent: Mr. Brady, Mayor Carbone, Mr. Thibault

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

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

There was one (1) speaker regarding the budget.

**FIELD TRIPS**

Mr. Raider made a motion to discuss the field trips item with a ten minute time limit. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote did not pass with three (3) unnamed Board members opposed.

Mr. Traub stated a 2/3 vote is required to instill a time limit.

Mr. Kissko said he did not agree with the field trips time limit because he feels this topic does not use up excessive time, as some other topics do.

Mr. Raider made a motion to approve the field trips for 2013-2014 and 2014-2015. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked about an 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip.

**SOUTHEAST SCHOOL COST**

Mr. Nargi made a motion to place the cost of Southeast School in the Capital Budget and move the cost of East School to the 2015-2016 Capital Budget. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Hinman asked what type of security system was going to be used. He asked what the requirements are from the state for ballistic doors.

Mr. Raider asked about technology protection from fire. He asked what the reimbursement from the state would be.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked about the projected annual operating costs for this building. She asked if the staff costs associated with this building would be additional to what is in the budget.

Mr. Nargi asked what the City is paying to maintain the building yearly. He asked if the repaving cost could be reduced. He asked about the printing/ mailing/ advertising line item. Mr. Nargi asked if there would be any deletions from any of the other schools.

Mr. Rovero asked if the renovations will make the building compliant with ADA.

Additional staff costs were discussed.

Mr. Kissko asked about the requirements for playgrounds. He also asked how far the students have to be away from the building for a fire drill.

Mr. Traub asked what the estimated cost of a playscape would be. He asked why the fire protection was kept separate from the total cost. He asked if the sprinkler system was added to the total cost or if it would be part of the reimbursement. Mr. Traub explained the Mayor asked the Board to incorporate these costs into the Capital Plan.

Renovation costs and new building costs were discussed.

Mr. Nargi asked what the East School office addition is. He asked what costs would be to build a new building. He asked what the costs would be to set up the kids in other buildings. He asked if East School is marketable for anything other than a school.

Mr. Raider asked about new classrooms.

Mrs. Hoehne asked, with the renovation, if room would be available to add on for future population increases.

Mr. Hinman asked about green technologies.

Mr. Traub explained about the energy audit being done by the City.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked about moving Migeon Ave. to East School. She asked what work has to be done without doing the renovations.

Mr. Kissko spoke about the alternative education program at Migeon Ave and consideration of moving that.

## **BUDGET**

Mrs. Batchelder addressed the requests that were given to her at the last meeting.

Mr. Traub explained the reason behind the freezing of the budget and the arrangement made with the City the previous budget year regarding special education costs. He suggested they request funds from the City, as previously arranged, to apply to the special education deficit; in order to be able to use the \$700,000 technical grant that has to be applied for before June, 30 2014.

Mr. Kissko made a motion to go to the City for funding in order to use \$700,000 technical grant by June 30<sup>th</sup> due to the budget freeze. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rovero requested a packet be put together to show the Board of Finance that the Board of Education cannot offset the special education costs.

Mrs. Hoehne requested the total expenditures and total revenue.

Mr. Nargi asked for the net amount of revenue from insurance.

Insurance revenue and expenditures were discussed. The amounts given to the City were discussed.

Athletic revenue and expenditures was discussed.

Music revenue and expenditures was discussed.

Mr. Rovero reviewed the Budget Committee's recommendations of the Superintendent's recommended reductions to the budget.

Mr. Traub took a straw poll after each recommendation.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

1. Technology Equipment move to Capital  
Eight (8) yes.
2. Reduction of ten (10) paraprofessional positions to three (3)  
Six (6) yes, two (2) no

IEP requirements were discussed.  
Costs were discussed.

3. Reduction of 1.0 FTE Nurse; this also applies to item number thirteen (13)  
Eight (8) yes

A nurse coordinator position was discussed.

Saving money from one (1) position to apply to the nursing position was discussed.

State requirements for the nursing positions were discussed.

4. Instructional Supplies from THS and TMS
5. Instructional Supplies from Sped
6. Professional Publications
7. Textbooks

The age of textbooks and outdated information was discussed.

Electronic information was discussed.

Items four (4) through seven (7) were bundled together to vote on.  
Seven (7) yes, one (1) no

8. Reduction of non-certified subs (paras, nurse and secretary)

The Budget Committee recommended not making this reduction.  
Six (6) yes, two (2) no

Costs were discussed.

9. Reduction of Coord. Teacher Stipends at Secondary Level  
Seven (7) yes, one (1) no

Teachers being coordinators was discussed.

10. Eliminate .4 Latin at THS

The Budget Committee recommendation is to not eliminate.  
Seven (7) yes, one (1) no

Online learning for foreign language was discussed.

11. Reduce additional staff for technology  
Eight (8) yes

12. Reduction of 1.0 FTE secretary at Migeon Ave.  
Eight (8) yes

13. Reduction of ISS Coordinator from teacher to paraprofessional  
See number three (3)

14. Eliminate 1.0 ELL teacher VW/SW  
Seven (7) yes, one (1) no

15. Eliminate 1.0 FTE Tech Ed teacher at TMS

The Budget Committee's recommendation is to not eliminate.  
Eight (8) yes

The activities for this class were discussed.

16. Security measures  
Eight (8) yes

17. Reduction of 1.0 psychologist

The Budget Committee's recommendation is to keep the psychologist.  
Eight (8) yes

18. Eliminate elementary assistant principal

The Budget Committee's recommendation is to not eliminate.  
Seven (7) yes, one (1) no

19. Eliminate 4.0 FTE at THS (one (1) at each core subject, SS, English, Science, Math)

More information was requested regarding this line item.

The Budget Committee Chairman, Mr. Rovero, stated the recommendation would be to not eliminate.

Eight (8) yes

20. Reduction of 1.5 elementary grade teachers  
Eight (8) yes

21. Reduction of seven (7) secretaries (one at each school)

The Budget Committee's recommendation is to not reduce.  
Seven (7) yes, one (1) abstention

## 22. Reduction in Special Ed budget

The Budget Committee's recommendation is to not reduce.

Eight (8) yes

As of tonight's meeting there is a savings of \$409,712,000 and \$323,280 is being moved to the Capital Budget.

Mr. Nargi asked for information on legally reducing the health benefits by \$600,000 over the projected amount.

## **ADJOURN**

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm. Mr. Kissko seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.