

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

TPS Secondary Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 19, 2019, 5:30 PM Torrington High School

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 5:35 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Ed Arum, John Barlow, Fiona Cappabianca, Patricia David, Susan Fergusson, Ronnie Gelormino, Ellen Hoehne, John Kissko, Donna Labbe, Jason Lafreniere, Robin Ledversis, Mario Longobucco, Susan M. Lubomski, Sandy Mangan, Armand Maniccia, Andrew Marchand, Peter Michelson, Kathi Peterson, Kimberly Petzel, Jeff Putnam, Jess Richardson, Kimberly Schulte, Joanne Stefurak, Hilary Sterling, and Jamie Rowland.
3. Approval of Minutes A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Lafreniere seconded by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor. Motion passed unanimously
4. State Funding Discussion: For a 7-12 Model 264,585 sq. ft. reimbursable (1,660 students); for a 9-12 Model it would be 170,316 sq. ft. reimbursable (996 students) – student estimates were taken from highest projection over 8 years. Build New 65% - Renovate as New 75% reimbursable.
5. Secondary Model Discussion: The group discussed the Pros and Cons of each model (7-12 vs 9-12). See attached. A straw poll vote resulted in 19 for and 4 opposed to the 7-12 model.
6. A motion to adjourn was made Mr. Lafreniere, seconded by Ms. Stefurak All in favor. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Secondary Ad Hoc

A Grades 7-12 Secondary School Model in Torrington	
STRAW POLL VOTE: 19 For & 4 Opposed	
Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shared Resources • Access to accelerated courses • 8th Grade Retention of students • Shared Staff • Easier alignment of curriculum • Options for remaining space (how to use TMS) • Options to relocate – less disruption during renovation (by starting with one wing) • Students mentoring (older/younger) • Marketing to public fiscally responsible • Cuts down on transitions district-wide • More options for 7/8 kids due to location (after school programs, etc. Location of middle school limits what many students are able to participate in.) • Maximize state reimbursement offering • Transportation/Bus savings (If 7/8 followed same schedule as 9/12) • Opportunity for students to begin career exploratory at younger age • More opportunities for 7/8 to take world language, enriched math, etc... • Later start time for 7/12 (scientifically evidenced based more developmentally appropriate). • Separating 6th from 7/8 – huge plus (6th are too young to be paired with 8th) • Certification issues K-6 vs 7-12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible restructuring (district) • Perception of it not being safe for younger students • Scheduling of shared spaces (including athletic fields) • Separating 7/8 from 9/12 (how to do) • Large number of students – may be difficult to build community • 6th grade may have fewer opportunities for them (ie. Drama, clubs, sports, etc...) • Traffic/parking • Middle School vs. Junior High model (how to maintain teaming) • Need for more staff • Lack of initial community buy in

A Grades 9-12 Secondary School Model in Torrington	
Pros	Cons
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Room for Alternative High School • Making THS a flagship High School • Increased security with smaller # of students (perception in community) • Less competition for athletic fields • Would not necessitate restructuring of elementary • Room for central office • May be easier to market to community • Age range tighter – doesn't span as wide an age range (bus etc) • Maturity level higher - perception • Enough Space "as is" • Pool 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued loss of 8th graders • Lost square ft. for reimbursement • Less reimbursement – huge investment - hard sell/Impacts fewer students? • Less possibility for cross-age mentoring • No opportunity for accelerated classes • Fewer opportunity for shared resources • Not a fresh idea • Still same # of transitions (4) for our students district wide