



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 25, 2019, 6:00 PM
THS Media Center, 50 Major Besse Drive**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:00PM
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Todor, Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Spino, Ms. Richardson Mr. Corey, Mr. Arum, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Klimaszewski
Absent: Ms. Hoehne (excused), Mr. Thibault
4. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Ms. Richardson. All in favor.
5. Student Representatives:
 - A. Justin Mattiello: Reported on the busy time at THS. The band marched in the parade and took first place. There were 30 Interact students who volunteered for the Parkinson's Walk. This week is the first spirit week! The THS fall sports have started off well.
6. Recognitions: Ms. Lubomski and the Board Chair recognized the following staff members:
Paraeducators of the Year: Angelita Roy – PreK at East, Diana Webb – Forbes, Wendy Valerio – Southwest, Michelle McNeill – Torrington, Adrianna Costa-Brown – Vogel-Wetmore, Carolyn Kulinski – THS, and Seth Goldfarb – TMS.
Teachers of the Year: Elaine Surveski – PreK at East, Amy Rice – Forbes, Michael McCotter – Southwest, Kelly Hagymasi – Torrington, Cameron Pruchnicki – Vogel-Wetmore, Richard Dubois – THS, and Tara D'Iorio – TMS.
District Winners: Torrington Paraeducator of the Year is Angelita Roy and Torrington Teacher of the Year is Tara D'Iorio.
7. School/Community Service/Public Participation:
Charlie McSpiritt: He is an Assistant Principal and has worked for the district for 27 years. Mr. McSpiritt thanked David Bascetta for his 16 years of work. He acknowledged his support and service to the district and wished him well in his retirement.
8. Possible Executive Session Regarding Non-Union Salary Agreement: Mr. Kissko made a motion to enter into executive session regarding non-union salary agreement inviting in Superintendent Ms. Lubomski, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
The board entered into executive session at 6:18PM.
The board returned into open session at 6:50PM.
9. Information Sharing Session:
 - A. Superintendent's Report: Ms. Lubomski reported on the smoothest school year opening thus far. THS and TMS had their back to school nights and received positive feedback. The TMS Fitness Trail Ribbon cutting was on Monday. Many community members, Rep Horn and Cook attended as well as several staff who participated in the installation. The Board will have new microphones at the next meeting.
 - B. SBAC Review: Ms. Ferguson presented the SAT and SBAC data, focusing on successes and where we need to improve. Grades 6 and 8 showed the greatest gains. The newly hired additional interventionists, director of intervention and academic support position, and special education supervisors will address the areas of concern. A multi-year professional learning plan, curriculum/assessment work, new PLC structure, development

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of pathways, student success teams, cross grade level articulation and schedules to support teacher collaboration will help to move the district forward. Ms. Richardson asked if SBAC testing is modified for students according to their IEP. Ms. Klimaszewski replied that most SPED students will take the regular SBAC, and any accommodation they would receive in class will also occur during the test. The alternative assessment is administered to only 1% of the student population. The data review will be brought to the SIC committee, so it can be discussed at length. Mr. Kissko brought up the fact that there is a chronic absenteeism problem that could also affect test scores.

- C. Calendar Change Proposal: Ms. Lubomski proposed that we change the last teacher day of PD to February 19th instead of the PD day in June.
 - D. Special Education Update: Ms. Klimaszewski presented an update on Special Education. Torrington has the highest percentage of identified students in our district reference group (DRG). The district is working on regular education supports before we are referring students to special education. She also shared other data that impact our special education enrollment as well as program options, so students can remain in the least restrictive environment. The Board Chair wanted to know the cost impact of incoming students to the district.
 - E. Primary Mental Health Grant: This grant we have had for 10 years. This grant is primarily for Kindergarten students but can also be used for 1st and 2nd grade. It helps students with the emotional transition to school. There is also a parent component to the grant.
 - F. Monthly Financials: Mr. Maniccia reported that they looked at the financials and had a couple of questions. Mr. Arum stated that 2 of the administrators salaries were in the wrong line, they should have been in the Alliance funding line, which have not been received yet.
 - G. End of Year Financials, 2018-2019- There was a surplus of \$15,449, but the finalization of the year won't happen until September 30th.
 - H. Landscape Bids: Mr. Maniccia reported on two bids. One bid was \$9,000 lower. The Budget Committee chose to go with our current contractor, Jespersion Landscaping. They have done a wonderful job. They are local and reliable.
 - I. Employee Use of the District's Computer System and Electronic Communications Policy #4012 (Replacing Policy #2030) : This is a personnel policy and is replacing #2030, updated to include current technology and social media.
 - J. Visitors and Observations in School Policy #7024 (New): There was no exiting policy.
 - K. Field Trips: There was confusion on one of the forms regarding Keene, NH. It is a 3 day overnight trip.
 - 1. THS – North Adams, MA – October 6, 2019
 - 2. THS – Westfield, MA – October 25, 2019
 - 3. THS – Keene, NH – March 19, 2020 – March 21, 2020
 - 4. THS – Hartford, CT – April 2, 2020 – April 4, 2020
10. Committee Reports:
- A. Policy Committee: Worked on the policies that were presented at the meeting.
 - B. School Improvement Committee: Mr. Kissko reported that they are meeting at Vogel Wetmore, and there will be a discussion regarding test scores.
 - C. Budget Committee: Mr. Maniccia reported that they worked on the landscape contract. They received some estimate pricing on TMS windows, but there are still questions pending. He reported that they are working on electronic time keeping system.
 - D. Personnel Committee: Ms. Spino reported that they discussed board evaluations and superintendent evaluations. By the end of the month, every board member will use the CAGE form for Board Self-Evaluation. These will be submitted anonymously to the Administrative Secretary at Central Office. On November 6th, there will be a meeting to

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discuss the informal Superintendent Evaluation. The Board will meet with the Superintendent during the full Board Meeting on November 20th in Executive Session to review the evaluation.

- E. Grievance Committee: None.
- F. Ed-Advance: Mr. Kissko said there is a meeting first Thursday of every month. There is a meeting on October 3 at 7:45AM where they will discuss budget, regionalization and implemented social emotional programs. The meeting location is 77 Main Street in Terryville.
- G. Curriculum Committee: October 15 is the first meeting.
- H. Secondary Ad-Hoc Committee: The Chair reported that the approved architectural firm facilitated a visioning day at THS. There were community members, staff, parents and businesses represented. The Chair reminded people that we do not need misinformation being shared with the public. The Board members need to remember that any statements they make may be misunderstood as decisions that have been finalized by the full Board, not just personal opinions. Surveys are going out to parents, students and staff next week. We are in the preliminary stages of this process. The next meeting is on October 24, so that architects can come back and share their findings on the facility as well as the input from the Visioning Day. People can join the Ad Hoc committee at any time.
- I. School Liaison Reports:
 - Southwest- Welcome back night is tomorrow night. This month two teachers received donations from police department. The beginning of the school year is going well.
 - Forbes- They had a good start. There was a school wide assembly with the message that all the staff is here for all of the students. Teachers are working hard to foster a sense of community. October 9 is picture day!
 - THS – A big shoutout to girls Volleyball team!
 - TMS – The fitness train had a ribbon cutting ceremony and the beginning of the school year has started great.

11. Action Items:

- A. Possible Action Regarding Non-Union Salary Agreement: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the non-union salary agreement as discussed, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor. Welcome John Barlow, the new Director of Facilities.
- B. Possible Action on 2019-2020 Calendar: Mr. Richardson made a motion to approve the calendar change as presented, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
- C. Primary Mental Health Grant: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the Primary Mental Health Grant, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
- D. Monthly Financials: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the monthly financials, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
- E. End of Year Financials, 2018-2019: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the end of the year financials, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
- F. Landscape Bids: Mr. Kissko made a motion to accept the Jespersion bid for a 3 year period, 2019-2020, 2020-2021, and 2021-2022, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
- G. Employee Use of the District's Computer System and Electronic Communications Policy #4012 – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve Policy #4012, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
- H. Visitors and Observations in School Policy #7024 – Ms. Todor made a motion to approve policy #7024, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
- I. Field Trips: Mr. Corey made a motion to approve all of the field trips bellow, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - 1. THS – North Adams, MA – October 6, 2019
 - 2. THS – Westfield, MA – October 25, 2019
 - 3. THS – Keene, NH – March 19, 2020 – March 21, 2020

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4. THS – Hartford, CT – April 2, 2020 – April 4, 2020

- J. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes – August 21, 2019: Ms. Spino made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Todor. Abstentions: Ms. Richardson and Mr. Corey. Everyone else in favor.
 - K. Approval of Board of Education Special Meeting – July 31, 2019: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Richardson. Abstention: Mr. Corey. Everyone else in favor.
 - L. Receive Subcommittee Minutes: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the minutes with the amendment to Budget Committee minutes format, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
 - 1. Budget Committee – June 12, 2019
 - 2. School Improvement Committee – August 7, 2019
 - 3. Policy Committee – August 7, 2019
 - 4. Secondary Ad-Hoc – August 22, 2019
 - M. Consent Agenda: Appointments, Retirements & Resignations: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Mr. Corey. Abstentions: Mr. Kissko and Ms. Todor. Everyone else in favor.
12. Comments for the Good of the Order:
John – Welcome Mr. Barlow!
Gary and Armand - Welcome back to everyone and thank you for all that you do. I hope you have a wonderful school year.
Chair - Welcome Mr. Barlow and thank you to Mr. Bascetta and the SPED department.
13. Items for Upcoming Agenda
- A. Monthly Financials
 - B. Graduation Date
 - C. Affordable Housing Information
 - D. NEASC
 - E. SPED Update
 - F. Policies
 - G. New Regulations and Mandates
14. Future Meetings:
- Wednesday, October 2, 2019 (at Vogel Wetmore)**
 - 6:00 p.m. – School Improvement and Community Relations Committee
 - 7:00 p.m. – Policy Committee
 - Monday, October 7, 2019 (at Migeon Ave.)**
 - 6:00 p.m. – Budget Committee
 - Wednesday, October 16, 2019 (at Migeon Ave.)**
 - 6:00 p.m. – Personnel Committee
 - Wednesday, October 23, 2019 (at THS)**
 - 6:30 p.m. – Regular Board of Education Meeting
 - Wednesday, October 24, 2019 (at THS)**
 - 5:30 p.m. – Secondary Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
15. Adjournment: Ms. Spino made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:32PM.