



## **Torrington Public Schools**

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI  
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSON  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

### **School Improvement Committee Wednesday, August 5, 2020, 5:00 P.M. 355 Migeon Ave**

#### **Draft Minutes**

1. Call to Order: 5:01 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Mr. Kissko, Ms. Todor, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Fappiano, Ms. Gelermino (Teacher Rep.)  
Also Present: Ms. Cappabianca (via Zoom), Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Maniccia, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Ms. Ledversis, Mr. Arum, Ms. Herold
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Fappiano made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Ms. Richardson. All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes: Ms. Fappiano made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Richardson. All in favor.
5. Public Participation:  
Mr. Lafreniere – Spoke on the topic of retaining the term Raider for the sake of consistency.  
Discussion and Next Steps:
  - a. THS Mascot: Ms. Lubomski explained that she had received several communications from community stakeholders expressing concern over the use of the Red Raider mascot. Ms. Ledversis shared that the Red Raider has been removed from all signs, etc. The term Raiders is still being used, but the “Red” and the “Indian” have not been used in quite some time. Currently, a “T” is being used as a symbol/logo. Ms. Cappabianca asked the committee to consider officially removing the term Red from Raiders and not using the Indian symbol going forward. Given that the “T” is just a symbol, the school community will select a new mascot at some point in the future. The committee will move this to the full board.
  - b. Middle School Student Support Changes: Mrs. Fergusson presented the rationale behind the changes to the middle school schedule. She explained that after careful review of student assessment data throughout the past few years, as well as discussion with grade 9 teachers, it’s become clear that the students leaving

the “enriched” courses at TMS are not necessarily as prepared for high school level courses as they should be. Student assessment data indicates that many students who are enrolled to “enriched” classes, do not have the test scores to align with that. This is what prompted the schedule change. The new schedule/structure provides many opportunities throughout the day for students to receive the differentiated instruction that they need. Priorities are: Creating the atmosphere of a smaller school environment to enhance the student learning experience; creating academic continuity vertically and horizontally; supporting student academic needs through targeted instruction; collaborating to meet individual student needs; increasing social emotional support. A multi-year professional learning plan provides for: Universal Design for Learning, high leverage instructional strategies, multi-tiered systems of support, differentiation, instructional rounds, co-teaching, and social emotional learning. Curriculum revision & enhancement continue to occur: ELA, math, social studies, science, as well as the creation of common formative & summative assessments.

6. Comments for the Good of the Order: The following comments are paraphrased:  
Ms. Lubomski “Looking forward to implementing the TMS schedule for next year.”  
Mr. Eucalitto “I think the new middle school schedule is a refreshing change.”  
Ms. Ledversis “It is exciting, and our kids are capable.”  
Ms. Todor “I look forward to seeing how it works.”
7. Topics for Future Meetings:
  - a. TAG
8. Adjournment: Ms. Fappiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Richardson. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:47 P.M.  
Next Meeting: September 2, Migeon Ave.