

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
June 18, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cavagnero at 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Miss Laus, Mr. Lyons (arrived @ 8:45 p.m.), Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Prof. Royals (arrived @ 8 p.m.), Mr. Rubino, Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes

Members Absent: Mayor Bingham, Mr. Oliver, Mrs. Raymond

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Mary-Grace Hanusch, Maura Magistrali, Robin Magistali spoke against budget cuts to the language department.

Dr. O'Brien reported that the decision has been made not to cut the French teacher position.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve tonight's agenda

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Broverman supported the approval of tonight's agenda as amended. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

The agenda was amended to move the Executive Session to item 8.1.

Motion to approve minutes

Mr. Rubino moved and Miss Laus supported the approval of the regular BOE minutes of June 4, 2008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimously in favor with the exception of Mr. Nargi who was opposed.

CELEBRATIONS

Recognition of EDP Graduates

Jessica M. Cooke, Veronica B. Douglas, Molly R. Dumond, Susana H. Mendoza, Justin Proctor, David J. Rivard, Toni S. Wilkas were recognized as 2008 EDP graduates.

Raffle – First Day to Kindergarten Fire Truck Ride

The winner of the ride to school on the first day of kindergarten is Elise Browning age 5 (East School). There were 256 students registered in the drawing.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

Superintendent's Report

Dr. O'Brien suggested having a presentation on special education law in the fall, since she has noted many misperceptions about special education and the cost of special education in the district. She volunteered to speak on special education to any interested groups in the community. She also suggested forming a citizen's forum in the fall where all citizens are invited to come and ask questions and have presentations about special education law and the requirements.

CONSENT AGENDA

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Rubino supported approving the consent agenda. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Certified Staff Resignations/Appointments

Contract Addenda

Summer School 2008

Addolorata Carr, Pre-K, Special Education-TF

Corrine Jasmin, Pre-K Special Education-TF

Ellen Youman-Karl, Pre-K Special Education-TF, eff

Michelle Franco, Special Education, Gr 4-8-HS

Jennifer Lopez, Special Education, Gr K-3-VOICES-TF (1/2 job share)

Cameron Pruchnicki, Special Education, Gr K-3-VOICES-TF (1/2 job share)

Julie Pagano, Speech & Language Pathologist, Special Education
Summer School (48 Hours)-TF

Carol Oberheim, Speech & Language Pathologist, Special Education
Summer School (48 Hours)-HS

Michelle Blakeney, Regular Education Elementary Summer School-TF

Kimberly Budge, Regular Education Elementary Summer School-TF

Angela Calabrese, Regular Education Elementary Summer School-TF

Rachel Placentino, Regular Education Elementary Summer School-TF

Dawn Pollutro, Regular Education Elementary Summer School-TF
(1 additional hour per day)

Leanne Russell, Regular Education Elementary Summer School-TF

Kristin Ciccone, Regular Education Secondary Summer School-TF

Alison Giramonti, Regular Education Secondary Summer School-TF

Diane Knox, Regular Education Secondary Summer School-TF

Valerie Vitalo, Regular Education Secondary Summer School-TF

Daniel Hodgkins, Coordinating Teacher for the Arts-MS, eff 2008-2009

Kathy-Ann Campbell, Coordinating Teacher for the Arts-DW,
eff 2008-2009

Cynthia Jerram, Coordinating Teacher for the Arts-HS, eff 2008-2009

Daniel Hodgkins, Band Director, MS, eff 2008-2009

Joseph Campolietta, Elementary Band Director-DW, eff 2008-2009
Wayne Splettstoesz, Band Director, HS, eff 2008-2009
Matthew Valenti, Elementary Orchestra Director-DW, eff 2008-2009

Marilyn Hoitt, Master Mentor Teacher-DW,
eff 2007-2008 and 2008-2009
Mary McVerry, Instructional Area Leader, English-HS, eff 2008-2009
Patrick Richardson, Instructional Area Leader, Social Studies-HS,
eff 2008-2009
Patricia Strawson, Instructional Area Leader, Math-HS, eff 2008-2009
Holly Simpson, Instructional Area Leader, Science-HS, eff 2008-2009

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 EXECUTIVE SESSION – Personnel Matters/Administrative Reorganization

Prof. Royals moved and Mr. Broverman supported a motion for Board members to go into Executive Session to discuss personnel matters/administrative reorganization. Administration, Atty. Chris Chinney, and Bill Joslyn were invited to attend. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Board members, administration, Atty. Chinney, and Mr. Joslyn moved into Executive Session at 8:05 p.m. and returned at 9:05 p.m.

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion for Board members to come out of Executive Session. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.2 TEXTBOOK ADOPTION – ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE, KAREN ARMS, HOLT, RINEHART, WINSTON PUBLISHERS, 2008

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to receive the textbook adoption of Environmental Science. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.3 RECEIVE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to receive the monthly financial statement. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Dr. O'Brien invited Board members to attend the BOF meeting tomorrow at 5 p.m. The request for \$250,000 in contingency funds, specifically set aside to cover out-of-district overages, will be hopefully examined and approved.

8.4 APPROVE BUDGET TRANSFERS

Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2008-044. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2008-045. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2008-046. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2008-047. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2008-048. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2008-049. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2008-050. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.5 APPROVE 2008-2009 REVISED BUDGET

Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve the 2008-2009 revised budget. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Nargi who was opposed.

Dr. O'Brien reported that administration is very satisfied with the revised budget and feels like they can live with the proposed cuts.

Board members asked what teacher positions will be cut and how those cuts will be determined. Dr. O'Brien responded that 1 position will be math, and they are still looking at 2 other positions, but she has requested 1 more run of the schedule so she can look carefully at class size before making a decision. There is also the possibility of combining positions so as to not to take a full teacher out of a department and not filling positions where there have been resignations. Administration has tried to avoid not offering classes that were previously available.

Board members and administration discussed budgeting for increased fuel prices for next year. Administration was directed to lock-in at a price when it goes either up or down 5 cents from where it is today.

Mr. Nargi moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to direct administration to purchase the fuel tomorrow at the predesignated parameters. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Prof. Royals who was opposed.

Mr. Mattiello suggested that administration reorganization be called administration efficiencies. He also suggested eliminating the miscellaneous category and putting those costs into communication and advertising.

Dr. O'Brien announced that a total of 8.5 positions will be lost. The lost administrative position will be the elementary assistant principal that serves Forbes and Southwest schools.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 SPECIAL EDUCATION OOD/CHARLOTTE HUNGERFORD HOSPITAL PARTNERSHIP CONCEPT

Mr. Lyons spoke regarding the special ed out-of-district placements and using Charlotte Hungerford Hospital's facility and professional staff to work with and provide the services that are needed. One of the reasons for the partnership is the expense and time in transporting out-of-district students to Hartford and other places. Another benefit would be that students would be closer to their homes. Charlotte Hungerford Hospital is in favor in pursuing more discussions to design the program. Hopes are to discuss this further at the August retreat, have discussions with the hospital through September and October, and then implement the program by second semester.

Mr. Cavagnero spoke in support of this as it would assist with out-of-district costs. He would like the School Improvement Committee to work with Dr. O'Brien and Charlotte Hungerford Hospital regarding this.

Board members expressed concerns regarding students from other districts wanting to come to Torrington because of this program, alternative contract programming being too narrow of a response, and setting up a calendar to chart the progress of program development to keep the Board updated.

Mr. Nargi moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to give Administration and Mr. Lyons backing to go forward at the pace they set forth to the Board. The motion carried. The vote was unanimously.

9.2 BOE SUMMER RETREAT

The BOE retreat goal setting meeting will be scheduled from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on August 20th at Migeon Avenue. A light dinner will be provided.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Fiona Cappabianca expressed concerns about the cuts the Board has chosen to make this budget season. She feels they have not kept the best interests of the student of Torrington in mind.

Mr. Cavagnero and Dr. O'Brien responded that the cuts were painful to all involved and they encouraged her to call the administrative office to discuss her concerns further.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Dr. O'Brien stated there are non-union contracts that have to be reviewed and approved by the Board. She suggested that the contract drafts go to the Board this Friday, and that Wednesday, June 25th, be considered for a 1 topic special meeting of the Board at 7 p.m.

at Migeon, to go over recommendations and questions about the contracts, and then approve the contracts for those 12 to 14 people so Ms. Haynes can get that lined out prior to July 1st. Then the superintendent's evaluation needs to take place between graduation and the first Board meeting in July on July 9th. So she would like the Board to review this contract on Friday, June 27th and then she suggested that the Board meet with her to go through the evaluation evidence on June 30th, July 1st, or July 2nd. The personnel committee will also need to meet with Dr. O'Brien on either July 7th or 8th to work out any modifications in her contract, and then on July 9th at a regular Board meeting, the Board will need to review and approve the evaluation and any contract modifications.

The Board agreed to a first meeting on Wednesday, June 25th and a meeting on Monday, June 30th at 6:30 p.m. after reviewing the non-union contracts, and a personnel committee meeting on July 2nd at 7 p.m.

ITEMS FOR THE UPCOMING AGENDA

Dr. O'Brien stated on Wednesday, July 9, discussion items will include naming the tennis courts in honor of Coach Newell Porch and his wife. Action items will include the superintendent's evaluation, the superintendent's contract, and approving the textbook adoption that was received tonight.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cavagnero adjourned the meeting at 11:10 p.m.