



## Torrington Board of Education

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

CHERYL F. KLOCZKO  
SUPERINTENDENT

### School Improvement and Community Relations Committee

Wednesday, June 10, 2015

355 Migeon Avenue

#### *MINUTES*

Members Present: John Kissko, Committee Chair; Jessica Richardson

Absent: Bill Knight

Also Present: Board of Education: Jim Lamoin, Daniel Thibault  
Administration: Cheryl F. Kloczko, Susan Lubomski, Robin Ledversis

1. Mr. Kissko called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.
2. Roll Call was taken.
3. Ms. Richardson moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
4. Ms. Richardson moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of May 6, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
5. Board Goals: Members discussed reviewing and revising Board of Education goals. Mr. Thibault stated that Board goals can only be adopted at a full BOE meeting and that for 2015-2016 the BOE will have to align goals with new issues. Mr. Kissko said the goals can be accepted in committee with the idea that they would be changed and adapted by the full Board. There have not been timely goals.

Ms. Richardson questioned what the BOE might be qualified to address; for example, there could be public input into curriculum revisions. How is the BOE qualified to look at curriculum? Mr. Kissko felt it was important to look into curriculum regarding the controversy with Common Core State Standards.

Ms. Richardson brought up the issues of reviewing Student Services. Mr. Thibault said that until this year, the BOE did not have a handle on what was happening with Student Services. This year there has been more information provided. Ms. Richardson questioned what would be the proper venue to address such issues. The consensus was this committee first, followed by a larger discussion with the full Board.

John reminded all present that the full Board was set for a retreat in July and that the Board Chair has solicited goals for that meeting. Ms. Kloczko inquired about the Board's criteria for determining whether a goal has been met and suggested that the responsibility of establishing goals be passed

down to the various district sites. Ms. Richardson asked how this applies to the budget. Ms. Kloczko said it would make the process much easier if the goals were clearer. She added that it impacts the types of programs the schools need, in addition to the State mandates. Mr. Kissko suggested that the BOE watch the CAFE presentation, which was to be broadcast on CTN again the following morning. The topic of that CAFE presentation was the most recent mandates.

6. Distinguished Alumnus Award: Mr. Kissko reported that Jennifer MacDonald did a great job accepting the award at this year's awards ceremony at THS. He said that her resume prepared committee members for how smart she was, but she was also very inspiring and genuine with the students at the event. The press article made Torrington Public Schools (TPS) look good as well.
7. Community Relations and Marketing TPS: Mr. Kissko relayed that he had spoken with the Mayor and that they are trying to figure out what the committee might be able to accomplish. They agreed that they are tired of slogans. The committee has not determined a chair or their goals yet.
8. Options Program: Pre-manufacturing: Robin Ledversis, Supervisor of Enhanced Programs and Initiatives, addressed the committee and spoke about the various programs she manages including Manufacturing, which is a collaboration with Northwestern Connecticut Community College, Oliver Wolcott Technical High School (OWT) and Torrington High School to provide 16 weeks of theory and shop two hours per day. The program offers four college credits at no cost to students or TPS, a grant pays for supplies, and OWT pays for the staff. The students can become NIMS certified—a student involved for two years can receive two NIMS certifications. Students will then become eligible to attend Central Connecticut State University. It has become a model program.

Technical schools throughout the state need students to go into apprenticeships, and TPS was written into a grant as the lead area for apprenticeships and internships for its students. Mr. Kissko commented that this program could include students who applied to OWT but were not accepted.

Ms. Ledversis reported that there is a grant commitment from 10 businesses for unpaid internships. Medical, child care, social services, hospital, etc. are participating. This is in partnership with the Northwest Chamber of Commerce. The program begins October 7, 2015.

Ms. Ledversis presented information on Manufacturers and STEAM experiences. Kevin Canady, manufacturing teacher and role model, will run this engineering design challenge and problem solving program. Local businesses like Altek and Dymex are growing. Mr. Kissko stated that these are experiences that could turn into jobs. Ms. Ledversis said that was the goal for next year. Ms. Richardson stated support for this program and the opportunities it provides. Many kids go to college and end up with loans and debt. This program gives students another option.

9. Old Business: P.E. deference to academic courses was discussed.
10. Comments for the Good of the Order: Ms. Ledversis expressed an interest in a future talk with or presentation to the Board about marketing. Ms. Richardson asked if the BOE was setting up a sub-committee of the marketing committee. Mr. Kissko suggested it best to wait to see how the city committee proceeds.
11. Topics for Future Meetings: Goals—Endorsement and Revision 2015-2016; impact of secondary reorganization ideas, questions, information; NEASC
12. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
13. Meeting adjourned 7:56 p.m.