



Torrington Board of Education

SUSAN LUBOMSKI
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

LYNDA T. REITMAN
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

School Improvement and Community Relations Committee Regular Meeting Wednesday, February 3, 2016 355 Migeon Avenue

MINUTES

Members Present: Jessica Richardson, Committee Chair; Jim Lamoin, Andrew Nargi

Also Present: Board of Education: Joanne Brogis, Fiona Cappabianca, Ellen Hoehne

Administration: Susan M. Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent; Lynda T. Reitman, Interim Superintendent, Eric Baim, Director of Secondary Education; Robin Ledversis, Supervisor of Enhanced Programs

1. Ms. Richardson called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.
2. Roll Call was taken.
3. Mr. Lamoin made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Nargi seconded the motion. All in favor.
4. Mr. Lamoin moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 2, 2015. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hoehne. Time change noted. All in favor.

5. **Public/ Staff Participation**

Ms. Ledversis reported.

Job shadowing will involve 40 companies and 100 THS students. They will be attending a lunch celebration at the Cornucopia. The job shadow is a 3 hour experience open to anyone.

STEAM carnival is coming up.

Meetings at the Chamber. Altec provided an opportunity for kids at THS. They started a soldering class. They offer soldering training. Other program is a partnership with OWT, offering certification and college credit from that class. The students are loving the class. Soldering opportunity involves 6 students. 10 students were at the initial meeting and they would love more. There are no academic requirements. To hire students, they required the "soft skills": no cell phone, communicate with others. Entry level. Classes at NWCC. The students had an interview at Altec and learned these necessary skills. Robin welcomed everyone to the Chamber meetings.

YEA students will be presenting on March 17 at the Chamber. Mr. Baim will send the flyer to the Board members.

6. **Information Sharing**

a. Recap of SIC for new members

Ms. Richardson reported a recap of the past meetings: last year's highlights: Board goals, distinguished alumnus, and marketing. Marketing is the open task to tackle at this point. Mrs. Richardson referred to the visit Causeway had with the whole committee.

Foothills trader: Ms. Richardson said no one has submitted anything. Ms. Reitman will follow up on that.

Ms. Richardson will contact the City to check on the marketing issue to see if we can share services.

Open to questions: Mr. Vergaro stated that he wanted to make sure that PTOs were included in this process.

b. School Governance Report

Mr. Lamoin reported. He will be the Board Liaison to THS, SGC and SIC.

Grade 8 survey: On the transition to THS. If they are attending THS or not. If not, why not? Mr. Marchand will correlate the info. Mr. Baim said they will complete the survey in homerooms. 7th grade will also be visiting. Parents can come during the day as well. Mr. Marchand posts the events on the THS website.

7. Old Business

a. Distinguished Alumnus

Once approved by the Board, the Board Clerk will post and send out to all staff via email.

b. Community Relations Effort

How to proceed? SGC and the community are also interested in this. Right now there is no cohesive plan. SGC and this committee should work together. A special meeting will be created for this topic and SGC members will be invited.

How to share our schools with the community?

Some ideas that would have budgetary impact. We have no budget for that. Could use school FB page and Foothill Trader with no cost. Ms. Sullivan does a great job sharing the info about the High School. What do we do about other schools?

Website is a source of concern. Final site is up at the end of June.

Mr. Nargi suggested students could help create something and/or putting the website together.

Mr. Lamoin stated they have to decide the design of the website. The building secretary can update.

Ms. Richardson stated that the committee should brainstorm ideas of what we would like to see on the website. Then we give suggestions to the designers. We can create a committee on this.

Ms. Cappabianca questioned if we can find out the number of hits a day.

8. New Business

a. THS course change proposal

Presentation by Ms. Gallullo.

World language: UCONN vs. AP- UCONN and AP should be two separate courses. UCONN and AP would determine their own curriculum.

Students who go to college use AP designation. No students are currently taking the AP test. They are in the level but not taking the exam. They are getting the UCONN credit. UCONN credits are more transferable.

Goal: to receive more college credit in the area of world languages. Register for ECE credit that is transferable to other schools.

AP program in general needs to be analyzed. In the future, need to make sure there are feeder language classes.

New this year, AP environmental and computer science as well as other AP classes were added.

Ms. Richardson suggested a motion to move to full Board. See data about AP classes for the last 5 years get to Board within the week. Mr. Lamoin motioned to move the World Language course change proposal to the full Board. Mr. Nargi seconded the motion. All in favor.

PE: semester PE and Health; not quarterly; need more credits. Offer more electives in PE and in Health. Eliminate the full year student courses. This offers options and helps to get requirements out of the way.

Mr. Nargi made a motion to move the PE course change proposal to the full Board. Mr. Lamoin seconded. All in favor.

9. Comments for the Good of the Order

None

10. Topics for Future Meetings

- a. Website
- b. AP courses
- c. Educational cost sharing and who is responsible for that
- d. East School renovations

11. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lamoin and seconded by Mr. Nargi. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned 9:45 p.m.