



Torrington Board of Education

JOSEPH L. CAMPOLIETA
DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

CHERYL F. KLOCZKO
SUPERINTENDENT

Policy Committee Meeting Wednesday, January 7, 2015 355 Migeon Avenue

MINUTES

Members Present: Ms. Hoehne, Committee Chair; Mr. Hinman; Mr. Kissko
Also Present: Ms. Richardson; Mr. Knight; Ms. Kloczko; Mr. Baim; Mr. Campolieta; Mr. Bascetta; Mr. Potter; Ms. Lubomski; Mr. Kavanaugh, Board of Education Clerk

1. **Ms. Hoehne called the meeting to order at 6:06 PM**
2. **Roll Call was taken**
3. **Approval of Minutes** – Motion to approve minutes of the 12/03/14 meeting was made by Mr. Hinman, seconded by Mr. Kissko. Motion carried, all in favor.
4. **Cell Phone/Electronic Devices Policy #6041 – Updates:** The committee reviewed full-staff recommendations as presented by Mr. Baim, and proposed changes to current policy were discussed including the use of the phrase “electronic devices” in place of all wording suggesting specific devices with the rationale that new devices and names of devices rapidly change and policy including such wording is quickly outdated. Discussion was had regarding allowing students to carry smart phones during the school day and teacher discretion as to when such devices may be used in class as opposed to banning the carrying of devices during the school day as current policy dictates. Mr. Traub listed concerns to consider: cheating, lack of student interaction when wearing headphones or using texting devices, wireless capacity particularly as concerns one student having multiple devices which use up resources, security as concerns ability of students to visit banned and/or inappropriate websites, and the social marginalization and unequal educational delivery as concerns students who do not own modern equipment. Superintendent Kloczko mentioned that a proposal is being worked on for a grant of \$1.1 million which would pay for mobile computer labs in all Torrington schools. No motion was made to amend existing policy.
5. **Emergency Lunch Policy – First Read:** The committee considered sample food service policy language from Education Connection. Mr. Kissko and Mr. Hinman stated they were satisfied with the wording; Ms. Hoehne expressed objections to items 2 and 3 which address the issue of students whose lunch account funds have been used up. Discussion was had on whether a different lunch for such students would create a stigma. Discussion was had on the meaning of “free lunch” versus “reduced lunch,” how the cafeteria staff determines and records student lunches as such, the federal policy governing reimbursement, and the reason current practice of granting free lunches has brought about high costs for the district and how changes in practice could bring costs down. There was discussion regarding Education Connection’s role as a vendor and whether or not the contract between E.C. and TPS is clear regarding who is responsible for

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overcosts, and Mr. Campolieta and Mr. Potter will speak with Holli LaBarbara, Food Service Manager at Education Connection to discuss this issue.

6. **Turf field Usage Policy Discussion:** Mr. Bascetta provided photos and read aloud the text of existing signage listing rules of use on the turf field and on the old field. Mr. Knight pointed out that the rule banning dogs should not include the banning of seeing-eye dogs, and all agreed it did not. Mr. Traub relayed ideas from his discussion with the mayor regarding a fund to provide for ongoing maintenance and the paying off in ten years time the costs of building the field. According to Mr. Traub, the mayor stated that the turf field will be the responsibility of the Board of Education. Mr. Traub explained the idea that fees would be due for all events held on the turf field including school and local recreational events, and that such funds would be placed in a special account to be used for ongoing maintenance, and that future TPS fees would be estimated for the coming year based on Board policy yet to be written and the amount estimated would be added to the Board of Education budget. There was discussion regarding this proposal and regarding other ideas for revenue generation including concessions. Mr. Bascetta with the help of Mr. Baim will put together a 10-year plan with options including pay-per-use fee options and percentage-of-use fee options and present the plan at the next Policy Committee meeting.
7. **Comments for the Good of the Order:** None
8. **Topics for future meetings:** For February turf use policy, emergency lunch policy, administration of medications policy; for March technology and cell-phone use
9. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Kissko and seconded by Mr. Hinman. Motion carried, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned – 8:22 PM