



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, October 23, 2019, 6:00 PM
THS Media Center, 50 Major Besse Drive**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:08PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Todor, Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Spino, Ms. Richardson, Mr. Arum, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Klimaszewski
Absent: Mr. Corey, Mr. Thibault
4. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
5. Student Representatives: Justin Mattiello gave a report highlighting THS events in the month of October. Annual Empty Bowls Event celebrated their 10 year anniversary. The National Honors Society participated in a walk for cancer at White Memorial. It has been a busy month for clubs. October 26th is Homecoming weekend.
6. Recognitions: The Superintendent and the Chair presented certificates to a wide range of staff members.
7. School/Community Service/Public Participation: None
8. Information Sharing Session:
 - A. Superintendent's Report: Ms. Lubomski acknowledged and thanked Ally Herold and Ed Arum for the new microphones. She spoke about being proud of our students. Julia McCarthy broke the long standing 16 year swimming record. Student and staff members of the Class Act Council for THS participated in the restorative practice meeting to resolve any issues resulting from the THS and Derby girls' soccer game in September. The meeting went well, and everyone showed great leadership. Phase 2 for the Fitness Trail at TMS will begin soon. The district received \$50,000+ in donations to add more equipment. None of our school buses are equipped with dangerous seating. All Star Bus Company confirmed that all are busses are safe. There was positive news regarding staff attendance. There were 146 teachers, 32 para, 48 other support staff, 21 building administrators who had perfect attendance for the month of September.
 - B. Monthly Financials: We are in alignment for this time of year. Grant funds are just being received. Once the funding is deposited, the staffing will be taken out of the grant line items and not out of general budget.
 - C. Budget Development Process & Calendar for FY 2020-2021: Tentative budget development dates were passed out to the board members.
 - D. Self-Insurance Review Committee: There are several conversations during Budget that revolve around insurance costs. The Board Chair has been working with the City to create a subcommittee made up of members of the Board of Finance and the Board of Education to review the Board's insurance. This has not been successful. The City believes that this should be discussed at an OPEB Meeting. On the OPEB committee there are two members of the Board of Education and ten members of the City. It is the hope of the Board Chair that we have equal representation and that the Superintendent and Business Manager be a part of this committee. She would like the Board of

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Education to establish their own self insurance committee to review insurance. Mr. Eucalitto voiced his concern that there is no bid process. He felt the Board needs to have its own review and its own bid process. All Board members agreed there is an urgency of figuring out the insurance issues before the 2020-2021 Budget Season. Everyone on the board wanted to form the committee, and as a result, the Board is officially forming a Self-Insurance Review Committee.

- E. Graduation Date: We can set and retain the Graduation Date regardless of snow days due to the new Legislation. The date is set for Friday, June 19, 2020 at 6:00PM. Project Graduation approved of this date as well.
 - F. Affordable Housing Information: Information was distributed about affordable housing. The Board felt very strongly at this point in time that the schools cannot handle another influx of students. Torrington is the most affordable place to live in Connecticut. We cannot absorb this increase in our current budget. Mr. Eucalitto said that the City needs to make education the number one priority and support the district's 5 year plan.
 - G. NEASC Update: Superintendent Lubomski and Ms. Ledversis reviewed the draft report sent by the NEASC Chair. The final NEASC report will be ready for mid-November. This will be presented at SIC or Regular Board meeting.
 - H. SPED Update: Ms. Klimaszewski presented the Department of Student Services Special Education student enrollment through 10/18/19. On a positive note, five students were brought back from outplacement, which allows students to return to their neighborhood schools. However, additionally, for every one identified child who has moved out of district, 4.33 identified children have moved in.
9. Committee Reports:
- A. Policy Committee: They are still discussing grading and hiring personnel.
 - B. School Improvement Committee: They will meet at Torrington School. We will be getting a NEASC report. We are looking at behavioral issues, test results, and educational issues.
 - C. Budget Committee: They are waiting for the grant funding deposits. They had more information about the TMS windows and will continue to discuss that issue. The 2020-2021 Budget Timeline was presented to the committee.
 - D. Personnel Committee: They went over the usual attendance and fill rates. Teacher attendance has improved. They discussed doing incentives for perfect attendance and that has been implemented. They also discussed the Superintendent Evaluation and set some dates for this review.
 - E. Grievance Committee: None.
 - F. Ed-Advance: John reported on the meeting.
 - G. Curriculum Committee: Ms. Ferguson said the committee met on October 15, and it was a productive meeting.
 - H. Secondary Ad-Hoc Committee: The meeting is tomorrow at 5:30 TMS. The architects of Kaestle Boos will be there to present their overview of all of the options. There will be a discussion on this information.
 - I. School Liaison Reports:
 - Torrington: They had bedtime stories, Berry Scary Hayride, 100 positive office referrals, and Veterans' Day Ceremony on November 8th. Each classroom is making a story book character pumpkin for display.
 - Vogel- Wetmore: The students are full of excitement. They had a harvest fest with their sister school at Southwest. They are going to schedule weekly grade level meetings.
 - Southwest: On October 11, they held a school assembly to recognize student accomplishments for the month of September. They also had Harvest Fest with Vogel.

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TMS: They had a speaker who hiked the Appalachian Trail. The students were very engaged and interested. National Junior Honor Society students volunteered at the Ice-cream Social.

TMS: They had their Fall festival, Spirit week, Secondary Education Fair, and Book Fair at the end of October.

Forbes: Fifth grade students participated in the City wide multicultural celebration. On November 7th, they are having their Veterans' Day Ceremony.

THS – Justin covered everything in his report at the beginning of the meeting. Also, the THS girls volleyball team had raised 400\$ to a local Autism group.

10. Action Items:

- A. Monthly Financials: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the monthly financials, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
- B. Self-Insurance Review Committee: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to create a Self-Insurance Review Committee, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
- C. Graduation Date: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the graduation date for Friday, June 19, 2020 at 6:00PM, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
- D. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2019: Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the minutes with amendments, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
- E. Receive Subcommittee Minutes: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve all of the subcommittee minutes, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
 - 1. Budget Committee – September 23, 2019
 - 2. Personnel Committee – September 23, 2019
 - 3. School Improvement Committee – September 4, 2019
 - 4. Policy Committee – September 4, 2019
- F. Consent Agenda: Appointments, Retirements & Resignations: Ms. Spino made a motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.

11. Comments for the Good of the Order:

Gary: "It is great to see all the information we are getting on a monthly basis. It's positive and transparent."

Cathy: "I echo Gary. It's a lot of hard work, and we appreciate it."

Armand: "I enjoyed hearing great things going on at all the schools."

Molly: "I echo Armand, and I am incredibly disappointed that City did not involve the BOE in this process."

Ellen: "I echo everyone."

John- "I thank the people who attended that meeting with the City."

Chair – "I attended the empty bowls event. It was amazing and our students were incredible. I would like to comment on the condition of the high school. The custodians in this building are doing an amazing job."

12. Items for Upcoming Agenda:

- A. Monthly Financials
- B. NEASC
- C. Board Evaluation
- D. TMS Windows
- E. Legal Update
- F. Electronic Timekeeping

13. Future Meetings:

Thursday, October 24, 2019 (at THS)

5:30 p.m. – Secondary Ad-Hoc Committee

Monday, November 4, 2019 (at Torrington)

6:00 p.m. – School Improvement and Community Relations Committee

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7:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

Wednesday, November 6, 2019 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – Personnel Committee

6:30 p.m. – Budget Committee

Monday, November 18, 2019 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – BOE Special Meeting

Tuesday, November 19, 2019 (at THS)

5:30 p.m. – Secondary Ad-Hoc Committee

Wednesday, November 20, 2019 (at THS)

6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Education Meeting

14. Adjournment: Mr. Kissko made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:49PM.