

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
December 17, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cavagnero at 7:20 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Miss Laus, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Prof. Royals, Mr. Rubino (arrived @ 8 p.m.), Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes, Mr. Robinson

Members Absent: Mr. Oliver, Ms. Raymond, Mayor Bingham, Miss Cavagnero, Mr. Wright

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

Mindy Hobson indicated she represented the Early Childhood Collaborative and gave a brief report regarding their recent activities.

Donna Labbe indicated that she was the Early Childhood Collaborative Coordinator, and reported that a Birth through Eight planning grant had been received by the collaborative. She invited the public to help formulate the plan which is due in June of 2009.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Mr. Lyons moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion to approve tonight's agenda as modified. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Mr. Lyons requested discussion item 8.1 be moved up so that this discussion may be held before the Executive Session.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Miss Laus moved and Mr. Broverman supported a motion to approve the BOE special meeting minutes from November 12, 2008 as modified. The motion carried. Mr. Nargi, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Lyons, and Miss Laus were in favor. Prof. Royals and Mr. Mattiello abstained.*

Mr. Cavagnero mentioned his name should read Mr. and not Dr. on page 7 of the report.

*Miss Laus moved and Mr. Broverman supported a motion to approve the BOE regular meeting minutes from November 19, 2008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Miss Laus moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve the BOE special meeting minutes from November 24, 2008 as modified. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Dr. O'Brien stated that she was invited to attend the first Executive Session, but she did not attend.

*Miss Laus moved and Mr. Nargi supported a motion to approve the BOE regular meeting minutes from December 3, 2008 as modified. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Mr. Lyons indicated that on page 16, his name was misspelled.

*Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Mattiello supported a motion to approve the BOE special meeting minutes from December 10, 2008 as modified. The motion carried. Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Lyons, and Prof. Royals were in favor. Miss Laus and Mr. Broverman abstained.*

Mr. Lyons mentioned that the listing of Mrs. Raymond's name was inconsistent throughout the document; sometimes listed as Mrs. and sometimes listed as Ms.

## **INFORMATION SHARING**

### **Student BOE Representative Reports**

Mr. Wright spoke regarding upcoming events and current news at TMS, Southwest, Forbes, and East schools.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. O'Brien wished everyone a Happy Hanukah, Merry Christmas, and a joyous New Year.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Miss Laus moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion to approve tonight's consent agenda. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

1. Certified Staff Resignations/Hires  
Barbara A. Oles, ELL-DW(vo), hired eff 11/24/08 for the 2008-2009 school year only as a short-term substitute teacher

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7.1 Update on Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Partnership**

Mr. Lyons, Tom Narduchi, and John Cappabianco gave a brief presentation regarding the Charlotte Hungerford Hospital Partnership. The overall goal of the program will be to provide services locally in the community which would generate savings. The target group for this will be the SPED students who are currently sent out of district.

Dr. O'Brien stated that it is the Torrington Public Schools hope and expectation that these students will move through the approved curriculum of the TPS, meet the graduation requirements, and graduate. The strength in working as partners with Charlotte Hungerford would be that the therapeutic piece would complement and support the instructional piece. TPS are also very committed to the fact that Torrington money should stay in Torrington.

Mr. Lyons explained that the plan is to start with a pilot program and expand the program from there. He presented a timeline of target dates that have been set in regards to the program.

Board members asked questions about the approximate cost and location of staff training this summer, site requirements, where staffing would be obtained, an estimation of cost savings in transportation, why 20 students were chosen for the pilot program, the existence of conditional IEPs, startup costs of the program, involvement of the City of Torrington's planning and zoning, length of time for the pilot program, cost comparisons, transportation costs per student to Hartford, and the benefits of the pilot program over out-of-district established programs.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pending Litigation**

*Mr. Lyons moved and Miss Laus supported a motion for the Board to go into Executive session to discuss strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims for pending litigation between the Board and Dr. Susan O'Brien and to invite Atty. Victor Muschell, Board counsel. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

The Board and Atty. Victor Muschell went into Executive Session.

*Prof. Royals moved and Miss Laus supported a motion for the Board to return from Executive session. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

The Board and Atty. Victor Muschell returned from Executive Session.

*Mr. Broverman moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion that the Board of Education mutually agree with the counsel for Dr. O'Brien that the time limit for the commencement of the hearing regarding the termination of her contract be waived until a mutually convenient date during the week of January 19, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Broverman moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion that Atty. Michael McKeon of the firm of Sullivan, Schoen, Campana, and Connon, LLC, be appointed as Special Board Counsel in the matter pending between the Board and the Superintendent for the purpose of presenting evidence at any hearing requested by the Superintendent, discussions with her counsel regarding potential resolution of existing issues and other relevant matters, and that he be given*

*access to and be authorized to view and reproduce all relevant documents made and/or kept on file by the Board or the administration of the Torrington Public School system including computer-generated documents, files, emails, and the like, and to interview current and former Board employees and other relevant persons and to do whatever else is reasonably necessary to perform the function for which he has been appointed. The motion carried. Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Lyons, Prof. Royals, Mr. Rubino, and Miss Laus were in favor.*

*Mr. Mattiello moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion that Dr. O'Brien be placed on administrative leave with pay pending a decision concerning the termination of her contract and that such leave will commence at the close of business, Thursday, December 18, 2008, and that the Human Resource Director take all appropriate steps in accordance with the Board's action. The motion carried. Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Rubino, Miss Laus were in favor. Mr. Nargi abstained, and Mr. Lyons and Prof. Royals were opposed.*

Mr. Cavagnero informed Dr. O'Brien that she was on administrative leave and she is to deal with Mr. Joslyn in terms of access to her office and personal belongings.

Given the fact that Mr. Oliver, Personnel Committee Chair, is still ill, back in the hospital, and may be unavailable for Board service for some time, Mr. Cavagnero appointed Mr. Mattiello to take over Personnel as Personnel Committee Chair on an interim basis until Mr. Oliver is well enough to resume his duties. This was discussed with Mr. Oliver who is comfortable with this, and thinks it a wise and appropriate choice.

*Miss Laus moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve the appointment of Brian Mattiello as Interim Personnel Committee Chair. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Mr. Cavagnero stated that as it was now 10:35 p.m. and a very difficult meeting for everyone, the Board would like to table all further items.

*Mr. Lyons moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion to table the rest of the agenda until Monday night at 7 p.m. for a Board special meeting and to add the TEA negotiations and the teacher's contract, receipt and approval. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Mr. Cavagnero requested that Dr. Campbell be present at this meeting, and Prof. Royals requested that this meeting be televised because of the importance of the items discussed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board moved to adjourn at 10:35 p.m. All were in favor.