

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on March 25, 2020.



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

School Improvement Committee Wednesday, February 5, 2020, 6:00 P.M. Forbes School

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:00 P.M.
2. Roll Call: John Kissko, Ellen Hoehne, Cathy Todor, Jessica Richardson, Nikki Fappiano, Fiona Cappabianca
Also Present: Gary Eucalitto, Armand Maniccia, Sue Lubomski, Sue Fergusson, Kim Schulte, Joanne Creedon, Robin Ledversis, Jeff Shannon, Pam LaRosa, John Rouleau
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Hoehne made a motion to amend the agenda: To add “Local History” to 6c, second by Ms. Richardson. 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. Community Partner Presentation – Pam LaRosa of the NW Chamber of Commerce spoke about her work with the American Job Center and Department of Labor, the internship program at THS, and the School to Career initiative – ready to help to connect students at the schools with opportunities to learn about a career path in the community. We currently have 7 students signed up for this program who go over to Oliver Wolcott for hands on experience with machines, and then they will be connected with a field experience in the community. There is still room for a few more students. Pam is currently working with manufacturing companies in the area to set up a career fair. She shared information about “March for Education” which will take place in Waterbury and culminate in a resource fair on the green.
John Rouleau from O & G spoke at length about the opportunities available right now for young people who may not wish to pursue a college education immediately after high school. He is excited about the fact that construction is

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picking up again and he's interested in finding young people who are driven and have a solid work ethic. He would like to see students from Torrington take advantage of the internships that O & G has to offer each year. He mentioned that he'd like to host a job fair where students could speak with union representatives and learn about the various career options available in the industry.

- b. Host School Report, Communications, informal reports from teachers, etc: Mr. Kissko visited Forbes School and enjoyed his time seeing all the wonderful things taking place there. Mrs. Creedon gave a brief report and highlighted the following: Partnership with CAFTA, After School Arts Program ASAP, new band formed by 4 staff members, observation of Black History Month, and Literacy and Math nights. She also shared that there is a group of students who are composing a letter to the Mayor to communicate their concerns about the broken windows visible in buildings across the street from the school.
 - c. New Course Proposals:
 - i. Ceramics III – move to the full board
 - ii. Weightlifting and Yoga – move to the full board
 - iii. Local History – move to the full board
 - d. Updates, Reports, Brief Discussions:
 - i. **2019-2020 Board Goals** (Sister Schools, Legislative Contact, Community Contact, High School, Strategic Plan): Discussion about how the Board is measuring success. Also discussed: efforts taking place to continually enhance our social media presence.
 - ii. **Systemwide Focus Areas** (Attendance, Student Engagement, Building Student Independence): Attendance was down during the month of January for students and staff, presumably due to flu. Teachers and administrators are currently analyzing the winter test scores as one measure of student achievement. Several staff from around the district have recently participated in Instructional Rounds training - a strategy we're using to increase student engagement.
 - iii. **Alliance Progress**: Superintendent Lubomski shared the Alliance tracker as well as the procedure that the district follows.
 - e. Distinguished Alumnus – Packet has been updated. It was decided that the deadline for submission is March 15th. A requirement for nomination is that the candidate must be available and willing to attend the June 4th Scholarship Night at THS. The Board requests that copies of all nominations be brought to the March BOE meeting. Discussion and selection will occur at the April SIC meeting.
 - f. Report from SBAC Ad Hoc meeting: Mr. Kissko reported that at the January meeting, a representative from Shipman & Goodwin attended to share the legal perspective regarding the state testing/requirements. At the February meeting of the committee, the results of the district-wide board visits to schools will be shared. At that meeting, the Superintendent will share her perspective.
7. Comments for the Good of the Order: None
 8. Topics for Future Meetings:
 - a. New Course Proposal
 - b. Alliance update

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- c. Board Goals, etc.
- 9. Adjournment: Ms. Hoehne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Richardson. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 P.M.