

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
December 22, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cavagnero at 7:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Miss Laus, Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mrs. Raymond, Prof. Royals, Mr. Rubino, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes

Absent: Mr. Lyons, Mr. Oliver, Mayor Bingham

DISCUSSION ITEMS

TAG Plan Update – Mrs. Cheryl Kloczko

Mr. Cavagnero relayed that Mrs. Kloczko was ill and would not be able to give the presentation.

Mr. Rubino moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to table the TAG Plan Update. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Strategic School Profiles Update, Part I – Executive Summary – Dr. Campbell

Dr. Campbell gave a presentation regarding the Strategic School Profiles Update for 2007-2008.

Board members asked questions about and discussed elementary instructional time being addressed in the new teacher's contract, the length of the teacher's work day, out-of-district SPED costs, the 10% increase in instructional time at the middle school and the high school, increasing instructional time at the elementary grade levels, trending the data to compare Torrington's information with like districts and to analyze how the information can be used to improve things over time, changes needed in priorities for the rest of the year and for next year based on the data, computer deficiencies at the elementary school level, and using the trends in the data to identify problems and assist in the coming years' goal setting.

The Board will revisit these concerns at the meetings in January; the first meeting focusing on the TAG and TMS programs, and the second meeting focusing on the CMT and CAPT scores and SPED. Board members were also instructed to email their areas of concern to administration and their fellow Board members so that at the first meeting in January a decision can be made about where to go with the resulting information.

THS Focus Group Interview Committee

Mr. Joslyn explained the process of using focus groups in interviewing and identifying priorities in the hiring of the next high school principal.

Board members and administration suggested that TEA and IAL also be involved.

ACTION ITEMS

Approve Budget Transfers

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-011. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-012. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-013. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-014. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Receive Monthly Financial Report – November, 2008

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to receive the monthly financial report for November 2008 as amended. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino stated that a grant will be received for the regional school district system for the heating of the school buildings. The City of Torrington was given approximately \$56,800 towards this concern.

Approve IRS Required Plan for 403b Retirement Plan Document – Adopt Resolution

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Nargi supported a motion to approve the IRS required plan for 403b retirement plan document – adopt resolution. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Approve Proposed Regular Meeting Schedule for 2009

Mr. Broverman moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion to approve the proposed regular meeting schedule for 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Receive Report from TEA Negotiations Committee

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to receive the report from the TEA negotiations committee. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Prof. Royals, chair of the TEA negotiations committee, reported that the negotiations committees of the Board and the TEA have reached a tentative agreement for a successor contract, and the teachers have ratified the contract which is for three years. It commences July 1, 2009 and terminates June 30, 2012. In Year 1 all teachers will receive a 2.5% increase and there will be a “step freeze” meaning no automatic step movement for teachers not at the maximum step. The cost of the wage increase is approximately \$637,500. There will be no increases to the coaches’ and differential schedules. Prof. Royals noted that the “step freeze” saved the district an additional \$622,000.

In Year 2 and Year 3, the contract will be reopened to negotiate the salary wages and the stipends for the coaches’ and differential schedules.

With respect to Health Insurance, in Year 1 teachers will continue to pay 16% of the cost of the PPO and 12% of the POE plan. In Year 2 teachers will pay 17% for the PPO and 13% for the POE. In Year 3 they will pay 18% for the PPO and 14% for the POE. This agreement recognizes the difficult economic conditions we face while at the same time helps to maintain a competitive salary for our teachers.

Mr. Nargi raised several concerns which the Board and administration addressed and discussed including concerns regarding the length of the instructional day, the costs of substitute teachers, and the possibility of only doing a 1-year contract as opposed to a 3-year contract.

Ratify TEA Contract – 2009-2012

Prof. Royals moved and Mr. Mattiello supported a motion to ratify the TEA contract for 2009-2012. The motion carried. Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Prof. Royals, Mr. Rubino, Mrs. Raymond, and Miss Laus were in favor. Mr. Nargi was opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 p.m. All were in favor.