

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on April 22, 2020.



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Special Meeting of the Board of Education Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 5:00 P.M. Remote Meeting

People may dial in to join the meeting at (425) 436-6343 (Access Code: 225583)

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 5:06 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Todor, Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Spino, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Fappiano,
Also Presents: Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Klimaszewski, Ms. Herold
3. Discussion:
 - a. Washington DC Trip – We can reschedule for the last week of July or first week of August, another option is to cancel the trip all together. Jason Lafreniere said that everyone would be reimbursed back – 159 passengers will receive back a total of \$18,285.00 except the cost of insurance which was \$115. Mr. Lafreniere is suggesting that we still have the trip and it would have to occur sometimes prior to August 8th, 2020, any family that is not able to attend the trip on the rescheduled date would still get the refund except for the \$115.00. Mr. Lafreniere did reach out to the chaperones attending the trip to make sure that we still have enough. Mr. Maniccia said that we need to reach out to the parents to see what their opinions are. Mr. Lafreniere said that we need at least 35 students to run the trip. Mr. Eucalitto agrees with Mr. Lafreniere. If we were to have the trip the parents have 45 days when we depart without penalty to cancel. We need to pay the staff chaperons in the summer which is \$11,818.12. The board thinks that the survey would be the next step to see if parents even want to go. The survey will go out tomorrow and give the parents until Tuesday to complete it. We will schedule another remote meeting to make a final decision.

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- b. Distance Learning Policy: This has not gone through policy formally. However, the members did look at this policy in advance. This is only relative to COVID-19. Shipman and Goodwin have prepared the policy. Policy members did have questions that were answered. Everyone on the board received the policy. The policy is applicable for this time. The board discussed the wording in the last paragraph and change the order of the last paragraph. The chair wants us to move the policy with the changes that the board wants to make.
 - c. Torrington High School Renovation Update: at this point we are starting it back with some city council members that did not have any idea what was going on with the project. The chair stated that this process started 2 years ago, and we have extended invitations to city council and board of finance. If we are going to go through this process again having people brought on from the committees, it would push everything back a year.. The Superintendent stated that we do not know that the state would give us this extension and giving ourselves a little more time and our community leaders are more informed and it will be more respectful for families affected by COVID-19. Mr. Eucalitto does not believe we should concede. It is not an option of renovating or doing nothing, there are needs of the THS building that cannot be ignored anymore. We are doing a chronology of everything that was done and we are gathering a lot of information for them. The state is willing to support it if the town is willing to support it. Remote joint meeting set up in April – the board members said yes.
 - d. Update on COVID-19 – The Chair said the amount of work that our central office staff, faculty, and administrators in the building is nothing short of amazing. They are working 12-15 hours a day right now in the last three weeks. We are thriving. We are in a much better place than other districts. We have made decisions that are thoughtful and not reactionary and looked at the pros and cons. Ms. Lubomski thanked her staff. Ms. Ferguson said that around 3:30 P.M. close to 97% at that moment were engaged in online learning. Ms. Klimaszewski said that we have gotten out lesson plans out for SPED. Ms. Schulte stated that CIGNA has offered a lot of resources for the staff. We did decide to go forward with our 3rd annual walking challenge. We have about 95 staff registered in one day. Staff is excited to keep this going. Ms. Lubomski said that Ali and Cooper have been answering all the tech questions. They have been non-stop and amazing. Another laptop distribution Tuesday.
4. Possible Executive Session Regarding State of Emergency:
Mr. Kissko made a motion to go into executive session regarding state of emergency inviting in Ms. Lubomski, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
The board of education entered executive session at 6:40 P.M.
The board of education returned to open session at 7:20 P.M.
 5. Action Items:
 - a. Washington DC Trip - postpone
 - b. Distance Learning Policy – Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the COVID-19 Distance Learning policy with the changes, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
 6. Adjournment: Ms. Spino made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 P.M.