



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 22, 2019, 6:30 PM
THS Media Center, 50 Major Besse Drive**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:33PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Kissko, Ms. Hoehne, Ms. Spino, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Todor, Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Arum, Ms. Schulte, Mr. Bascetta
Absent: Mr. Corey, Mr. Thibault, Ms. Perzan
1. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
2. Student Representatives: Were not able to attend. They were at the Honor Society celebration.
3. Recognitions: The Superintendent, the Chair and the Vice Chair presented certificates to various staff and students.
4. School/Community Service/Public Participation: None
5. Executive Session Discussion Regarding Personnel Matter: Ms. Spino made a motion to enter executive session to discuss a personnel matter inviting in Ms. Lubomski and Ms. Schulte, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
The board entered into executive session at 6:46PM.
The board returned from open session at 7:23PM.
6. Executive Session Discussion on Possible Reduction in Force: Ms. Spino made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss possible reduction in force inviting in Ms. Lubomski and Ms. Schulte, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
The board entered into executive session at 7:24PM.
The board returned into open session at 7:35PM.
7. Information Sharing Session:
 - A. Superintendent's Report: Ms. Lubomski reported on the events in May – Dare Graduation, plays, performances, and awards. We had a NEASC visit May 5-8. The report will be available around August/September. They will identify areas of strength and areas of growth. Seniors shared their input and suggestions for enhancing the school with Ms. Lubomski. Next year, THS will be led by Robin Ledversis who will be our Interim Principal of THS.
 - B. Alliance Funding: Ms. Lubomski spoke about our wonderful hires who started work after the school year began, and as a result, funding was left in the grant. Ms. Lubomski proposed using the \$75,000 for conceptual designs for renovating THS to align with planning for Career and College Pathways being implemented at the school.
 - C. Monthly Financials: Mr. Maniccia reported that we have been working on the budget for a while now. He reported a deficit of \$180,000 for the year as of May 5th.
 - D. Bus Contract – Assignment of Contract: Mr. Arum reported that All Star has sold their business to the outside firm Student Transportation of America, Inc.
 - E. Snowplowing – Bid Award: Mr. Arum said we received two bids. RAR Excavating and Building LLC is the one they are recommending and it is our current contract.
 - F. Healthy Food Certification: Mr. Arum stated that this is the second year we are enrolling in this certification – we get roughly about 10 cents a year.
 - G. Educational Specifications for the TMS Flat Roof Project: Mr. Bascetta presented the forms to the board. He wants to apply to the state for a reimbursement rate to minimize the bonding. The project will not begin this summer but next summer. There was discussion on why the

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project will not begin this summer. The Mayor wanted to make sure we had enough time to complete the project in one fiscal year.

- H. Board Goals: Mr. Kissko discussed these goals for the last couple of meetings and they have been finalized so the board can approve them. The board goals are:
 - 1) Maintain and improve relationship with state legislators and monitor and attempt to impact state legislation decisions regarding education district.
 - 2) Create a systemic process to enhance communication and relationship within the district and community.
 - 3) Monitor and support compliance and implementation of the district strategic plan.
 - 4) Monitor and support the implementation of the “sister school” model: K-3, grades 4-5.
 - 5) Explore the feasibility of renovating Torrington High School and expanding its programs.
 - I. Legislative Update: Mr. Kissko sent everyone a link of the laws that the legislators are proposing including two new courses to graduate 1) Puerto Rican Study and 2) African Study – Mr. Eucalitto was concerned about how much more the district is going to be required to teach when we don’t have enough time or funding to teach the classes we already have. He does not think we need two additional courses. Ms. Spino also shared her concerns that this is another unfunded mandate passed by down the state and we will be forced to do it. There will be a CABE Legislative breakfast held at CAFT at June 18 at 10:00AM.
8. Committee Reports:
- A. Policy Committee – Ms. Hoehne reported that they are looking at policies regarding: attendance, bullying, grading, cellphone use, and tutoring
 - B. School Improvement Committee – Mr. Kissko reported board goals and they have designated the Distinguished Alumnus for this year, who will be recognized on June 6 at the Scholarship Ceremony.
 - C. Budget Committee – Mr. Maniccia reported that they are still finalizing the budget for next year
 - D. Personnel Committee – Ms. Spino reported that they discussed fill rates, attendance and incentives for staff - hoping to implement something for the next school year.
 - E. Grievance Committee – None
 - F. Ed-Advance – Mr. Kissko reported that there is less grant money therefore we will have to pay more for services which will explain the pricing going up.
 - G. Curriculum Committee – Mr. Maniccia reported that the next meeting is June 5th at 2:30PM.
 - H. Secondary Ad-Hoc Committee – The Chair reported meeting tomorrow night at 5:30PM
 - I. School Liaison Reports:
 - THS – Few events happening: Oklahoma Play, Academic Awards Night, senior outing, Raider Rally, NVL games, HALO awards. Prom will be at the Aqua Turf on May 30.
 - TMS – the 8th graders are on their DC field trip that is going well. There is an orchestra recital and a chorus concert. June 11th will be the 25th anniversary celebration for TMS.
 - Forbes- 2nd Annual Health and Wellness Fair. Special thank you to all the committee members.
 - Torrington – 2nd Annual Health and Wellness Fair. Several community vendors were represented. There was a Sweetheart dance. They had 600 positive office referrals and today they celebrated with music and entertainment during recess. A teacher applied for a Grant and they were awarded 3 TV screens - this will be in place for next school year.
 - Vogel-Wetmore – Working hard to finish the year strong. Kindergarten registration in full swing. The event at Kids Play for the incoming Kindergartens was well attended.
 - Southwest – Carnival and Kids Play event. The kids went to the State Legislature. The 5th grade had their Dare Graduation.
9. Action Items:
- A. ~~Personnel Matter~~ – removed.
 - B. Possible Reduction in Force: Mr. Kissko moved that the contract of employment of Doreen Synnett be terminated, effective June 30, 2019, for a reduction in force, and that the

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Superintendent of Schools is directed to advise such person of this action, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.

- C. Alliance Funding – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the reallocation of funding as presented, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
- D. Monthly Financials - Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the monthly financials, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
- E. Bus Contract: Mr. Kissko made the motion that the Board hereby acknowledges that more than twenty percent (20%) in the membership in trust of the Contractor, All-Star Transportation, are being transferred from the current owners to Student Transportation of America, Inc; and that this transfer of ownership shall not be considered a prohibitor deemed assignment of the contract by Contractor under section 16 of the contract. The motion is second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
- F. Snowplowing Bid: Mr. Spino made a motion that the Board approves the bidder of RAR Excavating and Building LLC at a price of \$99,900.00. Terms 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022. The motion is second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
- G. Healthy Food Certification: Ms. Spino made a motion to approve the following:
Pursuant to C-GS- Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department Of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.
The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held.
The board of education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regular scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The "school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.
This motion is second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
- H. Mr. Kissko made a motion to accept and approve the education specifications dated 4/24/2019 for the TMS Flat Roof Project, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
- I. Ms. Spino made motion to request that the City Council establish a Building Committee for the TMS Flat Roof Project naming David Bascetta, Director of Facilities as the Building Committee, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
- J. Board Goals - Ms. Todor made a motion to approve the board goals as submitted, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.

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- K. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes – April 24, 2019 – Ms. Spino made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction of the spelling (Wales), second by Ms. Hoehne. All in favor.
 - L. Approval of Board of Education Special Meeting – May 15, 2019 – Ms. Spino made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
 - M. Receive Subcommittee Minutes: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve all the subcommittee minutes, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - i. Budget Committee – March 25, 2019
 - ii. Budget Committee – April 10, 2019
 - iii. Special Budget Committee – March 25, 2019
 - iv. Special Budget Committee – April 1, 2019
 - v. Personnel Committee – February 13, 2019
 - vi. Personnel Committee – April 10, 2019
 - vii. School Improvement Committee – March 6, 2019
 - viii. School Improvement Committee – April 3, 2019
 - ix. Policy Committee – March 6, 2019
 - x. Policy Committee – April 3, 2019
 - N. Consent Agenda: Appointments & Resignations: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the consent agenda as presented, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
10. Comments for the Good of the Order:
Mr. Maniccia – Thanked everyone for their fine work during this budget process.
Mr. Eucalitto – Echoed Mr. Maniccia’s comment.
Ms. Hoehne – Congratulated Ms. Ledversis.
Mr. Kissko – Congratulated Ms. Ledversis. Encouraged the board members to march in the Memorial Day parade. Discussed the World Leaders Project that is happening at TMS.
The Chair – Congratulated Ms. Ledversis. Thanked the board for everything they do.
11. Items for Upcoming Agenda:
A. Budget
B. Retreat
12. Future Meetings:
Thursday, May 23, 2019 (at TMS)
5:30 p.m. – Secondary Ad-Hoc Committee
Wednesday, May 30, 2019 (at THS)
6:00 p.m. – BOE Special Meeting
Wednesday, June 5, 2019 (at TMS)
6:00 p.m. – School Improvement and Community Relations Committee
7:00 p.m. – Policy Committee
Wednesday, June 12, 2019 (at Migeon Ave.)
6:30 p.m. – Personnel Committee
7:00 p.m. – Budget Committee
Wednesday, June 26, 2019 (at THS)
6:30 p.m. – Regular Board of Education Meeting
13. Adjournment – Ms. Spino made a motion to adjourn, second by Mr. Maniccia.
All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:30PM.