



## Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI  
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSON  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

### **SIC Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 8, 2020, 6:00 P.M. Southwest School**

#### **Minutes**

1. Call to Order: 6:00 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Mr. Kissko, Ms. Hoehne, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Fappiano, Ms. Cappabianca, Ms. Todor  
Also Present: Ms. Fergusson, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Ledversis, Mr. Marchand, Dr. Buchanan, Ms. Mangan, and CAFTA: John and Teresa Sullivan
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Hoehne made a motion to amend the agenda to switch the order of the agenda items: Community Presentation will occur first with School Report to immediately follow. Ms. Richardson second. All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes: Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Richardson. All in favor.
5. Public Participation: None
6. Discussion and Next Steps:
  - a. Host School Report, Communications, informal reports from teachers, etc: Mr. Kissko thanked Dr. Buchanan for her visit, hosting and her fabulous SW newsletter. He enjoyed his time there.  
Dr. Buchanan's report: DARE classes began this week; DARE graduation will be held at TMS in March. Winter Concert was held at TMS, December 19<sup>th</sup>  
November: Veteran's Day Event; veterans visited classrooms following the schoolwide celebration to answer students' questions.  
Every month: Positive assembly: Team interactive games; team building and building relationships among students and staff  
Horace Mann-"Perfect Attendance" Awards; 2 students earned Kindles; currently 34-36% of the students have perfect attendance; also recognizing most improved attendance with a class trophy with the message being, "your presence is important".  
Also Adult recognition: all staff recognize a staff member; Students also are able to participate in providing recognition for a staff member.

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on February 26, 2020.

- b. Community Partner Presentation – CAFTA: Teresa & John Sullivan: Highlighted 6 years of collaborative partnership with the Board: 2014: Extended Day Programs: 3 days and 3 Hours at a time: PSAs and Film Production  
National Art Contests: Lord & Taylor T-Shirt designs; earned recognition and scholarships for students; International Arts: London art display involving TMS students  
Provided a means for students to display and share their art with the community  
January 17<sup>th</sup> Art Show: Community and Board Members participated in this painting project.
  - c. SBAC: Study Group Report: Mr. Kissko reported that the following concerns were shared by teachers at recent staff meetings and cited by them to contribute to the low test scores.
    - Behavior
    - Curriculum is not aligned to SBA (However, it should not be, we are not teaching to a test. Curriculum is aligned to CT Core Standards)
    - PD aligned to SBA (PD should be aligned to best practices, CT Core and targeted toward the growth areas identified by the state)
    - Technology training for students and staff; develop student keyboarding skills
  - d. Updates, reports, brief discussions:
    - i. 2019-2020 Board Goals (Sister Schools, Legislative Contact, Community Contact, High School, Strategic Plan): Fiona is meeting with Legislators on Friday.
    - ii. Systemwide Focus Areas (Attendance, Student Engagement, Building Student Independence): Updates next month
    - iii. Alliance Progress: Will be addressed at SBA Ad Hoc on Monday, January 13<sup>th</sup>. Overlap of agenda items
  - e. G. P. A. calculation – Move to Policy
  - f. New Course Proposals:
    - i. Introduction to Investments and the Stock Market: Fiona has connections to stock brokers should the teacher wish to invite guest speakers. Move to full Board.
    - ii. Creativity and Conflict: Class to find creative expression to address conflict and crisis in the world and in students' immediate environment. Move to full Board.
    - iii. Sheltered History of Film: Aligned with Eric Gamari's History of Film class, but for students in the ELL program, offering students ways to enhance vocabulary, better understand the cultural norms of the US, and to expand verbal skills while discussing these high interest topics/films.  
-Ms. Richardson requested an update on the new courses from last year.
  - g. Restorative Practices/Behavior/Discipline: SBAC Meeting on December 9 led to the request for clarification on state laws and guidelines regarding state expectations. Next meeting on January 13<sup>th</sup>.  
Ms. Todor requested more information on how restorative practices is being used at the elementary level.
7. Comments for the Good of the Order: **February 6-8: Sound of Music at TMS; Thank you, Dr. Buchanan for hosting.**

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on February 26, 2020.

8. Topics for Future Meetings:
  - a. SBA staffing meeting visit results
  - b. New Course Proposals
  - c. Review of Current New Courses from last year
  - d. Distinguished Alumnus
9. Adjournment: Ms. Hoehne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Richardson. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 P.M.