



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, March 25, 2020, 5:00 PM
355 Migeon Ave.**

Livestream: <https://vimeo.com/event/26843>

Conference Line

Dial-in number: (425) 436-6343 Access Code: 225583

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 5:07 P.M.
2. Roll Call Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Todor (call in), Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Spino (call in), Ms. Richardson (call in), Ms. Fappiano (call in), Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Arum (call in), Ms. Klimaszewski, Ms. Schulte (call in), Mr. Barlow (call in)
Absent: Mr. Corey
3. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
4. School/Community Service/Public Participation: **Dial in Only**
Roni Gelermino – Spoke in favor of the Weightlifting and Yoga course proposal .
Jason Lafreniere – Thanked the administration, custodians, and secretaries for work and efforts during this time.
Jeff Putnam – Thanked the board members and administration on their transparency. He had questions on the learning online plan.
5. Information Sharing Session:
 - A. Superintendent’s Report: Ms. Lubomski thanked all the employees in the district for their hard work and dedication to their students and the district. CT History Day still occurred virtually. She acknowledged the Torrington students who received awards. She highlighted the events and timeline for the district response regarding COVID-19. We passed out 811 laptops to families. All assignments will be posted online, and all students will have a Google account. Ms. Fergusson stated that there will be lesson plans online that parents and students can access. We will be posting these lessons in weekly blocks. Ms. Klimaszewski spoke about the special education update. They created lesson plans that will be going out to families every week. They are working with the general education classroom teachers and individualizing the lessons for each student. The therapy services and delivery of instruction will vary depending on the needs of the students. We will have some video instruction as well.
Ms. Lubomski said that there will be a lesson plan grid with live links for ease of use and access. Every teacher has posted their office hours, and they will check their e-mails 3 times a day. Also, teachers will be providing the students with feedback on their lessons.

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on April 22, 2020.

Ms. Fappiano asked a question regarding general education - Is it going to be the same curriculum by grade for every school? Yes. For example, all second grade teachers are collaborating virtually to create a common assured learning experiences, so that every second grader will have the same learning experience throughout this closure.

Ms. Spino – Are students getting graded? Regarding the special education, Ms.

Klimaszewski said we are still responsible for IEP goals, and we have progress reports to demonstrate growth. At the end of the year, we have to say how the child has progressed on these objectives, and this will give us some feedback at how they have done.

Ms. Lubomski said that regarding grading and credits, districts are waiting for guidance from the Commissioner. At this time, we are having teachers give students feedback on the work they have submitted.

- B. Board Update – The Chair just wanted to cover a couple of topics that have become an issue: We are fortunate that our administration is doing a lot of the heavy lifting on all of this. The other major issue is how far behind we are in having student 1:1 devices. This process has been much easier for other districts who have 1:1. Our biggest obstacle was our lack of technology during this pandemic. We still don't have enough devices for all students.

During a crisis, we want to make sure we are using one spokesperson, and we are having that be the Superintendent. This is a moving target and things change quickly, and once we know information, it will be shared right.

The Mayor declared a “State of Emergency” in Torrington and the state is also in a “State of Emergency”. I want people to be patient as we work through this. As far as our meetings go, we are going to be meeting when we have action to be taken. It will not be business as usual.

- C. COVID-19 – Superintendent cited the timeline. The big challenge is that the district does not have 1:1 devices. The Alliance districts are going to be receiving laptops to help with the 1:1 issue. She will apply to have the district receive these laptops, but the timeline and application process are yet to be determined.
- D. 2020-2021 Budget – The Budget for 2019-2020 was \$74,663,978 and the proposed 2020-2021 budget is \$78,300,892. This is a \$3,636,914 increase or 4.8%. The board members agreed that they did not feel it was necessary to discuss the budget further. They did not want any more staff cuts. They all believed the proposed 4.8% increase should move it forward to the City. Ms. Fappiano made a motion to propose to add 2 more teachers. Ms. Richardson second, which would be an addition of \$110,000 to the budget. The vote on adding the 2 positions: 3 board members-yes; 5 board members-no, resulting in no additional positions being added to the proposed budget.
- E. Monthly Financials: the same as presented at the budget meeting earlier in the month. Motion to approve Imperial Company for the TMS roof replacement.
- F. April Vacation: Recommendation from the Commissioner was to end school at or around the original last day of school. Ms. Lubomski recommended June 16th or June 17th. If everyone took April break and teachers didn't work that would push the last day to June 24th. If we do not give April break, we would still include Good Friday because that is already set as a holiday. Everyone agreed it would be better to end the school year sooner than later. The board chose the last day of school as June 17th.
- G. Course Proposal: Weightlifting and Yoga – This issue was tabled at the last meeting to provide for further discussion. More discussion occurred at the March SIC meeting. The board was assured that this class was not addressing anything having to do with religion and culture. It is a physical fitness and health class.
- H. Receive the Following Emergency Agreements: The board received all the agreements. Shipman and Goodwin and the Union have vetted the following MOUs.

1. MOU 1579 Para Professionals

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on April 22, 2020.

- 2.MOA 1579 Secretaries
- 3.MOU 1579 Cafeteria Workers
- 4.MOA Teachers Education Association (TEA)
- 5.MOA Administrator's Union

6. Action Items:

Mr. Maniccia made a motion to amend the agenda adding under Action Items: I - for Imperial Company Roofing, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.

- A. Monthly Financials – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the monthly financials, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
- B. 2020-2021 Budget – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to forward to the City the amount of \$78,300,892, second by Mr. Eucalitto. Ms. Fappiano opposed. The rest in favor. Motion passes.
- C. April Vacation- Mr. Kissko made a motion to have remote learning continue during April 13-17, making the last day of school June 17th, second by Ms. Hoehne. All in favor.
- D. Course Proposal: Weightlifting and Yoga. Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve this course proposal, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
- E. Emergency Agreements: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve all the agreements 1-5 as a bundle, second by Mr. Maniccia. Ms. Richardson abstained. The rest in favor. Motion passes.
 - 1.MOU 1579 Para Professionals
 - 2.MOA 1579 Secretaries
 - 3.MOU 1579 Cafeteria Workers
 - 4.MOA Teachers Education Association (TEA)
 - 5.MOA Administrator's Union
- F. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes – February 26, 2020 - Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
- G. Receive Subcommittee Minutes: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
 - 1.School Improvement – February 5, 2020
 - 2.Budget Committee – February 12, 2020
 - 3.SBAC Ad-Hoc Committee – February 10, 2020
 - 4.TPS Secondary Ad- Hoc – November 11, 2019
- H. Consent Agenda: Appointments, Retirements & Resignations – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
- I. Imperial Roofing for Torrington Middle School Roofing Project – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to award TMS roof project in 540,000 dollars to Imperial Company, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.

7. Comments for the Good of the Order:

Armand – “Thank everyone for everything you guys are doing from top and all the way down these are tiring times.”

Gary – “I agree with Armand. Those who are laid off and won't be working, if you can do something for them please do.”

Jessica – “Thank you for all the continued hard work.”

Cathy – “Thank you to everyone and stay well.”

Molly – “Thank you for everyone and for Ally for setting up these meetings, so we don't have to come out of the house.”

Ellen- “Thank you for all your endless hours, it's monumental.”

Nikki – “Thank you to administration with how quickly we have been moving, and thank you to the teachers.”

John – “Congrats to everyone who is working so hard. I also want to recognize the Chair who is also working to keep this going. Thank you.”

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Chair – “Thank you for all of your patience through all of this, and we will deliver information to everyone as quickly as we can.”

8. Items for Upcoming Agenda
 - A. Monthly Financials
 - B. COVID 19 Update
9. Future Meetings: Will be determined on an as needed basis.
10. Adjournment: Mr. Kissko made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:27p.m.