

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on August 5, 2020.



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Wednesday, July 15, 2020, 5:00 PM
355 Migeon Ave – Zoom Meeting**

Member of the public were able to e-mail and dial in their comments regarding the agenda. They were also able to watch the meeting 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. Kissko made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
4. School/Community Service/Public Participation:
Mr. Lafreniere – Commented on the refund of the D.C. Trip. Thanked the administration for end of the year celebrations for the students. He also commented on school re-opening.
Ms. Cassidy – Commented on school re-opening and the health and safety of our teachers and students.
5. Information Sharing Session:
 - A. Superintendent's Report: Ms. Lubomski started her report commenting on how amazing the graduation video and the THS graduation parade turned out. The graduating students received their diplomas then attended the drive-in movie theater. She stated that she is beaming with pride for our seniors. There will be a senior outing with social distancing next week. Thank you to Jason Lafreniere for coordinating the Washington DC trip, even though it was not able to happen this year. Torrington Public Schools is being represented as one of the 19 districts for the opportunities we are creating for our students in the work force to guide them in their future. Ms. Lubomski was one of the Superintendents asked to be on this team.
 - B. Re-Opening Plan: Ms. Lubomski started off by stating that because we are a public school, we are mandated by the Governor and Commissioner to do as they deem is correct, possible, and reasonable. The Re-Opening Plan states the mandates and guidelines have been given to the entire

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board. We have to submit a plan that will be accepted by the State on how we are addressing the mandates and the guidelines for re-opening. Next week, we will be going over more of the details and specifics. We had to include 3 phases. There is a mandate that we re-open our schools with every student every day. It is possible for every student to come to school and socially distance 4-6 feet. The next stage is the hybrid model, 50% of the students would come to school 2 days a week and Wednesday would be distance learning. There will be a parent survey sent out after the details are presented next Wednesday. As Connecticut schools plan to reopen, the guidance and considerations outlined in the state document are grounded in the following six guiding principles:

1. Safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff;
2. Allowing all students the opportunity to return to school full time starting in the fall; (however, a distance learning option will be available as well)
3. Monitoring the school, students and staff and, when necessary, potentially cancelling classes in the future to appropriately contain COVID-19 spread;
4. Emphasizing equity, access and support to the students and communities that are emerging from this historic disruption;
5. Fostering strong two-way communication with partners such as families, educators, and staff; and
6. Factoring into decisions about reopening the challenges to the physical safety,
7. Social-emotional well-being, and the mental health needs of our students when they are not in school.

Next year, we will be starting the school year with 1:1 devices. If students are learning from home, we will have a structured student day. They will have to attend their classes virtually at the beginning of the school day.

If there is a resurgence, we would move towards students being in school 50% of the time. If there is a huge resurgence and the state shuts down, then all students will be on distance learning. Some of the items that will be implemented for the safety of students, staff and families, will be cleaning and disinfecting, social distancing will be maintained, masks will be required of students and staff (unless there is a medical reason), there will be a mask breaks, there will be cohorts, and lockers will not be used in schools. Students will be assigned one bus for the year.

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Parents are encouraged to drive their students to school if possible. Students will eat in their classrooms or in their cohorts. Students 9-12 will be social distanced during the lunch time. We will need to have heat wave closures because some of our buildings do not have air conditioning. If there is a case of one student/staff tests positive, there is a plan for a short (2-5 days) or a possible 10 days closure to disinfect the school. We would have immediately consult with Torrington Health Department, and they will determine if we will do a short or long closure. The Torrington Re-opening Plan draft is listed on the website. We are relying on the honor system for people to report the positive results. We also have nurses who will closely monitor any sick student. Mr. Eucalitto asked about the cellphones being a safety issue and what the intervention will be regarding that. Will the teachers be able to intervene because they don't want to touch their cellphones? The chair stated that we can reach out to DPH to find out if the virus can live on the surface for a period of time and if we should allow cellphones or other belongings brought into the buildings. Ms. Hoehne stated that if you cannot allow anything from home into school then the students cannot bring their Chromebook back and forth. Ms. Lubomski said the cell phones are a policy issue. Ms. Fappiano wanted to know how the Central Office is getting the input from the teachers. Ms. Klimaszewski talked about the cohorts in special education and their plan. They were already working on having cohorts based on the needs. Ms. Todor asked for an idea of what a typical day will look like in the school. Will there be recess? Yes. The chair wanted to point out that we tried hard to push back in getting some type of formal commitment when a student will be in school or distance learning, but we did not receive it. The parents can make the decision if their child will be distance learning or come to school, and they can change their minds. However, we strongly encourage parents to make a choice for the entire trimester or quarter. Ms. Richardson wanted the plan to consider safety of the students in the regular areas not just COVID. She talked about the face coverings and the guidelines of what is constituted a face mask to be clarified. At this point forward, the only optional policy would be the masks everything else is considered procedural. Mr. Arum spoke about the COVID expenses. Monitors on buses 2 hours each day \$379,972, custodians 14 or sanitizers \$802,256, 2 additional nurses \$100,000, supplies for

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children's masks \$294,840, n95 masks \$2,380, clear masks \$120, gowns level \$2,890, wipes \$3,025, paper towels \$19,345, sanitizers \$7,692, face shields \$780, hand soap \$20,900, hand sanitizers \$24,975, extra trash cans \$1,438, latex gloves \$750, water bottle filling stations \$22,750, moving expenses \$30,000, teachers' plexi shield \$74,900. The café table divider and additional staff. Right now, the total is \$1,787,013. Ms. Lubomski said we might need to hire 10 more teachers. Ms. Ferguson stated that we will have to adjust the curriculum.

- C. CARES Act Grant: Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund - Summer School THS, TMS and K-5 \$11,000, professional development \$113,465, social emotional support \$10,000, software licenses \$122,217, computers \$297,700, docking stations/monitors \$98,400 and nonpublic \$7,900. Total of \$660,682 relief fund. Ms. Fappiano wanted the administration to investigate Chromebook carrying cases for students.
- D. Alliance Update: Ms. Lubomski met with our Alliance State Representative with the progress we were able to make. She shared the Alliance proposal for 2020/2021 with a strong instructional core and social emotional core. Our Alliance fund total is \$3,024,827. There are findings that some of the Alliance districts are out performing those districts without Alliance funding.
- E. Budget Update 2019-2020 Financials: Mr. Arum went over the budget line items.
- F. Copier Bids – * PRISM equipment Toshiba \$119,204.09
*Janco Business equipment Toshiba \$123,597.14\$
*ACT Group equipment RICOH \$156,610.16
* KOTA equipment Canon \$157,981.08
* CBS equipment Xerox \$163,650.48
Mr. Arum stated that Toshiba provides the service that we want.
- G. Torrington High School ADA Project State #143-0072CV – Mr. Arum stated that this project is now complete.
- H. Secondary Renovation Project
- Building Committee
 - Marketing Committee
- The roles and responsibilities were passed out to the board for the school building committee. We will talk more about this next week.
- I. 2020/2021 School Calendar Proposal – Ms. Lubomski presented the calendar for 177 student days. School will

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start on September 8th. The board discussed the professional development days and snow days.

6. Action Items:
 - A. Alliance Proposal: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to authorize the Superintendent to forward the alliance proposal, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.
 - B. Budget Update 2019-2020: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the monthly financials, second by Ms. Spino. All in favor.
 - C. Copier Bid Award Approval – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to award the bid to PRISM, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
 - D. Mr. Maniccia made a motion that the Board of Education approves to close the Torrington High School ADA Project State #143-0072CV as complete, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - E. 2020/2021 School Calendar Proposal – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the calendar as presented, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - F. Consent Agenda: Appointments, Retirements & Resignations –the wrong consent agenda was sent out this is the correct one for everyone to review. Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
7. Comments for the Good of the Order: (The following comments are paraphrased.)

Gary Eucalitto – “Thank you to the administration for working so hard.”

John Kissko – “This staff is not getting the summer to recharge, so we are even more appreciative of all the work that they do.”

Armand Maniccia – “Thank you to all the staff for working so hard this summer.”

Jessica Richardson – “I second what everyone else said.”

Ellen Hoehne – “I echo what everyone else says and the graduation was phenomenal.”

Chair – “We will be taking about the masks in school improvement. I wanted to talk about the graduation, it was a tremendous amount of work and it was amazing. Regarding fall sports, the guidelines are being identified and they will go to our athletic director by August 1st.”
8. Adjournment: Mr. Kissko made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:00P.M.