



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, August 26, 2020, 5:30 P.M.
355 Migeon Ave – Remote Meeting**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 5:40 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Corey (Remote), Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Eucalitto, Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Fappiano (Remote), Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Arum, Ms. Klimaszewski, Ms. Schulte, Mr. Barlow, Ms. Herold
3. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Kissko amended his motion to amend the agenda to say regular instead of special, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
4. School/Community Service/Public Participation:
E-mail:
Heather Stannard – Advocating for sports practice since CIAC is allowing it.
Brett Fairchild – He is a student athlete who wishes to have football practice since the CIAC allows it. For some football players, their college career depends on it.
Adrian Fernandez – He is advocating for football. He has been following all of the COVID-19 rules.
Brenden McGowing and Mike Iszczak – Student athletes advocating for the football season.
Vidhi Patel – Advocating for volleyball. It would be devastating and unfair for the seniors and underclassmen.
Sydney Bermas – Volleyball player advocating for volleyball. She is a senior and this year is crucial for her for recruitment.
Leslie Bermas – Advocating for volleyball. She made another statement stating that her daughter had to witness her brother missing all of his senior experiences.
Aidan Traver – Advocating for football. Football has taught him how to perform on the field and in the classroom.
Alyssa Sabia – Advocating for volleyball season.
Maggie McGillicuddy – Reiterate the comments she sent last night regarding staff being in the building on Wednesdays.
Amelia – Advocating for volleyball. She lost softball during the spring season.
Emma – Advocating for volleyball.
Maria White – Advocating for football as planned by the CIAC.
Mike Semonich – Advocating for football. His son lost his baseball spring season this year.
Kora – Student athlete who is advocating for volleyball.
Jennifer Traver – Follow up to her letter from yesterday. She is still advocating for the football team and wanted to clarify some items that she heard on the meeting last night. We should follow the CIAC guidelines.
Lindsay and Daryl Becker – Advocating for the volleyball and all fall sports.
Maddie Becker – Believes that if they have school then they should have volleyball.

Rachel Donovan – Advocating for volleyball.

Vivian Tran – Student athlete advocating for volleyball.

Tina Tran – She is advocating cross country and volleyball.

Kelly Kua – Advocating for volleyball.

Ella Boulli – Advocating for volleyball.

Shelly Sabia – Advocating for volleyball.

Mai Tong – Advocating for volleyball.

Cathrine Clinkscales – Advocating for football.

Sophia Calabrese – Advocating for volleyball

Shanley Richardson – Senior who would love to have a volleyball season

Jessica Richardson – Support for the volleyball season following the maximum guidelines set by the CIAC. There is sufficient distance and if needed, players could wear athletic style masks.

Michelle Gallant – Advocating for the football season.

Jodie Calabrese– Bring back sports for the fall and winter seasons.

5. Information Sharing Session:

- A. Superintendent’s Report: Very excited to welcome back our staff tomorrow and kick-off the school year. PAL, Jane Slaiby and the Stefanowski Foundation donated masks for this year. Convocation will be presented via video. Mr. Barlow and the Superintendent answered many questions about cleaning protocols and discussed how CDC guidance has changed since March. Due to creative problem solving and increased workforce, sanitizers, we have been able to schedule “deep”, rigorous cleaning every day. CDC and DPH are reiterating that the contamination does not come from surfaces, it comes from droplets, which is why we are wearing masks and keeping socially distant. Mr. Barlow stated that the cleaning products that the district is using are the same we have used for many years. They are all posted on the website. He went over the cleaning schedule in detail. Ms. Fappiano asked about mask breaks. Ms. Lubomski stated that it will be easy in at the elementary level, since they have recess. A schedule is being created for middle and high school. When the students are eating, their masks will be off, and then they will wash their hands and sanitize. Mr. Eucalitto stated that when they have their mask breaks, they will be social distancing from 4-6 feet. Ms. Richardson asked when students change classes is there cleaning happening in the classrooms? Yes, teachers will be given a product called 18 ad microfiber cloths, the safest product that has cleaning abilities. When the students are entering and exiting the rooms, they must use sanitizers. Ms. Hoehne asked if we have the sports back, will we still be able to stay within budget? Yes, sports have been budgeted for. CIAC

stated that there is no locker use. Coaches will be cleaning the district equipment. Students will be responsible for cleaning their personal equipment. Mr. Eucalitto asked if we are recommending that the students do not bring their own sanitizers? Students can bring their own if they want to, but the district will also provided it. Regarding instruction, Ms. Ferguson talked about book sharing in elementary classrooms. The books that are used will be set aside for a few days and then they will return to circulation. With the hybrid model, Ms. Lubomski acknowledged the challenge with daycare. There is a link on the website citing daycare providers. EdAdvance has openings. As far as any possible instructional model changes from in person to hybrid, there will be a reevaluation at the end of September.

- B. PD and Instruction Update: Ms. Ferguson stated that the principals are setting up viewing parties in their own schools to watch the Convocation. Teachers can socially distance and watch with other people or sit in their classroom alone, if preferred. The offerings are all virtual with staff being physically in the building. There will be COVID-19 trainings to inform and prepare staff and families about our “new normal”. There will be outside presenters and some new technology platforms presented. There will be training/reminders of looking through the social emotional lens as we reopen the schools. Ms. Hoehne stated that it is good we are opening on September 8th, hopefully our Chromebook will come in by then. Will kids need headphones? The district will provide all the equipment that the students need. Every student will have their own Chromebook.
- C. Special Education Update: Ms. Klimaszewski stated that she feels like we are ready. The teachers, paras and assignments are all set. Unfortunately, we have not heard back from parents regarding their choice of hybrid or 100%distance learning. All 150 paras will be CPA and First Aid Certified. Next month, there will be an update on our special education numbers. The Chair asked if we had a lot of new enrollments this year in terms overall? Ms. Lubomski said that we have had some influx, but there are also families who are choosing to homeschool their children during this time. For September, the Board requested a summary of how many students are homeschooling, distance learning, and hybrid learning.
- D. Monthly Financials: Mr. Arum stated that there is nothing new to report. We will have a comprehensive report for

October. Regarding COVID-19 expenses, the district has an estimate of \$1,808,299 in expenses and is receiving \$656,108 from the state. Ms. Fappiano asked if we transitioned to in-person phase, would it impact budget? Yes, another million dollars. However, the Mayor said at the Board of Finance Meeting that the district should not make decisions on the model implemented based on budget.

- E. Fall Sports Update: The Superintendent distributed the 2020-2021 Fall Sports Schedule from CIAC. CIAC stated that on August 24th, students can go back to practicing, however, they will still be conferring with DPH. The district stopped practices, because the CIAC and DPH were working out a mutual decision. Following the CIAC Plan, full practices and contact with other teams would not occur until September 11th and 24, respectively. The question was asked if it was possible to allow the students to continue practicing until the final agreed upon decision from the CIAC and DPH was issued, since parents have the option to not have their students participate if they are not comfortable. The Chair would like the district to allow practicing to start, but have the central office administration have the authority to shut it down if necessary without the Board having to call a special meeting. This decision could continually change based on many factors. If the players do not follow the guidelines, then they will not play. Parents will be responsible for transportation. No bussing will be provided for practices.
- F. School Calendar 2020-2021 – Ms. Lubomski proposed that Wednesdays become early dismissal days at least until January. This would provide collaboration and professional development time that is essential. Ed-Advance does provide childcare for half days, before and after school care.
- G. Grades 7-12 Building Project Forum: The Chair, stated that it was determined that we cannot have a Marketing Committee for a building project. All that work must be done through PAC(Political Action Committee). The PAC has received approval to move forward. The administration is not legally allowed to participate in any of these public forums. The Board will be running the first public forum. The Board as a group cannot promote this project, but can only provide facts. They can support the project as individual citizens. The Board will hold the Public Forum on September 1st at 6:00PM. There will be one final Marketing Committee meeting. Mr. Maniccia asked if we can create an e-mail specific for the building project. The

building committee will be creating a video of the high school.

6. Committee Reports:

- A. Budget Committee – COVID expenses were presented.
- B. School Improvement Committee – The improvements in the middle school were discussed supported by a video. They discussed the school mascot and recommend to the Board the deletion of “Red” from Raiders and to be henceforth be called the Raiders.
Mr. Kissko asked to amend the agenda to include Board recognition of dropping the word “Red” from “Red Raiders” and in the future to be called Raiders only, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
- C. Marketing Committee – Already discussed.
- D. Building Committee – The architect reviewed education specs and floor plans. We will post information on the website. Next meeting will be Thursday, September 3rd.

7. Action Items:

- A. Monthly Financials – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the monthly financials, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
- B. Fall Sports – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve fall sports starting up with practices and try outs based on the current CIAC guidelines with the understanding that this could change and this is what is happening as of now. The administration will monitor this situation going forward, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
- C. School Calendar 2020-2021 – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the school calendar as presented, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
- D. Approval of Board of Education Special Meeting Minutes: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - 1. July 22, 2020 (5:00 P.M.)
 - 2. July 22, 2020 (5:30 P.M.)
 - 3. August 5, 2020
 - 4. August 19, 2020
- E. Receive Subcommittee Minutes: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - 1. Joint Budget Committee and Facilities & Technology Committee – June 6, 2020
 - 2. School Improvement – March 11, 2020
- F. Consent Agenda: Appointments, Retirements & Resignations – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Mr. Eucalitto. Ms. Richardson abstained. The rest of the Board members were in favor. Motion passed.
- G. Mr. Kissko made a motion for the Board to recognize dropping the word Red from Red Raiders and to be called Raiders, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.

8. Comments for the Good of the Order: The following comments are paraphrased:

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on September 21, 2020.

Ms. Fappaino – “ It was nice to see so many students write in about supporting fall sports, it was so impressive. Thank you so much for being so involved and expressing your concerns. The comments were received differently last night.”

Mr. Eucallitto – “I really think the public needs to know how hard the Chair and Administrators have worked, you’ve put together the best program you could have, given everything.”

Mr. Hoehne – “I agree with Gary, the amount of work is unbelievable and you always put the kids first.”

Mr. Maniccia – “Thank you all for all the hard work and good luck to everyone all the staff on opening day have a great school year.”

Mr. Kissko – “I concur in a combo of what everyone has said. It was nice to hear students express their concerns in such an articulate manner. ”

Ms. Richardson – “ I want to acknowledge that Robin Magistrali is retiring and she has been an asset to THS for a long time and we thank you for your service.”

Chair – “It is not fair to say we did not receive the comments last night from teachers. Last night, we did not have an action item for the Board and we did not have anything to take action on. All Board Members are respectful towards the teachers and all the staff. The only way this Board has been able to make progress is because we have so many great people working in the buildings, working at Central Office, and a Board that is cohesively working to support people in the buildings and support people at Central Office.

9. Items for Upcoming Agenda:

- A. Monthly Financials
- B. School Reopening
- C. COVID Expenses
- D. Building Committee

10. Future Meetings:

Tuesday, September 1, 2020

Building Project Public Forum

Thursday, September 3, 2020

Building Committee Meeting at THS

Wednesday, September 23, 2020

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

11. Adjournment: Mr. Eucallitto made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor. Meeting adjourned 8:17 P.M.