

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday May 16, 2012**  
**7:00 pm**

**Torrington High School**  
**Major Besse Drive**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

Present: Mrs. Cappabianca, Mr. Cavagnero, Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Merola,  
Mr. Nargi, Mr. Oliver, Mr. Rovero, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Traub, Mrs.  
Domanico, Mr. Joslyn, Mrs. Kloczko, Matt Cavagnero, Maggie Finn

Absent: Mayor Bingham, Mrs. Batchelder, Christine Keywan

At this time Mrs. Kloczko wished to thank the students and parents who participated in The Invention Convention.

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

Public Participation

The School/Community Session took place after the Information Sharing Session. Mr. Traub read aloud the purpose of the School/Community Session.

There were no speakers.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Nargi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve the Board of Education meeting minutes from April 18, 2012. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) abstention from Mr. Thibault. It was noted that one (1) name was left off the resignations list under the Consent Agenda.

## INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

5.1 Student Representatives: Matt Cavagnero and Maggie Finn presented.

5.2 Recognition:

The TMS students who participated in the Invention Convention will have their inventions on display at the THS media center.

Three (3) students from the THS Jazz Ensemble who played at the Waterford High School Jazz Festival were recognized by the Board of Education for their awards.

The State of Connecticut and the General assembly recognized the Torrington Public School District for their dedication to the arts and music.

5.3 Superintendent Report:

Mrs. Kloczko gave an update regarding the Online Learning Program.

5.4 Kelly Services:

Mr. Joslyn presented the Board with a summary report from Kelly Substitute Services. Mr. Cavagnero questioned how the substitutes are chosen. Mr. Nargi questioned if online learning could be used in place of a substitute. Another Board member asked how often substitutes become full time teachers.

5.5 Mr. Traub gave the Board of Education an update on the status of the budget.

5.6 Mrs. Domanico gave the Board a review of the Common Core Standards. Mr. Cavagnero had concerns about how to get parents more involved in their child's education. Mrs. Kloczko informed the Board that there are program models to get parents more involved. Mr. Traub explained that one particular model is geared towards K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Mr. Nargi wanted to know the "lifespan" of new educators who just graduated before they need to be "retooled." Mrs. Domanico explained that the universities in Connecticut are aware of the problem that teachers are not completely prepared when graduating. Mr. Kissko also commented on this. Mr. Rovero inquired about being prepared for the costs of new textbooks and materials. Mrs. Domanico explained that the district has been looking for gaps in the materials already utilized that will need to be filled. Mr. Oliver questioned the costs of having to implement new programs.

5.7 Mr. Traub made a correction to the 2012-2013 Board of Education Calendar. The Policy and School Improvement Committee meetings on February 27, 2013 will be eliminated and held on the standing date of March 6, 2013.

## DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS

- 6.1 Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve the May Financial Statement. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Nargi had a question regarding the amount spent on textbooks. Mrs. Domanico explained that the amounts in the statement were set prior to knowing what the district actually needed regarding textbooks and learning materials. She also explained that the Common Core Standards are changing the way books are used in the classroom. Mr. Nargi also had concerns about implementing revised curriculum.
- 6.2 Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to approve the budget transfer of Instructional Supplies-Music to Instructional Equipment-Music. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- 6.3 A motion was made by Mr. Nargi to accept the recommendation from Education Connection to send the Technology Plan to the State of Connecticut. Mr. Oliver seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.
- 6.4 A motion to approve live TV broadcasting of the monthly Board of Education meetings was made by Mr. Cavagnero. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Cavagnero stated that it is a way to get more parents involved and also teach students. Mr. Thibault had concerns regarding the audio of a live broadcast and suggested a test run. Mr. Kissko inquired about how many people watch the meetings. Mr. Traub said he got over two hundred (200) complaints from community members not being able to see the meetings. Mr. Oliver had concerns regarding a faculty advisor to the students producing the televised meetings. Mr. Traub explained that the TEA would have to release the contract if an outside source was used in this capacity. He also said the respective committees will have to work out the details.
- 6.5 Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the change in Policy 3050-Student Activity Fund. Mr. Merola seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mrs. Cappabianca wanted to make it clear to the public that no organization is being forced to join the Student Activity Fund. Mr. Traub clarified that any group/club using the Board of Educations tax ID number has to follow the regulations. He also said a special meeting for this topic will be held on May 29, 2012. Mr. Traub had concerns about different groups/clubs using a specific school in their letter heads. They must have the group/club name included. Mr. Oliver wondered if the Board should table this vote until after the special meeting. Mrs. Hoehne explained that this policy has already been approved it is just a word in the policy that is being changed. Mr. Kissko inquired if any seasonal groups/clubs were involved with the Student Activity Fund.
- 6.6 Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve the change in Policy 6095-Graduation Requirements. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Nargi had concerns regarding graduation requirements and online learning.

- 6.7 Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve the overnight/out-of-state/international field trips for 2012-2013. Mr. Merola seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mrs. Cappabianca had a question regarding the Patrick AFB Florida trip, and a question regarding subs for the Six Flags trip. Mr. Merola had questions about the Financial Aid and if any children are ever denied. Mrs. Domanico explained that it depends on certain factors like if the group/club is affiliated with the Student Activity Fund. Mrs. Kloczko mentioned a principal fund. Mr. Cavagnero had concerns regarding the NYC MET trip having to end early this year; he was worried that future trips will end in the same result. Mr. Traub explained that the museum has a limit for the number of participants per group and THS students exceeded that limit. There were also some disciplinary issues on that particular trip. Another Board member noticed a typo regarding the Six Flags trip. The cost per student was listed as \$750.00. That was not correct. Mr. Cavagnero recognized Chairman Traub for the outstanding work he has done regarding how field trips are approved. Mr. Traub gave the student representatives a chance to talk about their specific field trips.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### Resignations/Appointments

Susan Strumpt, Occupational Therapist (5hr wk), Migeon, Layoff Eff. 6/15/12

Mandy Zipoli, Occupational Therapist VW, Resignation Eff. 6/15/12

Beverly Cyr, Wilson Reading Inst., FB, (4.5hr wk), Appt. Eff. 4/16/12

### Professional Leave

Angela Calabrese, East, Eff. 6/16/2012-1/2/2013

Mr. Oliver made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

## **COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mrs. Cappabianca had concerns regarding clarification of some special education issues that have not been addressed yet. Mr. Oliver believed they have to address these issues in an executive session. Mr. Cavagnero wanted to know if the information from the upcoming executive session could be processed somehow to be available to the public. Mr. Traub will work an executive session into an upcoming meeting to address these issues.

Mr. Merola was concerned about the audio of the meeting and the upcoming BOE retreat.

Mr. Traub wants the School Improvement Committee to set up an assessment of the Online Learning Program. He also wanted to know if the old policies are ready to be taken off the website and replaced with the new policies. Mr. Joslyn reported that the old policies are ready to go and there are also hard copies available. He also stated that Mrs.

Kloczko has developed a process to post any new or changed policies. It is unknown when the new policies will be posted. Mr. Traub also wanted to clarify for the newspaper and blogs that the part time secretary at Migeon Avenue was moved to full time because of the insurance switch and increase in benefits. It was not done because of policy 3050. Mr. Traub had another concern regarding the newspaper. He explained that when the Board of Education packets are put up they contain unapproved meeting minutes. He wants to put the packets up without the meeting minutes until they have been approved by the Board. The Board agreed.

Mrs. Domanico informed the Board that the Torrington Education Association has elected a new president and vice-president.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Personnel Committee: Minutes from March 28, 2012

Policy Committee: Minutes from April 4, 2012

School Improvement Committee: Minutes from April 4, 2012. At this time Mr. Cavagnero asked Mrs. Kloczko to inform the Board about the Special Alumni Awards. She explained that people can nominate a THS graduate that has distinguished themselves in their career or in the community for this award. The administration will have a list of nominees at the meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Board members. Mrs. Cappabianca had concerns regarding the criteria of a nominee. She wanted to make sure that the criteria for being nominated were clear.

Budget Committee: Minutes from February 28, 2012, March 6, 2012, March 7, 2012, March 12, 2012

Grievance Committee: Mrs. Cappabianca gave the Board an update.

Special BOE Meetings: Expulsion Hearings-April 16, 2012, May 7, 2012, May 7, 2012

## **ITEMS FOR UPCOMMING AGENDA:**

Financial Statement  
Committee Reports  
National External Diploma Program-Foothills Adult Education  
Announcement of Kindergarten Fire Truck Ride for August 2012  
School Satisfaction Survey Results  
Summer Schedule  
BOE Retreat

## **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Policy Committee: June 6, 2012

School Improvement Committee Meeting: June 6, 2012

Budget Committee Meeting: June 13, 2012

Personnel Committee Meeting: June 13, 2012

## **ADJOURNMENT**

A motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20pm was made by Mr. Oliver. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.