

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on May 27, 2020.



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, April 22, 2020, 5:00 PM
355 Migeon Ave – Remote Meeting**

The members of the public were able to send an e-mail to the chair prior to the meeting and/or call in during the school community service public participation section of the meeting.

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 5:03 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Corey, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Todor, Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Spino, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Fappiano, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Arum, Ms. Klimaszewski, Ms. Schulte, Mr. Barlow, Alison Herold
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the agenda, Ms. Fappiano second. All in favor.
4. School/Community Service/Public Participation: **Dial in Only**
Veronica Gelormino – wanted to publicly thank the administrative team at TMS for their exceptional leadership during this time.
5. Executive Session Regarding a Legal Matter:
Mr. Maniccia made a motion to enter executive session regarding a legal matter in inviting in Ms. Lubomski, Alison Herold from IT, Attorney Johanna Zelman, and the board clerk. Ms. Fappiano second. All in favor. Ms. Spino has recused herself from executive session.
The board entered executive session at 5:08 P.M.
The board returned to open session at 6:07 P.M.
6. Information Sharing Session:
 - A. Superintendent’s Report: Ms. Lubomski and all of the schools did a “We miss you video!” Ms. Lubomski thanked Ali Herold and her team for doing a phenomenal job in IT. Google classroom is working better. Ms. Ferguson said that she sent out an elementary parent survey regarding google classroom. There was positive feedback as parents are getting used to the platform. Ms. Lubomski thanked John Barlow and his team for creating ways to service items in-house at a lesser cost. On a sad note, Ms. Lubomski acknowledged the passing of a THS student. The staff is working on a virtual event to acknowledge his passing. Condolences to the family. The Chair wanted to congratulate Sarah Barrio, a former THS student, for signing a record deal with Sony Records. She thanked THS Music Department in her press release.
 - B. COVID-19 Update: One of our biggest concerns is food distribution. We are collaborating with Chief Towey and the Emergency Planning Group to schedule a community food collection event at each school. The food will be donated to our local food banks. Ed-Advance has added more food distribution locations, offering walk up locations. We will have another laptop distribution day next week. Ms. Klimaszewski reported on special education team. Everyone has been working hard, and she shared wonderful outreach done in her department. Ms. Lubomski also thanked Kimberly Schulte for all her work in adhering to contracts and deadlines, even during this crisis. The THS seniors did a survey on alternate events regarding prom and graduation. A little

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over half of the graduation staff responded to the survey. The Chair thanked the administration at THS and the administration.

- C. Monthly Financials: Mr. Maniccia and Mr. Arum said that next month we will get a list of potential savings and potential costs as a result of Covid-19. Everyone on the board would like to get copies of the City's March financials and last year's budget. The board discussed scheduling a meeting for next Tuesday, April 28 at 5:00PM to address the budget impacts of a 2.5% increase and a 0% increase. May 5th is being scheduled as a tentative joint meeting with the Board of Finance at 5:00PM.
 - D. Grading: Earlier this month the Commissioner sent out his recommendations to all the districts to move to a pass/fail model with designations. We need to move forward procedurally with a grading and accountability system. Most districts are moving in this direction based on the Commissioner's very strong recommendation. For quarter 4, we would propose the pass/fail model, including the pass with distinction designation. Grading would include quality and quantity, work effort. The students would still complete the Star Assessment to determine growth during this time. The board does not have to make a policy on grading, since this is procedural. Some board members did have comments and questions for example: Is there a numeric grade to get your "pass" or "fail?" How can we grade the student who has a non-working parent with the kids to help them vs students whose parents are working and they are "on their own" with school work? The teacher's union is in support of the Commissioner's recommendation. Ms. Lubomski clarified they would not be using a numeric system, but a rubric to evaluate grades. The administration and site leadership will work on the specifics of this grading system collaboratively with Ms. Fergusson and Ms. Mazzatto.
 - E. Possible Executive Session Regarding MOU's with Bargaining Units:
Mr. Maniccia made a motion to enter executive session regarding MOU's with Bargaining Unites inviting in Ms. Lubomski, Alison Herold, Ms. Schulte, and the board clerk. Mr. Eucalitto second. All in favor.
The board entered executive session at 7:26 P.M.
The board returned to open session at 7:55 P.M.
 - F. Healthy Food Certification: Mr. Arum stated this is an annual certification we do. We get a reimbursement of approximately \$40,000.
 - G. Consent Agenda: The board received the consent agenda in their packet. Ms. Schulte explained we have the non-renewals that we issue every year and every non-tenured teacher received this notice. She was able to have an in person conversation (pre COVID-19) with the people who may be genuinely affected if the Superintendent's Proposed Budget is accepted.
7. Committee Reports:
- A. Budget Committee: The budget information has been covered in the meeting.
8. Action Items:
- A. Possible Action on Legal Matter: Mr. Kissko made a motion to accept the settlement offer of \$15,000 as proposed by the attorney for the case discussed in executive session. Further moved that the settlement is reached based on the fact that the cost to litigate the case would exceed the cost of the settlement and there was no wrongdoing by any of the defendant parties. Our insurance carrier will pay 100% of the settlement cost. Mr. Eucalitto second. Ms. Richardson opposed. Everyone else in favor. Motion passes.
 - B. Monthly Financials: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the monthly financials, Ms. Todor second. All in favor.
 - C. Possible Action Regarding MOU: Ms. Todor made a motion to approve the MOU's agreements with changes discussed in executive session, Mr. Maniccia second. All in favor.

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- D. Healthy Food Certification: Mr. Maniccia made a motion pursuant to C.G.S. 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, 2020, through June 30, 2021. 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, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or 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 and 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 food and beverage 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.
- Mr. Corey second. All in favor. The board approves the Healthy Food Certification.
- E. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes – March 25, 2020: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the minutes with changes to add Mr. Barlow to the attendance, Mr. Maniccia second. All in favor.
- F. Approval of Special BOE Meeting Minutes – April 8, 2020: Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Maniccia second. All in favor.
- G. Approval of Special BOE Meeting Minutes – April 15, 2020: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Fappiano second. All in favor.
- H. Receive Subcommittee Minutes: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Fappiano second. All in favor.
1. Personnel Committee – February 12, 2020
 2. Special Budget Committee Public Hearing – March 9, 2020
 3. Special Budget Committee – March 11, 2020
 4. Special Budget Committee Public Hearing – March 16, 2020
- I. Consent Agenda: Appointments, Retirements & Resignations: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the consent agenda, Ms. Fappiano second. All in favor.
9. Comments for the Good of the Order
- The board members all shared the same sentiments - "Thank you to everyone for working hard and we share our condolences to the THS family"
- Ms. Spino wanted to recognize Kellie Bournique and Dora Carr for their time and creativeness with the Facebook page adopt a 2020 senior.
10. Items for Upcoming Agenda
- A. Monthly Financials
 - B. COVID-19 Update
 - C. 2020/2021 Budget
11. Future meetings will be determined on an as needed basis. Budget Committee will meet every month to review the monthly financials and receive COVID-19 updates.
12. Adjournment: Mr. Kissko made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Maniccia second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M.