



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 27, 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. The meeting was also available to watch via Zoom.

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 5:00 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, Ms. Herold
3. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to amend the agenda to table Special Budget meeting minutes on May 20th and adding item 13 M – Adult Ed PEP Grant, second by Ms. Hoehne. All in favor.
4. School/Community Service/Public Participation: The following comments are paraphrased.
Teachers Certified Staff at Torrington Public Schools; Carrie Cassidy, Maggie McGillicuddy and Sandy Mangan – “We commend our colleagues for the outstanding work they have been doing since the school closing at March. The collaboration between colleagues has reached a new level.”
Mr. Lafreniere – “Reiterating everything that was read. We need to be cognizant of the staff/faculty’s personal needs and stresses. Thank you to the board and the people involved interviewing a candidate for a TMS principal.”
5. Possible Executive Session Regarding Possible Reduction in Force: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to go into executive session regarding possible reduction in force inviting in Ms. Lubomski and Ms. Herold, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor
The board entered executive session at 5:27 P.M.
The board returned to open session at 5:35 P.M.
6. Possible Executive Session Regarding Possible Retirement Incentive Extensions: Ms. Spino made a motion to go into executive session regarding possible retirement incentive extensions inviting in Ms. Lubomski and Ms. Herold, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
The board entered executive session at 5:35 P.M.
The board returned to open session at 5:42P.M.
7. Possible Executive Session Regarding 1579 Negotiations: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to go into executive session regarding 1579 negotiations inviting in Ms. Lubomski and Ms. Herold, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
The board entered executive session at 5:42 P.M.

The board returned to open session at 5:51 P.M.

8. Possible Executive Session Regarding Non-Union Contracts: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to go into executive session regarding non-union contracts inviting in Ms. Lubomski and Ms. Herold, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.

The board entered executive session at 5:51 P.M. Ms. Lubomski and Ms. Herold were excused at 5:55PM.

The board returned to open session at 7:23 P.M.

9. Possible Executive Session Regarding THS & TMS Principals: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to go into executive session regarding THS & TMS Principals inviting in Ms. Lubomski and Ms. Herold, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.

The board entered executive session at 7:23 P.M.

The board returned to open session at 7:41 P.M.

10. Information Sharing Session:

- A. Superintendent's Report: Ms. Lubomski started her report by thanking everyone on her staff and at the school sites – everyone is doing a phenomenal job. She gave a special thank you to two groups: Central Office staff and administration and IT staff. Ms. Klimaszewski provided a SPED update. Students who have exited special education this year: 51. These students no longer require special education. Overall, special education numbers are down by 7 students since March. Regarding instruction, Ms. Fergusson reported that there has been consistency and continuity in all grade levels. We are close to beginning to 1:1 district. Our home to school partnership has been strengthened by our expertise in Home Visits, which is recognized by the state.
- B. Appointment – Principal Torrington High School: Robin Ledversis with a unanimous vote was named the Torrington High School principal. Ms. Schulte congratulated Ms. Ledversis and read her biography. Ms. Ledversis thanked everyone and stated that this is an honor.
- C. Appointment – Principal Torrington Middle School: Brian Scott with a unanimous vote was named the Torrington Middle School principal. Ms. Schulte congratulated Mr. Scott and read his biography. Mr. Scott thanked everyone and he stated that he is honored and excited to join the Torrington Public School family.
- D. COVID-19 Update – Ms. Lubomski provided a paper about the CARES Act funding break down. She gave the board a proposal of items needed in response to the re-opening in the fall. For example, we still need 1,300 more chrome books.
- E. Alliance Proposal: At this stage it is uncertain that we are receiving the extra \$77,000 in Governor Lamont's original

budget proposal. Ms. Lubomski went through the Alliance Proposal and stated that it follows the guidance from the Commissioner and the Alliance representative for the district.

- F. NEASC Update: Ms. Lubomski stated that we received the letter earlier this month. The letter has commendations and recommendations that need to be addressed by February 2021.
 - G. Monthly Financials: The monthly report was presented at the budget meeting. Mr. Arum will continue to assess the savings from this year's budget. By June 1st there should be more clarification. The TMS roofers are ahead of schedule.
 - H. 2019-2020 Budget Update – The city is setting the Mill Rate next week; the board will need to schedule a meeting date to finalize the budget. The chair suggested Monday, June 8th.
 - I. 2020-2021 Capital & Capital Technology Budget: Tabled
 - J. Adult Education PEP Grant: We have done this for several years. This supports adult education our ELL parents and students. This is a renewal of the grant.
 - K. Torrington High School Building Committee Update: We will schedule a meeting to talk about the timeline, RFP, etc. The referendum will cost \$10,000 for a single polling location. A meeting is scheduled with the School Construction Department at the state, Kosta Diamantis and his team, on June 3rd. KBA, Ms. Lubomski and Mr. Arum will attend the meeting.
 - L. 2020/2021 Budget – Already discussed.
 - M. Food Drive: Every Friday there is a food collection drive from 12:00-3:00 P.M. Thank you to all board, district and community members who helped. All the donations will be locally distributed in Torrington.
11. Committee Reports:
- A. Budget Committee – Discussed throughout the meeting.
 - B. Facilities & Technology Committee- Ms. Spino discussed the building maintenance since the schools have been sheltered in March. Every month she will visit one of our schools and report on areas in need of improvement. Mr. Barlow and his team have already started improvement on the list Ms. Spino had for TMS.
12. Action Items:
- A. Monthly Financials – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the monthly financials, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - B. Possible Action Regarding Reduction in Force – Mr. Kissko made a motion approving the reduction in force, second by

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on June 17, 2020.

- Mr. Maniccia. Ms. Fappiano opposed. Ms. Todor abstained. Everyone else in favor. Motion carries.
- C. Possible Action Regarding Retirement Incentive Extensions – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the retirement incentive extensions through June 8th, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
 - D. Possible Action Regarding 1579 Negotiations- Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the 1579 Negotiations, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - E. Possible Action Regarding Non-Union Contracts – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the non-union contracts as presented, second by Ms. Todor. Ms. Spino and Ms. Fappiano opposed. Everyone else in favor. Motion carries.
 - F. Possible Action on Alliance Proposal – Removed/No Action Needed.
 - G. Possible Action on 2019-2020 Budget – Removed/No Action Needed.
 - H. Possible Action on 2020-2021 Capital Budget – Removed/No Action Needed
 - I. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes – April 22, 2020 – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Maniccia. Ms. Spino abstained. Everyone else in favor.
 - J. Approval of BOE Special Meeting Minutes – April 28, 2020 – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - K. Receive Subcommittee Minutes: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the subcommittee minutes, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
 - 1. Budget Committee – April 15, 2020
 - 2. Facilities & Technology Committee – March 4, 2020
 - L. Consent Agenda: Appointments, Retirements & Resignations – Ms. Spino made a motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
 - M. Adult Ed Pep Grant – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the Adult Ed Pep Grant, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
13. Comments for the Good of the Order: The following comments are paraphrased:
Ellen Hoehne – “Congratulations to the THS and TMS principals. Thank you to Central Office and Fiona for the number of hours you all have put in.”
Armand Maniccia – “I reiterate what Ellen stated. From the Superintendent on down, I thank everyone and continue the hard work.”
Jessica Richardson – “I reiterate all the sentiments that Armand stated.”
Molly Spino – “Thank you to Central Office for the work you put in, it is incredible. From a parent standpoint, I can attest that online learning is hard. Thank you for all your hard work so far. I would also like to thank everyone for the food drive. I know families have reached out to me who are benefiting from the food drive.”

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Nikki Fappiano – “I echo what everyone else has said. Thank you to the Superintendent, you did a phenomenal job last week at the meeting and thank you to Fiona for stepping in when needed. Thank you to the teachers and I am thinking of them for having to end the year like this.”

Cathy Todor – “I echo what everyone else has said. I feel for my teachers, colleagues and friends who are going through a hard time right now. I am thinking of our kids and how sad it is that they won’t have end of the year celebrations. Congratulations to Ms. Ledversis and Mr. Scott.”

John Kissko – “Congratulations to Mr. Scott and Ms. Ledversis. Also, continued respect and admiration for central office, staff and teachers.”

Gary Eucalitto – “Congratulations to Mr. Scott and Ms. Ledversis. I echo all the comments stated. Never give up on America.”

Ed Corey – “I would like to plug the food drive one more time. I’m proud of our community. The needs have not stopped and I am hoping we can do it again.”

Ms. Lubomski – “Thank all the Board Members who are participating in the food drive. Shout out to all our parents being partners with us through this crazy journey.”

Chair – “Congratulations and welcome Mr. Scott and Ms. Ledversis.”

14. Items for Upcoming Agenda

- A. Monthly Financials
- B. 2020-2021 Budget
- C. THS Renovation

15. Future Meetings Will be Determined on an as Needed Basis

16. Adjournment: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.