



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

DENISE L. CLEMONS
SUPERINTENDENT

School Improvement Committee Meeting Wednesday, February 21, 6:00PM Forbes School

1. Call to Order-6:00PM
2. Roll Call: John Kissko (chair), Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Spino, Ms. Hoehne, Ms. Cappabianca
Administrators: Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Creedon, Ms. Skarzynski
Mr. Kissko reviewed the purpose of the meetings, highlighting the following:
 - a. Consult with the Superintendent on significant program improvements, modifications and Board Goals.
 - b. Establish good community relations
 - c. Make program improvement suggestions
 - d. Make NEASC recommendations
3. Approval of Agenda with addition of the identification of Distinguished Alumnus award: Mr. Maniccia motion, Ms. Spino second. All in Favor.
4. Information sharing and discussion:
 - a. Mr. Maniccia visited Forbes School. He met with students and talked with staff members. It was evident that safety and security protocols were followed. There was a guest speaker, a micro biologist who was working with the students and donating a microscope camera. The new math program seemed helpful. There was a great deal of student engagement while working with this program. The RTI Interventionists were providing support in the classroom and through pull-out. There was a sense of community: scoops of good character, reminders of being respectful to each other throughout the hallways, the kindness quilt, etc. The school was clean, and the kids were happy. The highlight was when a student asked if board members could limit school work! Regarding outdoor recess, all students bring snow clothes, especially in kindergarten. There are extra clothes available, so everyone can go as often as possible.
 - b. Southwest Highlights: Next meeting.
 - c. Communications Updates-none
 - d. SGC Updates-THS SGC minutes are posted on the website. The Forbes SGC meeting is scheduled for March. Ms. Creedon noted it has been a challenge to re-establish the SGC.

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on April 25, 2018.

e. AP Discussion:

How do the classes prepare students for AP Exams?

What is the motivation to take the AP Exams? Should they be mandatory? The AP Exams occur in May before all instruction has occurred.

AP/UCONN: the consolidation of classes occurs because the small class size (less than 5 students); Evaluation of classes and the expectations need to be investigated.

It was mentioned that maybe the Honors level should be eliminated.

Survey students and parents on the AP Exam issue.

Ask for Teacher Coordinator's input from each department.

This will be an on-going discussion item. The Committee requested more information on the following:

- Free and reduced meal population and AP Exams
- Honors enrollment
- Create a student survey to be share with the committee
- What colleges accept AP and UCONN credit?
- Which classes are combined courses: AP and UCONN? Gather input from the Teacher Coordinators on the combined classes.

f. March Meeting date-March 21, 2018 was confirmed.

g. Board Goals-none submitted; new ones requested.

5. Comment for the Good of the Order: Request that schools create something positive out of the Florida Shooting incident. The Committee wanted to focus on a "Walk-In", not a "Walk-Out", addressing those issues that build community and help students feel safe. This could be planned during Advisory period at the secondary level.
6. Topics for Future Meetings:
 - a. Distinguished Alumnus
 - b. March School Visit and Highlights
 - c. Community Update
 - d. AP Discussion
 - e. Board Goals
7. Adjournment: Ms. Spino motioned, Mr. Maniccia second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:12PM.
8. Next Meeting: March 21, 2018, 6:00PM, Location: Torrington School