

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
April 4, 2007**

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cavagnero at 7:05 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Mr. Broverman, Mrs. Carbone, Mr. Cavagnero, Miss Laus, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Lutka, Mr. O'Connell, Mr. Oliver, Mrs. Traub, Mayor Bingham (arrived at 8:26 p.m.), Steve Nocera, Miss Shugrue, Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes

Absent: Prof. Royals, Mr. Jacobs, Miss Kulesza

SCHOOL COMMUNITY SESSION

Public Participation

Karen Albreada – She spoke regarding the budget. She feels that Dr. O'Brien has presented a budget that is reasonable and structured to meet the criteria for the upcoming accreditation for THS. She feels that the request for a social worker for THS and TMS is critical. She also supports acquiring 2 special ed teachers and 2 language arts teachers for TMS.

Kathy Lovetere – She spoke regarding the budget. She stated she is in favor of Dr. O'Brien's budget.

Sue McKernan and Matt Harnett – She spoke on behalf of the Torrington Administrators Association. She thanked and commended the members of the budget subcommittee for their hard work on the budget. She stated she supports the Superintendent's budget, but does not support the loss of an assistant principal. She strongly supports staffing increases such as the addition of a social worker at the secondary level, a media specialist at Southwest School, 2 ESL teachers, an increase of a 0.5 reading consultant and 0.5 literacy support teacher, the addition of instructional area leaders in science and social studies at the high school, 2 special ed teachers and 2 language arts teachers at the TMS, and a desperately needed additional computer tech staff member for the district. But again, she reiterated she does not support the loss of an assistant principal as she feels this position is critically needed and asks that this recommendation be reconsidered by the Board.

Grace Michnevitz – She spoke in support of Dr. O’Brien’s budget. She stated she would rather have her tax dollars increased for better education than to build more prisons. She also asked that administrative positions not be cut.

Fiona Cappabianca – She spoke against the elimination of the assistant principal position at Forbes School. She feels this position is critically needed.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

On a motion by Mr. O’Connell, with a second by Mr. Lyons, the Board moved to approve the agenda amended to include a discussion item on the Board’s position on electronic participation of Board members at Board meetings. All were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by Mr. O’Connell, with a second by Miss Laus, the Board moved to approve the minutes of March 7, 2007.

Mr. O’Connell noted that the motion and the vote precede the discussion throughout the minutes. He believes the motion and discussion should precede the vote. The Board agreed that this should be sequential.

All were in favor.

On a motion by Mrs. Traub, with a second by Mr. Broverman, the Board moved to approve the minutes of March 21, 2007.

Corrections were made by Mr. Broverman who stated that on page 10, he believed the 2 bottom comments were made by Mr. Lutka. Mrs. Traub also noted that on page 3, it should read “The Minds in Motion,” on page 8, the amount should read \$3,380, and on page 11, it should read Mr. O’Connell instead of Mr. McConnell.

All were in favor.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

Student Board Member Reports

Miss Shugrue spoke on behalf of THS. The THS Student Council is first planning another blood drive through the help of the American Red Cross. Next T-fest is coming up in May, the week of the 13th. The entire community is invited to join in the festivities. Lastly, the prom will be held at the Villa Rosa on June 8th.

Mrs. Traub asked Miss Shugrue how she and the other Student Board members get their information for their report. Miss Shugrue responded that they get emails from their Student Council advisors from each school.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. O'Brien reported regarding the debriefing held on March 30th, which took place with her staff particularly Mr. Bascetta, Director of Facilities, Police Chief Robert Milano, Fire Chief John Field, and others. They looked critically at the communications and outcomes. After an hour-long discussion, everyone felt that the communication was excellent among all the departments and the Board of Ed. They felt like the students were protected, which is the number one task in this type of situation, and they came away with even stronger ideas for communication and a unified response to crises in the future. Chief Fields mentioned that in a previous debriefing with DEP, all of the departments, as well as the Board of Education, had been commended for the excellent response with the mercury spill.

Dr. O'Brien also addressed the budget. She thanked everyone for their attendance and support for the work of the Board and the benefit for the students. She commented that she wants to go on record as saying that 4 teachers cannot be cut from THS without seriously damaging NEASC. Their report will turn out negatively, and the school's accreditation will be in jeopardy. So she wants to be very clear that if those 4 teachers are cut, that is what will happen, and accountability will be a huge burden not only for THS but for the community in the future. She also stated she agrees with the people who spoke about the AP. The AP cannot be cut without damaging the experience for the young people. She would like the Board to think long and hard about the cutting of the AP which took place. She feels there may be some other economies which could be offered to replace that \$95,000.

CONSENT AGENDA

Certified Staff Resignations/Appointments

Sheila Conlin, Math Lead Teacher-DW, retire eff 6/30/07

Contract Addenda

Newell Porch, Student Transition Leader-HS, eff 2006-2007

Joseph Minutillo, Student Transition Leader-HS, eff 2006-2007

Patricia Strawson, Instructional Area Leaders for Math and
Science-HS, eff 2006-2007

Mary McVerry, Instructional Area Leaders for English and
Social Studies-HS, eff 2006-2007

Coaching Appointments – 2006-2007 Spring Sports

Donald Whitley, Head Boys' Track-MS

William Meskill, Asst. Girls' Track-MS

Henry Marchand, Asst. Boys' Track-MS

Eric Mahar, Head Baseball-MS

David Lopardo, Head Girls' Track-MS

Erika Fritch, Head Softball-MS

Mike Tyler, Head Girls' Track-HS
Todd Thompson, Asst. Baseball-HS
Arthur Richardson, Asst. Baseball-HS
Newell Porch, Head Boys' Tennis-HS
Tammy Ostroski, Asst. Softball-HS
John Nickles, Head Girls' Tennis-HS
Maryann Musselman, Head Softball-HS
Joseph Minutillo, Head Golf-HS
Andrew Marchand, Head Boys' Track-HS
Alan Kittle, Asst. Boys' Track-HS
Gerry Carbone, Head Baseball-HS

In a motion by Mr. O'Connell, with a second by Mr. Oliver, the Board moved to approve the consent agenda. All were in favor except for Mrs. Carbone who abstained.

DISCUSSION ITEM

Electronic Voting Process

Dr. O'Brien stated that one of the primary duties of the administrative office is to serve the Board of Education both as a governing body, as well as individuals who raise questions or concerns. Obviously, tonight is a very important evening for the life and the work of the Board. The Board will be hopefully approving a budget proposal that will be sent over to the Board of Finance. This is one of the Board's primary statutory duties, and she knows they take it very seriously. Given the weighty responsibility of tonight's business, Prof. Royals was extraordinarily distressed that she could not be physically present to engage in the last discussion and to cast her vote. Prof. Royals was over at the administrative offices at Migeon Avenue late last week, and expressed her concern again, and administration contacted their attorney to see if there would be any way possible that Prof. Royals' participation could be provided for. This may also be helpful for other Board members in the future as well. The Board has been given a statement from Atty. Vic Muschell which was shared with the administrative office. Once this particular statement and guidance was received from Atty. Muschell, administration looked to see if they actually had the technology available to make this possible, and after some searching around and working with the different models that were available, they were able to put together an electronic package, actually a conference call, that would allow Prof. Royals to participate. She knows that Atty. Muschell would have been happy to be here to discuss this with the Board and to answer their questions or concerns, but unfortunately he has the flu. Dr. O'Brien invited Atty. Chris Chinni to come to the table to help the Board through this discussion and answer questions, as she is standing in for Vic Muschell.

Mr. O'Connell stated that in Dr. O'Brien's communication to the Board yesterday, she indicated that Prof. Royals' right to participate was guaranteed by the statute, and asked if this was correct. Dr. O'Brien stated she did not say that. She used the word guaranteed,

but she didn't say by the particular statute. In fact, the citation that Atty. Muschell has provided actually comes from FOI, and it is Section 1-200, and is listed in the item on the Board's table.

The Board member stated that Atty. Muschell, who is their Board attorney, indicated that the notice to the meeting should include some reference that a vote may be taken in part by telephone, but his Agenda packet indicates no such notice. Atty. Chinni stated that is not required by the statute because the definition of meeting includes participation and any communication to or by whether in person or by means of electronic equipment. So it is assumed within the definition of a meeting, and there is really no need to provide separate notice of that under Freedom of Information.

Mr. O'Connell stated that with all due respect their attorney is Vic Muschell, and he has indicated in his communication that the notice of the meeting should include some reference that a vote may be taken in part by telephone, and he is concerned that the Board would be contrary to their attorney's advice in that regard. He also stated that he did ask the administration how this would take place, because it may be something that he might consider availing himself of tonight, and he did not get a response to that. So he is also troubled by the fact that he was not given the same opportunity to participate electronically tonight. He would suggest referring this to policy as opposed to taking any action tonight in terms of allowing this to occur. He thinks this is great policy debate for the policy committee to resolve, so that the Board knows as a matter of policy how to address this each time it comes up.

Atty. Chinni stated that she is here tonight not as the administration's attorney, but as the attorney for the Board of Education in Atty. Muschell's absence. She does not represent Dr. O'Brien and the administration.

Mr. Cavagnero added that he did speak to Atty. Muschell on the phone, and it was his understanding that she did have the right to participate electronically.

Mr. O'Connell stated there is a difference between a right and a permissive. He says that it is permitted for the Board to do this, not that she has a right to do this. The statute as he reads it gives the Board absolutely the right to allow for electronic communication. He asked Atty. Chinni if there is some indication that the Board has an absolute statutory obligation to allow somebody to participate electronically at this meeting. Atty. Chinni responded that it is the Board's decision as to whether or not to allow that.

Mr. Lutka stated that he thinks that allowing members of the Board of Education to vote by virtue of electronic media establishes a very dangerous precedent. They all have to come here. He realizes that sometimes it is difficult for everybody to be there at the meeting. But he thinks if they start to phone in votes, it is going to become very easy to say that they will watch it on T.V., leave the conference call on, and phone in their votes from home. This obligation is something that he takes very seriously and he attended all of the budget hearing meetings that it was possible for him to attend so that he could vote in an intelligent manner. He feels bad about speaking against Prof. Royals' right to vote,

but he thinks they establish a very dangerous precedent by allowing somebody to phone their vote in.

Mr. Lyons said that he sees this as an opportunity to allow members of the Board who cannot be at the meeting and wish to weigh in on important situations to still participate. He knows there needs to be specific guidelines so that individuals won't abuse the situation, but he thinks this is a new avenue that they seriously need to think about and moves towards with the understanding that it would not be abused. For what they are dealing with tonight and the importance of this particular subject and Prof. Royals' interest in it, he doesn't see a problem with having her participate electronically.

In a motion by Mr. Oliver, with a second by Mr. Lutka, the Board moved to end the discussion. All were in favor except for Mr. Lyons and Miss Laus who were opposed.

In a motion by Mr. Lutka, with a second by Mr. O'Connell, the Board moved to refer to the policy committee for consideration and a future recommendation. All were in favor except for Mr. Lyons and Miss Laus who were opposed.

ACTION ITEMS

Appointment of Director of Human Resources, effective 2007-2008

In a motion by Mrs. Traub, and a second by Mr. Broverman, the Board moved to approve the appointment of the Director of Human Resources.

Dr. O'Brien reported that administration is thrilled to have Mr. William Joslyn joining the executive team at Migeon. He will be working with Dr. Lambour over the next few months to provide for a smooth transition. He has served this district admirably as principal of Vogel-Wetmore school for many years.

Mr. Joslyn thanked the Board and stated that he thinks one of the most important things that can be done for the schools is to acquire talented staff and support personnel so that the students at Torrington Public Schools will continue to benefit. He doesn't take that job lightly. He looks forward to the challenges within his position and to following in the footsteps of Dr. Lambour.

All were in favor.

Receive 2006-2007 Budget Reduction Plan

In a motion by Mrs. Carbone, with a second by Mr. O'Connell, the Board moved to receive the 2006-2007 budget reduction plan.

Mr. O'Connell offered the recommendation of the budget committee with respect to this receipt. Back in January of this year, the budget committee asked the administration to

come forward with a plan to balance the current year budget because of a fairly significant deficit at that time. But in terms of specific cuts, the budget committee never asked or requested any specific item to be cut. On March 14th, that proposal was sent back to administration by the budget committee for some dollars associated with the areas that they were looking to cut to offset the budget, and that came back on March 28th. This is just a plan, as there is no telling what tomorrow might bring in terms of costs that the administration could not predict or revenue that the administration could not predict such as out of district placement revenue that may cover some of the deficit. The budget committee is recommending acknowledgement that the administration has come forward with a sound plan to make sure that the budget is balanced. He also noted that within this budget there is an item to not pay for substitutes for field trips, but administration has been vocal and adamant that they have and will continue to find ways to cover those classrooms, so that the senior outings and field trips at the high school in particular will be met.

Dr. O'Brien stated that it was never anyone's intention that the children should suffer as a consequence of these cuts. She knows Dr. Metallo feels extremely dedicated to all the activities of the students, and he has gone on record saying that the activities will move forward. However, it is going to be difficult. Teachers are stepping forward to help sub for each other. Administrators are also stepping forward.

All were in favor.

Approve 2007-2008 Capital Plan Amendment

In a motion by Mr. O'Connell, with a second by Mr. Lutka, the Board moved to switch action items number 3 and 5 on the agenda. All were in favor.

In a motion by Mrs. Carbone, with a second by Mr. Oliver, the Board moved to amend tonight's agenda so the sequence will read numbers 4, 5, and 3. All were in favor.

Receive Budget Committee Recommendation for 2007-2008 Budget Proposal

In a motion by Mrs. Traub, with a second by Mrs. Carbone, the Board moved to receive the budget proposal 2007-2008.

Mr. Broverman commended the budget committee for their wonderful job. His only changes would be that he would like to see the Assistant Principal's position restored and put back into the budget.

Mr. O'Connell offered the budget committee's recommendation. Two weeks ago, they presented a preliminary recommendation regarding the budget, and they are here tonight with their final recommendation regarding the budget. Their recommendation essentially begins with what the Superintendent proposed on February 21st with the following modifications. What the Superintendent proposed on February 21st was a budget of

\$60,207,066. The budget committee is recommending a budget of \$59,911,081 or a 6.27% increase in the current year budget, and they get to that by reducing the health insurance account by \$200,871. This is based upon preliminary information regarding the renewal rate for the upcoming year. The Worker's Compensation premium, they are proposing be increased by \$23,266, and that is because of renewal information on the Worker's Compensation premium suggesting that it will be that much higher in the upcoming year. Regarding Forbes supplies, the Forbes site budget recognized that it would be losing students in the attendance modification plan and consequently reduced its budget. The budget committee recognized that the other sites that would be receiving those students did not have corresponding increases. With the idea being that with the attendance modification plan that the needs of the students would follow the students to the new schools, they thought it appropriate to restore the Forbes site budget so there is an increase of \$3,380. They are not funding the THS GOAL program next year, and so the bus is not necessary, so the budget committee is recommending a reduction of \$40,851. Nor is the place holder in the budget for the THS GOAL facility necessary, so they are recommending a reduction of \$56,500. The Superintendent in her proposal reduced the first year of the Board's capital plan by \$149,500, and the budget committee was not comfortable with that, but this is not because they think that there are not reasons to consider adjusting the capital and that is something that is in the agenda. There is a summer pay differential and Mr. O'Connell stated that he will be honest in saying that he doesn't fully understand this, but he has budget committee members who do, and they assured him that this makes sense, so they are looking to have a summer pay differential reduction in the budget of \$200,000. He thinks this is a number that the administration can live with. As far as bus fuel, they are looking reduce the account by \$40,000, which is something administration came forward with, as they are looking at the cost of fuel coming down over what they had initially predicted. As far as the Assistant Principal position, the budget committee recommendation is to not fund this position of \$95,809. The reason for that is that when the administration presented its site budgets, it proposed not including this Assistant Principal at Forbes School. That proposal was tested by the budget committee and the public, and the administration stood fast that the attendance modification plan would succeed without that administrative position. With all due respect to the Administrators Association who spoke tonight, many of their questions and concerns regarding the Assistant Principal were raised by the budget committee and the public when that occurred. At the time that site was reviewed, they were assured by the administration that this position was not necessary. As far as the high school, the only position that they are looking to reduce is a HS World Language teacher, and that was based upon a recent run of the schedule for next year by the administration, and also in part based upon the change in the graduation requirements. It was determined that one HS World Language teacher at \$44,500 could be sustained. Instructional area leaders were initially proposed to backfill for some of those, for the time that they are doing instructional area leader work, and the administration determined that with the staffing pattern at the HS, as it has been proposed, that they find economies where other people could take care of those positions without having to add that to the budget. So they are proposing a reduction for that of \$35,600. Food Service should bear its share of Worker's Compensation premiums. In the initial proposal, there was about \$8000 that was in the budget as opposed to Food Service. The administration did a great job of

identifying that. So they are proposing reducing the budget, essentially shifting that expense to the Food Service account. Then as he noted at the last meeting, the budget committee is proposing an increase in the Special Education Out of District account for tuition and transportation of \$250,000, and that will be a reserve to be used specifically and solely for those costs should there be cost overruns next year. Should there not be cost overruns, that this money be returned to the City and not be spent on other items. With those adjustments, they arrived at a total of \$59,911,081 for an increase over the current budget of 6.27%. He thinks it is worth noting that based upon past experience, it is likely that the reserve for Special Education district placement will be spent. If it is not necessary to dip into that reserve, the increase that this budget recommendation would represent would be a 5.83% increase in the overall budget.

Mr. Lyons stated he did not necessarily hear the administration assure that the Assistant Principal was not needed. It meant that position would be reassigned somewhere, but they did not know at this particular point where, because things have not settled down and that it was still on the drawing board.

Mr. O'Connell stated what he said was that it was not necessary for the area modification plan. He absolutely agreed that the administration did not say they did not want that position.

Mrs. Carbone stated she thinks Mr. O'Connell has covered all the bases, but she would also like to address what she heard about the Assistant Principal. She heard that position was sort of out separate and apart, and there was no identification of what the plan was. She believes the Board had received at some point between January and February, a plan to move that administrator to the THS GOAL program. When that program was not going to be funded, she thinks that administrative position was put off to the side. The discussion at a Board meeting did go on record that the area modification did not require additional administrative staff at the Forbes School location, and the committee even considered the administrative position at the middle school, where they were also told it was not needed. She wants it to be on record that the decision to eliminate the position was not made arbitrarily.

Mr. O'Connell stated that he doesn't think the budget committee eliminated the position, but they were presented a budget that did not include that Assistant Principal in a particular location, and so their recommendation was that they were not going to fund a position that was not at a particular location.

Mrs. Traub assured the public that when the budget committee does go through this, they do not take this lightly, and she goes through every line item, and compares and contrasts, and really digs for things. But the reality is salary and benefits are 76.8% of the budget; transportation is 5.9%; tuition for out of district 7.5%; and energy and fuel 4.0%, which totals 94% of the budget. If you want to talk about supplies, books, property, and equipment for the students, 1.7% of the total budget goes to the students for those things. The majority of the budget is salaries and out of district, which they already know they have issues with. If they are faced with going in front of the Board of Finance, and the

Board of Finance does come back with cuts, 77% of the budget is salaries. They are not looking to disregard the fact that teachers and administrators are needed. They were told that the AP position was kind of out in limbo. They did not say they didn't need it, however, there was no place for it at that point. Her recommendation was to make the motion to remove the AP position. If she needs to reword that to say remove \$95,000 from the salary line item, so be it. She is just looking at salaries and where they have to cut \$300,000, \$400,000, or \$200,000. That is not going to be cut out of textbooks. She still supports removing that \$95,000. She still supports the cuts as they are. If the description needs to be changed for that to read salaries, she would support that.

Mr. Lutka said that he would like to commend the budget committee for an excellent job on the budget. He has witnessed the majority of the meetings they have had concerning this, and the amount of dialogue that was allowed. But in the interest of being able to expedite the agenda, he would like to move the question on receiving the budget.

In a motion by Mr. Lutka, with a second by Mr. Oliver, the Board moved the question on receiving the budget. All were in favor.

All were in favor of receiving the budget recommendation for the 2007-2008 budget proposal.

Dr. O'Brien stated she does appreciate all the input from the Board on the particular AP question, but since she has been quoted a number of times she would like to go on record with the quotes that she believes she owns. The first that she would like to own is that when they did the attendance area modification, they were trying to keep that as cost neutral as possible in all respects. By that she meant that they were not going to ask for any additional administrators to be hired to facilitate that. When you just look at the numbers, she made the point of saying that if Forbes School goes down to 400 students, a full-time assistant principal was not necessary. Also, those statements were made at the middle school hearing, as well as the Forbes hearing, which occurred very early in the process. She was really moved by a lot of the stakeholder input, most notably, Fiona's. After hearing her speak a number of times, and going beyond the numbers and looking at the slices and the needs of those youngsters, it became apparent that they can implement that plan without having a half time AP at Forbes and a half time AP at Southwest. But it will not be the most successful and responsive implementation because the parents will not get the attention they need, the children will not have another person with whom they can bond, the teachers will not have additional support, and in that particular year of transition she would strongly support Mrs. Theeb having a half-time principal to help her at Southwest School and to reassure parents that this is going to be successful, and she would strongly support Forbes having a half-time AP for all the same reasons. She has gotten there because she has listened to what the stakeholders are saying. She attended a meeting at Southwest School where the cafeteria was totally filled with interested parents. She listened carefully to those parents. She also stated it was not correct that she said there was no plan for this person. She sent every member of the Board an email in the middle of March, well before the end of this process, suggesting that the administrator absolutely could and should be used to facilitate experience for the young

people at Forbes and Southwest. This was something that was shared with the Board well over 3 weeks ago. If this Board wants to save \$95,000, Dr. Campbell is prepared to give the Board \$95,000. The money piece can be absolutely an exchange. She has to advocate for direct service for children and the retention of this AP position to help in the transition plan. They could have the plan without it, but they would be letting the children, teachers, and parents down at Forbes and Southwest schools, in her opinion.

Approve Budget Committee Recommendation for 2007-2008 Budget Proposal

In a motion by Mr. O'Connell, with a second by Mr. Lutka, the Board moved to approve the budget committee recommendation for the 2007-2008 budget proposal.

Mr. Broverman stated that they have the same number of children substantially for next year that they had for this year in the elementary schools. Where the administrator is used is an administrative decision, but if there are no fewer or greater number of students, if the position was needed this year, why would it not be needed next year? Also, the changing demographics and the complexity of the educational challenges faced by the elementary schools certainly in his view do not warrant a reduction of administrative staff. He urges the inclusion of this position.

Mr. Lutka stated he desires to see the Assistant Principal reinstated, as Dr. O'Brien has said for Forbes and Southwest. He would also like to see the proposed budget adjustments of \$95,000 in economies that Dr. Campbell has identified, so that when it is in the budget they can know exactly where that money is coming from and going to. He would like to make a motion to amend the budget to reinstate the principal for Forbes and Southwest in favor of the \$95,000 in economies, providing that administration identify for the budget exactly where those \$95,000 in economies are coming from.

In a motion by Mr. Lutka, with a second by Mr. Oliver, the Board moved to amend the current 2007-2008 budget proposal to reinstate the assistant principal position for Forbes and Southwest schools. In favor were Mr. Oliver, Mr. Lutka, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Lyons, and Miss Laus. Opposed were Mr. O'Connell, Mrs. Carbone, Mrs. Traub. The motion carries to amend.

Dr. Campbell presented that she truly believes that children are educated with people, whether they are classroom people or the administrators who support those teachers. So when the budget committee cut the AP, she went to Dr. O'Brien and said that because people educate children and boxes don't, in the capital budget she has 2 upgrade proposals, 1 at the middle school and 1 at the high school that total \$113,600. If the Board would like \$95,000 of that or all \$113,600 of it, she is offering that up because she believes people educate kids. At the middle school, this was 30 new computers for \$45,000, computer tables for \$10,000, and then upgrades in electrical and network infrastructures for about \$10,000. At the high school, it was to replace 24 of the older units for \$36,000, and again, there are labs without appropriate tables, so 25 units were going to be bought for \$9,600, and then upgrades in some wiring and cabling for \$13,000.

Mr. Lyons stated that he knew they originally had those in the capital, so he has to ask the question if they were to take those computers out, where are they going to fall short in not having that.

Dr. Campbell stated what they were attempting to do was replace other inventory with new inventory, because it is always wise to take a look at the existing inventory to put to bed some of the older machines or repurpose them, and so it was a proposal to do that in those 2 buildings. So it is not as if they are taking computers away from those buildings. What they would do is place new computers in certain sites and attempt to repurpose the old ones. She didn't make this decision lightly because she manages the computer part of this district every day, but they can do far better without repurposing and purchasing new ones than they can without people to provide direct services to students. So it just means they will postpone upgrading the inventory for a year because she will put them in the capital budget next year.

Mrs. Traub commented that this deals with the operating budget, so she thinks at this point the Board has to understand that what they do up to the point of approving this budget cannot be a discussion on capital. So they are going to have a make a decision on approving this budget without that.

In a motion by Mr. Lutka, with a second by Mr. Oliver, the Board moved to substitute the CAFE dues for an infusion into the TAG student account of \$17,000.

Mr. Lutka stated that he too has listened very carefully to Fiona, and last week she gave him excellent information to read at home about the TAG students and how well they are doing. They have won State recognition and first place in a quiz bowl that they took. It is one of the school system's very important things that they do for the students. The TAG program services students who are exceptional, and he thinks they have probably not been funding this program as well as they would like to. He thinks a good way to boost the TAG program is to substitute the CAFE dues for that.

Mr. Lyons says he has to object to that motion because of the fact that CAFE is a professional organization and it is the only organization that does provide Board of Education members with information. The Board has the responsibility of dealing with the largest budget and organization in this city, and to be making policy decisions based upon getting no information from outside sources or other Boards within this State to him is ludicrous. The Board sits here and says to the students that they want to put in money for libraries and textbooks, but yet they are going to be hypocritical and say they are not going to do it for themselves. He has no issues with TAG and he commends what they are doing, but he is strongly against this.

Mr. O'Connell pointed out that what he heard during the budget committee deliberations was that during all of the policy debates this year and all the major policy decisions they made, including some very significant changes to the graduation requirements, that at no

point in time did any of the new policies come from or through CAGE. But he thinks the history this year, based on what he heard from Mrs. Carbone, does not substantiate that.

Mr. Broverman stated he does not want to make a decision like that without any information or a recommendation from the administration. He doesn't think they should drop a membership lightly. He is all for the TAG program, but he doesn't want to throw thousands of dollars one way or another based on no information.

Mr. Lutka stated that he knows this is a sensitive issue for Mr. Lyons, but he has listened very carefully throughout the budget process to the administration, and they have all talked about how to help children. He sat through all the debate about the GOAL program, which unfortunately didn't happen even though the Board wanted to do that. He views this as his opportunity to try and find some money for some kids who are in the school system, who he thinks are not adequately budgeted for. If these are the students who are the future leaders of the City of Torrington, they ought to be providing them with more money. He feels very confident that removing themselves from CAGE and spending that money on the children would be a wise decision. He doesn't think he needs to consult with administration about how CAGE membership affects the Board, since CAGE is Boards of Education not Boards of Superintendents. He thinks this is an ideal opportunity for the Board to take funds and put them to the benefit of the children.

Miss Laus asked how many policy changes they made last year. Administration responded that they made two changes, the graduation credits and the failure grade.

Dr. Campbell stated that a lot of times administration goes to the CAGE policy website to review the policies. If they feel they are relevant for the policy committee to look at, then they bring them. Some of them simply summarize a lot of information that they already have, and since each Board of Education is free to set its own graduation requirements along as its above the State mandated 20, and since each Board can set the passing grade level, there were really no relevant policies. The policies are used in another way in administration in that a lot of the decisions that administration makes on a day to day basis are in the gray twilight zone. A lot of the decisions that administration has to make whether they come from parents, students, or teachers are in the gray area, and where there is no clear direction, she does 3 things. She goes to Tom Mooney's book on educational law, then she consults the statutes, and then she goes to the CAGE website. She uses the CAGE policy website multiple times a week when she needs clarification on a request or a situation. She also has called CAGE about legislative updates, if they affect curriculum or programming or grants, and ask them questions about these.

Miss Laus also asked how many school districts were part of CAGE. Dr. O'Brien answered that it included the vast majority of school districts and practically all the high performing school districts, in part because of the excellent inservices offered for Board members in terms of legal updates, policy, and directions in education. Dr. O'Brien stated she thinks CAGE is invaluable, and she thinks the networking and the education that is available for Board members is invaluable, because she thinks that being a Board member is an extremely difficult and complex job for a group of volunteers from a wide

range of walks of life, and CAFE is the one place where the leaders of the very best high performing districts get together and become more well educated, so they can come back and make those wide decisions that affect the children and the ultimate future of the districts. She also calls CAFE routinely, and she thinks Mr. Crusoe did a wonderful job helping them to improve business practices and communication.

Ms. Haynes stated one of the most important things from her office has been, besides some of the policies which she uses, the legislative updates. There are some measures that are in those updates which are going to impact how to do business starting July 1st. She needs to know about these things so that they can plan and put the proper things into place in advance. Something as simple as that is invaluable to her as the Director of Business Services, in order to comply with any potential laws that may take affect July 1st.

Mrs. Carbone stated she hears that they are using CAFE, but she also know that they are paying a considerable sum of money for memberships to organizations for Superintendents and also to organizations for Directors of Business Services. Does that information not come through those organizations also? Dr. O'Brien answered that they operate in different domains. Sometimes they do overlap, but they don't overlap as quickly. For example, Dr. O'Brien belongs to the States' Superintendents Association. She will find out things via their newsletter or meetings once in the fall and once in the spring, but CAFE is an ongoing support that gives the heads up on many legislative pieces, some of which could affect them very adversely. She thinks the lobbying and the advocacy for Boards of Ed coming from CAFE are both excellent. The other thing she would like the Board to consider is when there were 9 members of this Board present at the last budget committee meeting, and this CAFE membership came forward as a cut, it was defeated. She also offered a solution for the Board. She thinks if they take the \$113,000 in the computer upgrades that are not critical, that the \$95,000 can be covered and the wonderful advocacy for TAG, still leaving CAFE in place. She thinks that would be a win-win situation.

Mrs. Traub stated she thinks the reason that it did not go through on the budget committee meeting was because when they plugged it into the numbers, the difference in the percentage was so small at that point that, in her opinion, it was basically a numerical issue. It was not placing that much of a percentage effect on the overall bottom line that they were looking for, but she was on record as supporting getting rid of it.

Mr. Lyons stated he would like the Board to think in terms of their own professional careers. How many professional organizations do they belong to and why do they belong to those things? It is only as good as how much you use it.

Mr. Lutka stated that he thought out this proposal before he came weighing one benefit against the other, and he feels very strongly that the TAG students are a worthy investment.

In a motion by Mr. O’Connell, with a second by Mrs. Traub, the Board moved to call the question. In favor were Mr. Oliver, Mr. Lutka, Mr. O’Connell, Mrs. Carbone, Mrs. Traub, Miss Laus. Opposed Mr. Broverman and Mr. Lyons. The motion to move carries.

In favor on the original motion were Mr. Oliver, Mr. Lutka, Mr. O’Connell, and Mrs. Traub, and Mr. Cavagnero. Opposed were Mr. Broverman, Mrs. Carbone, Mr. Lyons, and Miss Laus. So the motion carries.

Mr. Cavagnero stated as it falls on him, he was going to support the motion. He knows that Mr. Lyons feels very strongly about this, but in his experience 2 years ago, this was voted out of the budget, and he did not notice a significant change one way or the other in the functioning of the Board. It may create some more steps for the administration, but doing both means taking money from someplace else. He doesn’t think this justifies the cost. He thinks that was proved 2 years ago, and in this very fiscally tight year, he thinks this is worth trying again.

In a motion by Mrs. Carbone, with a second by Mr. Lutka , the Board moved to add a line item to provide transportation for the students going to the Explorations Program for \$25,000.

Mrs. Carbone stated that she did look back at the dollar amounts that were kicked around, and she thinks it was \$37,000 or \$38,000. Administration stated that the bus for THS GOAL was going to cost \$48,851.

Mr. O’Connell commented that he thinks the motion needs to have a dollar amount. If they are talking about amending the budget or approving a budget, they can’t approve doing something without approving spending money to do something.

Mrs. Carbone stated she proposes putting the \$48,051 that was budgeted for the THS GOAL bus here for the Explorations Program.

Mr. Lutka commented that he feels strongly that as the Board wants to help kids, this would be a way to really help kids who want to go to school and are trying really hard, but who don’t have a way of getting there.

Mr. Lyons stated he understands wanting to help kids, and he would like that same type of emotion for helping kids to apply to all kids. So to entertain this particular issue in terms of providing transportation, he thinks that is an issue that should be dealt with in Hartford by the legislators down there.

Mayor Bingham states he does know there is a law or a bill proposed this session to provide transportation to kids going to charter schools in the State, but he has no indication on whether or not that is going to go forward. Meanwhile, his office has worked parents who advocated that the kids be brought, and they have actually moved bus routes and times so that certain kids were able to get to the charter schools. But there

is still a certain group of them that are having trouble getting to City Hall so they can get up to Winsted. He would like to help them by giving them a better idea of how much this is going to cost. He doubts it is going to be anywhere near \$48,000. There is a good group of parents who advocate for the whole community of charter schools who can get together with me and Kelly and their representatives to see if there is any way that number can be brought down.

Mr. Cavagnero asked if the Mayor could pin that number any more closely than the \$40,000 for them. Mayor Bingham stated he feels that could probably be halved.

Mrs. Carbone stated that she was willing to amend her motion to bring the sum down to \$25,000, because she thinks that could probably go a long way, and again she is thinking that they can offset some of that expenditure with some reductions elsewhere in the budget.

Miss Laus commented that her sentiments match Mr. Lyons, as there are 5000 kids in the school district that they are in charge of providing the best education for, and she wants to take care of those kids. She says there are many students who go to different charter schools around the State. If they start providing for this group of students that can't get the Kelly bus at City Hall, where does it end?

Mrs. Traub added that obviously the concern is this coming year, as the GOAL program did not go through, and there is no other plan. So that is why they are addressing this issue for this year, and she would argue that those are their children, but they dropped out of our school because they weren't being serviced.

Mr. Broverman said he would like to help the students, but in the past they voted not to help them, and some of the reasons and the arguments are coming back to him now. He would like to hear what the administration has to say on it. He also knows when legislators start to make laws in haste, sometimes they go down a road that they don't want to go down, and he is loathe to go down a path where they may end up creating a good deal of precedent that down the road is going to give them a lot of trouble. He would like to help the Explorations and he thinks they are our kids, but they have chosen to leave the district.

Dr. O'Brien stated she too has great sympathy for the Explorations youngsters. She is very sorry that the THS of the past did not serve them well, but she thinks the THS of right now could serve them exceedingly well, because of the change in the block schedule to a better academic schedule, and the fact that this Board had the wisdom to add 10 teachers. This Board also had the wisdom to add more social worker services and support linkages with Northwest Community College, scholarships with Yukon Torrington, and look at more hands on courses. The THS of right now under the leadership of Dr. Metallo is not the high school that those young people left 2 or 3 years ago. She also stated she is an absolutely, dyed-in-wool advocate of the American Public School System, not charter schools, not private magnet schools, not parochial schools, but the American Public School. That is what the taxpayers pay their money to support,

and they have done so for hundreds of years. The charter school movement is wonderful, but she cannot support taxpayer dollars from Torrington be diluted away to this charter or some other charter. This is a huge slippery slope. That is why it is in the legislature. She believes they are acting ahead of the legislature and they may make a great mistake. She agrees with Mr. Lyons. The legislature needs to solve that problem, not only for Torrington but for the entire State. The other thing is that there are 40 to 50 students in THS, who have been identified for the THS GOAL program, who are not succeeding and about to drop out of school. There is a 20% dropout rate for the children for whom they are responsible directly within the American Public School, and those kids now have nothing. So to spend money on a bus to transport kids who have a choice to go to Winsted, it is totally against her philosophy as an American Public School educator, and she abhors the notion of public school dollars being divided out to various other choice options.

Dr. Campbell commented that as the persons responsible for administrating transportation in this district, she needs to tell the Board that those are the types of phone calls that she will get. My child wants to go to so and so, and you provide transportation to Explorations so you must provide it to me. The other issue is that in the elementary schools, they do not bus to daycares if that daycare is not located within the district, and she gets a ton of calls from parents who have students in this district and who would like us to bus to someplace us. How can she tell them no?

Mr. Lutka commented that the charter school in Winsted is being paid for by tax dollars. They get their funding from the State of Connecticut. He understands what a charter school is, and to a lot of people, especially the educational bureaucracy, charter schools represent a threat because they are independent. While he was up at Explorations, he talked with the principal, and he found out that some of the students at Explorations are from West Hartford and West Hartford pays to bus their children to Explorations. The State does not say that we are not to transport students, the State says we don't have to. We have the ability to make our own decision locally. He understands the administration's concerns, but he has a lot of faith in the policy committee. He thinks the policy committee can modify the Board of Education policy concerning transportation to limit liability with respect to that. He is confident that if this motion is approved, that providing transportation for these students will not only help them, but will also improve the educational atmosphere here in Torrington. Also, while he was discussing the Explorations program with the principal, she told him that next year they were going to have some openings, so maybe if they put their hand out and say that they are willing to transport students, maybe this might be an alternative for the children that Mr. Lyons advocates for, because they don't have GOAL up and running as far as the fall of 2007.

Mrs. Traub stated that she would just like to say that 2 if not 3 times in the last 15-20 minutes, it has been eluded that they are not helping those students. This Board of Ed approved the GOAL program. The GOAL program didn't come to being because the site was up in the air at that point, and she wishes they could refrain from saying that they are not doing anything for those 40 or 50 students.

Mr. O’Connell stated the budget committee also recommended retaining the 4 staff positions that were going to be assigned to the GOAL program so that they would be there to help meet the needs of these 40 students.

Mrs. Carbone thinks this would require looking at their policy to decide what is equitable for providing transportation to the 25 students attending a school. She doesn’t know how many attend other schools, but she does know that for many years this Board did also provide transportation to the Hartford Academy for the Arts which they were not required to do.

In a motion by Mrs. Carbone, with a second by Mr. Lutka, the Board moved to call the question. All were in favor except for Mr. Lyons and Mr. Oliver who were opposed.

In favor of the original motion were Mr. Lutka, Mrs. Carbone, and Mrs. Traub. Opposed were Mr. Oliver, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Lyons, and Miss Lyons. The motion was defeated and did not carry.

In a motion by Mr. Lyons, with a second by Mr. Broverman, the Board moved to reduce the capital by \$113,600, with \$17,000 of that used for CAFE dues and \$95,000 used for the Assistant Principal position.

Mr. Lutka stated that about an hour ago, he made an impassioned plea to take money that was being spent on CAFE and use it for TAG. The purpose of that particular proposal was to help children. So again, they are back to the original preface that he placed, which was is the expense of the CAFE dues helping students. He can’t support this motion.

Mr. O’Connell stated he has no problem with removing the technology from the capital plan as the administration proposed, as he has yet to be convinced that technology is improving or enhancing instruction to his satisfaction. The only concern he has is there are also other proposed cuts to the capital, in addition to what Dr. Campbell proposed, and if they are approved they will be looking at almost a \$300,000 reduction in capital and a 15% reduction over what the capital plan was last year, deferring it into next year or to out years. He doesn’t know that next year is going to be a lot less expensive than this year is, and so he does worry about pushing expenses off and particularly pushing capital items off to that extent.

Mr. Lyons stated he can’t see where obtaining information to make informed decisions isn’t helping students.

Mrs. Traub commented that the only reason she can’t support getting rid of the \$113,600 out of technology is because she remembers a conversation last year when she started on the budget committee, when she had requested an inventory of our computers and the inventory was very sad.

Mr. Oliver said that there was a comment made before about furniture at Migeon. He was going to suggest that may be a way to have their cake and eat it too. He does understand CAFE is a valuable resource and it did come in handy during contract negotiations and many other things as well. But if there is a way that they can infuse some more money into the schools to help students and also try to then keep this resource, he would be open to that. He thinks it is possible they could walk out with a win-win.

Dr. O'Brien agreed with Mr. Oliver. She would gladly give up \$16,500 in new furniture at Migeon, and that is almost what is needed for CAFE. She would suggest that she would rather have CAFE and opportunities for the Board and administration for more informed decision making and a longer view, than have new chairs and a table at Migeon.

Mr. Broverman agreed that he could live with uncomfortable chairs at Migeon. But his problem is if they do that the numbers don't seem to match up, because they are cutting \$113,600 from capital and that is to pay for an assistant principal at \$95,000, so it looks like it would be about \$18,000 left. But he agrees with Mr. Oliver in that he thinks they can make this a win-win.

Dr. O'Brien explained if they took that \$113,600, basically all they need out of that is the \$95,000 for the AP. That still leaves \$18,000 that can be invested in selected upgrades. Then in pulling the \$16,500 from the Migeon furniture, that would be almost a wash for CAFE, so they could end up with the AP at \$95,000, and \$18,000 or so to move technology forward.

Mr. Lyons decided to withdraw his original motion, and propose another to clean it up.

In a motion by Mr. Lyons, with a second by Mr. Broverman, the Board moved to take from the capital \$95,809, which would replace the monies for the AP position, and remove from the capital \$16,250 for the chairs for Migeon, which would be applied for CAFE dues.

Mr. O'Connell asked what technology upgrades are being done and not being done. What specifically is being cut and what is being left in with this motion?

Mr. Lyons deferred that to Dr. Campbell because she was proposing the whole \$113,600 that would not be utilized at this particular point, and now it is down to \$17,791 in terms of any particular upgrading.

Dr. Campbell stated this meant no furniture and no computers, and she would have to have a conference with Mr. Bascetta about the infrastructure upgrades so they could look at stretching the dollars to get those infrastructure upgrades done at the middle school and the high school. That is what she would do with the \$17,791. She would split the infrastructure costs between the 2 schools.

Mrs. Traub said she wants to go on record as saying that she thought new computers were very much needed at the schools. How are they supposed to get ahead with computers and technology?

Mayor Bingham asked why wireless Internet isn't being done throughout the schools.

Dr. Campbell stated for 2 reasons. Number 1 is security as very secure data travels across the school's network. Number 2 is the infrastructure she was talking about. The infrastructure isn't there from the server rooms to support wireless.

In favor of the original motion were Mr. Oliver, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Lyons, and Miss Laus. Opposed were Mr. Lutka, Mr. O'Connell, Mrs. Carbone, Mrs. Traub, and Mr. Cavagnero. The motion did not carry.

In a motion by Mrs. Carbone, with a second by Mr. O'Connell, the Board moved to reduce our capital plan by \$162,500 by pushing out by one year the construction of the garage.

Miss Laus asked what the justification for the garage was. Administration answered that it was for storing equipment as the equipment has to be replaced sooner because there was no place to store it or wash it and it was deteriorating. Very expensive repairs have been needed to their trucks because, presently, they are being stored outside.

Mrs. Carbone stated that when they were reviewing the capital plan, the question was posed as to whether during the Mercury Associates' inventory investigation, they looked at the storage facilities and how that might play out. Mr. Bascetta answered that what Mercury does is give an average lifespan of a vehicle depending upon how you use them, what you use them for, and how many hours are put on the vehicles. They also take into account where the vehicles are stored, how they are stored and cared for, and who is doing the maintenance on them.. One of their concerns has been that they have probably put \$225,000 to \$240,000 into equipment in the past 5 or 6 years, and all that equipment is sitting outside.

Mr. Broverman stated he remembered when discussing the capital plan, Mr. Bascetta had talked about lengthening the life of the equipment by having it put in a building instead of outside. He asked Mr. Bascetta his view if this is not funded. Would they be spending more money down the road for replacing equipment? Mr. Bascetta responded absolutely.

Mr. Lutka commented that most of us realize that they live in New England and have the type of weather that is not advantageous to vehicles. But they are not in winter every month of the year, so he doesn't understand why these vehicles are rusting, if winter weather does get better and the vehicles can be cleaned outside.

Mrs. Traub stated she thinks that ideally a garage would be good, but they are faced right here with the reality that if they take that \$162,000 out, they can fund everything that everybody has been so passionately upset about. They are not suggesting that they will

never consider it. They are just considering pushing it out one year. This would be one capital reduction that she would support.

Mr. Cavagnero stated this motion is not tied to anything right now.

All were in favor.

In a motion by Mr. O’Connell, with a second by Mrs. Traub, the Board moved the following items in the first year of the capital plan be deferred to the next year of the capital plan. The high school COW for \$35,000, the Vogel-Wetmore hallway treatments for \$25,000, the high school upgrade folding partition for \$11,500, the high school library wall for \$14,500, and the Migeon Avenue front entrance façade of \$8,500. All were in favor.

Dr. O’Brien stated that Mr. Harnett had come forward with a really good suggestion. In the middle school capital, it speaks to a SPED classroom. She explained a meeting or two ago that this classroom is really not needed for next year, it is one year further out, and this was a bit ahead of the game with a remodeling suggestion. There also is money in the budget for a space consultant at the middle school, because they would really like to take a look at the classrooms and the overall space in the middle school to see if they could utilize the space in a different way so as to embed a middle school alternative program, as well as use existing spaces to their best advantages. So Mr. Harnett’s excellent idea is to pull that \$30,000, next year utilize the space consultant at the middle school and really do a thorough assessment of the lay of the land, and then they would know for the next budget year how to accommodate the middle school alternative and any other better use of the classroom space including the redesign of the SPED area. So basically there would be another \$30,000 economy, if the Board would like to move in that direction.

In a motion by Mr. O’Connell, with a second by Mr. Oliver, the Board moved to reduce the budget by deferring the \$30,000 SPED classroom to the following year. All were in favor.

In a motion by Mr. O’Connell, with a second by Mr. Lutka, the Board moved to move the question and close discussion. In favor were Mr. Oliver, Mr. Lutka, Mr. O’Connell, Mrs. Carbone, Mrs. Traub, and Miss Laus. Opposed were Mr. Broverman and Mr. Lyons. The motion carried.

In favor of the original motion to approve the 2007-2008 budget as amended were Mr. Oliver, Mr. Lutka, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Lyons, Miss Laus. Opposed were Mr. O’Connell, Mrs. Carbone, and Mrs. Traub. The motion carried.

Approve 2007-2008 Capital Plan Amendment

In a motion by Mr. O’Connell, with a second by Mrs. Carbone, the Board moved to amend the capital plan to reflect the reductions in year one that were just approved and deferred into next year. All were in favor.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mayor Bingham stated that now that the budget is in the City’s hands, he does want to thank the budget committee and everybody else for their hard work and dedication to the kids in Torrington in this budget. He can’t say one way or another which way the Board of Finance is going to go, so he advised them to continue to look deep into their souls as to what possibilities there are within the budget. Knowing that a lot is depending on revenue coming from the State, he thinks it behooves everyone to call their legislators and call people to support a slight increase in the income tax for funding education and the Governor’s proposed budget.

Mrs. Carbone stated that last fall she read a letter to the editor from a student at St. Joseph’s College, where the student had indicated that she was disappointed that she was not allowed to do classroom observation in the district. She cut it out and put it aside, and thought this was sort of an isolated incident. But recently, she was at a social function and some parents had indicated to her that high school students who in years past have been able to shadow teachers in the district are no longer being allowed to do that. Again, she thought our administrative decisions are made and she respected that, and then very recently she got an email from another teacher or teacher to be from Central, and she also said that there appears to be a change in our practice in allowing Torrington residents to shadow or do classroom observation in Torrington. She wonders if they are sending out a mixed message to these people by telling them they are not welcome to come into our schools and do this, or is there is a real sound reason for this.

Dr. Campbell stated that the thinking is widespread about this, and it comes from placement offices like Central and St. Joe’s. When they are preparing a teacher, they want to give that teacher candidate the broadest experience that is possible for them to observe teaching in various environments. So places like Central, Southern, and St. Joe’s want their teacher experiences in other places than where the students went to school. They need to have a suburban experience, a rural experience. They need to work in a wealthy district. When she and Dr. Lambour talked about what they want in new teachers, they want teachers who have that broad repertoire of skills so that these teachers are able to handle the diversity that they have. So they support the universities in their efforts to have their students have a broad experience. In the long run by agreeing with the universities, they can hire their Torrington residents back. The other reason is they need to have a really firm grip on who is in their buildings, and at times they didn’t have this in the past.

Mrs. Traub stated that she had an opportunity to finally attend their preschool open house, and it was a good turnout. She noted there were a lot of positive comments from the parents.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Oliver stated the personnel committee is waiting for some baseline data, a revised document, to come back to the committee for them to review, which he believes will happen around the 13th, and then they will be moving forward from there.

Dr. O'Brien stated that by April 30th, she has to formally ask, probably through the personnel committee, to consider rolling over her contract to 2010, and if there are any adjustments of salary, benefits, or language, she will submit those as well prior to April 30th. It doesn't become relevant until the evaluation window, which is the period of time from graduation through the 1st Board meeting in July, and during that time, the Board will want to evaluate her performance and at the same time be looking at that contract and deciding what parts might be acceptable.

Mr. Lyons stated there is a school/community relations committee meeting coming up to look at the candidates for the THS Alumni on April 23rd.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

Dr. O'Brien stated that for April 25th, they have a discussion item concerning legislative updates, which is something Mr. Lyons had requested. Enid sent out invitations to the legislative delegation on March 9th. She believes 3 or 4 of our legislators are going to be here, and they will be giving an update on the various items in the legislature, especially those that are directly related to funding. There will be an update on the TAG program which was requested by the Board. Judith Babcock and her staff are working on this. Another request was a presentation on the SASY software, as well as a discussion item about the nature of distribution of Board documents.

For action items, they have receiving the monthly financial statements, and she is looking at March 2007, as well as approving any budget transfers.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. O'Connell commented that he thought it was said there would be time for public comment at the end, but he doesn't see that in the agenda.

In a motion by Mr. O'Connell, with a second by Mrs. Carbone, the Board moved to amend the agenda to include community participation. All were in favor.

Fiona Cappabianca - She spoke regarding the approval of the Assistant Principal. She thanked everyone for this approval, but she is a little bit perplexed at the split that is associated with the addition of the administrator. The way it is presented is to have 50% at Forbes and 50% at Southwest. She asked if that will be looked at in the fall to see if that 50/50 split makes sense or not.

Dr. O'Brien stated that at this point in time this whole administrative piece is still in flux. She is delighted to have the AP, but they need to get the very best numbers, probably in June and those projections, and they are also looking at possible administrative transfers within their organization as well.

Joe Ammirato – He spoke about the items that were presented in the budget. He would like to see all the administrators and all the schools to be able to put their purchase orders in as soon as this budget is approved. He would like all these things to be there on the first day of school.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Personnel Matters related to Superintendent's Performance

In a motion by Mr. O'Connell, with a second by Mrs. Carbone, the Board moved to go into executive session at 11:10 p.m. to discuss matters of personnel related to Superintendent's performance. The Board invited Dr. O'Brien and Mayor Bingham. All were in favor.

ADJOURNMENT