

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
June 4, 2008**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cavagnero at 7:18 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Miss Laus, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Oliver, Mrs. Raymond, Prof. Royals, Mr. Rubino, Mr. Wright, Ms. Cavagnero, Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes

Members Absent: Mayor Bingham, Ms. Davis

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Robert Rader, CABE Executive Director, spoke in support of renewing CABE membership. Cal Hemingway, CABE President and Granby BOE Chair, also encouraged Board members to renew this membership and explained the numerous benefits.

Doug Traub and Jeremy Marchand spoke in support of continued funding for the Torrington swim team.

Tiffany Brucker, George Rolfe, Josh Delekta, Justin McManus, Holly McCann, Nick Corbo, Kaitlin Gavagin, and Maggie Haggerty spoke in support of continued funding for the Torrington music department.

Marianne Poinelli spoke regarding her concerns about budget cuts to TMS, the school-home liaison, high school faculty positions, and the all-day kindergarten. She suggested that interscholastic sports at TMS that are redundant of community sport opportunities and the middle school TAG program, if not substantially improved, be cut. She requested that the exemplary elementary school TAG program and the district-wide music programs, especially band, not be cut.

Tyler Miller spoke in support of continued funding for Torrington sports programs.

Mary Buccacio spoke in support of the education budget and suggested sticking to the basics at home and at school. She requested that teachers and tutors/aides in the classroom not be cut. She suggested possible cuts to consultants, the special education liaison, and/or the full-time personnel director.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to approve tonight's agenda

Mr. Lyons moved and Prof. Royals supported the approval of tonight's agenda as amended. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

The agenda was amended to move the action items before the discussion items. An executive session was also added prior to the discussion for the purpose of clarifying for Board members student personnel matters and issues as related to discussions about special education.

Motion to approve minutes

Mr. Oliver moved and Mr. Broverman supported the approval of the regular BOE minutes of May 21, 2008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimously in favor with the exception of Mr. Lyons who abstained.

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Broverman supported the approval of the expulsion hearing minutes of May 27, 2008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimously in favor with the exception of Mr. Oliver, Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Rubino, Mrs. Raymond, and Mr. Nargi who abstained.

CELEBRATIONS

Recognition of Retirees

The Retiree Class of 2008 including Nancy Amrich, Patricia Stanton, and Thomas Werner were recognized.

Recognition of Retiring Student Board Members

Colin Good, Danielle Palladino, Natalie Kruse, and Wang Jing Bruce were recognized.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

Superintendent's Report

Dr. O'Brien thanked everyone, especially the students who spoke in the School/Community Session, and assured them that she and the BOE are in total support of everything they are asking for. However, at this point administration is having to put forth a series of small cuts in many areas so that they don't have to cut any programs. She reported that she has decided not to go to China so as to save that \$900 this year. She plans to go next year and pledges to pay for it personally so that she can bring the information back to Torrington. She also plans to cut 1 administrator, if the Board agrees, due to an administration re-organization plan. She noted that when comparisons are made in special education in regards to dollars spent, these comparisons need to be made with other DRG-G districts.

Student Board Member Reports

Ms. Cavagnero gave a report regarding THS and Forbes school. Mr. Wright gave a report regarding Torrington, TMS, and Southwest schools.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Oliver moved and Mr. Lyons supported approving the consent agenda as modified. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

The agenda was modified as the appointment of the head football coach had been approved last week.

1. Contract Addenda
Newell Porch, Athletics Director-DW, eff 2008-2009
Eric Mahar, Asst. Director of Athletics-DW, eff 2008-2009
Joseph Minutillo, Student Transition Leader-HS, eff 2008-2009
Newell Porch, Student Transition Leader-HS, eff 2008-2009
Diane Considine, Special Education Coordinator-EA, eff 2008-2009
Beth Daley, Physical Education Coordinator, secondary education-DW,
eff 2008-2009
Janice Harrington, Physical Education Coordinator, elementary-DW,
eff 2008-2009
Joanne Creedon, Bilingual/ESL, elementary-DW, eff 2008-2009
Elizabeth Bible, Bilingual/ESL, secondary-DW, eff 2008-2009
Erin Morytko, Class Book Advisor-HS, eff 2008-2009
Brian Nass, Student Council Advisor-HS, eff 2008-2009
Brunetti, Robert, Student Council Advisor-HS, eff 2008-2009
Mary McVerry, Drama Director for Fall, Winter, and Spring
Productions-HS, eff 2008-2009
Maria Cravanzola, Drama Producer (1/2 position) for Fall, Winter, and
Spring Productions-HS, eff 2008-2009
Cynthia Jerram, Drama Producer (1/2 position) for Fall, Winter, and
Spring Productions-HS, eff 2008-2009
Victor Leger, Backstage Supervisor for Fall, Winter, and Spring
Productions-HS, eff 2008-2009
2. General Leave of Absence
Todd Thompson, Math-HS, eff 2008-2009

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 APPROVE NCCC CLASS PROPOSAL FOR 2008-2009 CRIME SCENE DOCUMENTATION

Miss Laus moved and Mrs. Raymond supported the approval of the NCCC class proposal for 2008-2009 Crime Scene Documentation. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Prof. Royals who abstained.

8.2 APPROVAL OF BUDGET TRANSFERS

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-031. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-042. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Oliver who abstained.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Lyons moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion for Board members to go into Executive Session to discuss Student/Personnel issues. Administration and Atty. Laubin were invited to attend. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Board members including Atty. Laubin, Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes, Mr. Joslyn, and Ms. Babcock moved into Executive Session at 8:48 p.m. and returned at 9:45 p.m.

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

DISCUSSION ITEMS

9.1 ADJUSTMENT OF 2008-2009 BUDGET

Dr. O'Brien spoke briefly regarding the administrative reorganization plan which will cut 1 administrative position and save \$160,000. She also spoke about conservation behaviors, which can be put into practice throughout the district, that will result in savings in fuel and utilities equal to \$75,000. Information was also given concerning the possible elimination of 2 teacher positions, which could possibly be offset by the savings of \$160,000, the effect of the increase in fuel expenses of \$250,000 on the budget, reasons why specific faculty areas were chosen for cuts, and the effects of teacher reductions on class size.

Mr. Nargi moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve the reductions as proposed. The motion did not carry. Mr. Nargi and Mr. Rubino were in favor. Mr. Oliver, Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Lyons, Prof. Royals, Mrs. Raymond, and Miss Laus were opposed.

Mr. Rubino reported that the plan, in regards to the capital budget, is to come up with a 5 year plan with a cap maximum of 1.5 to 1.6 million dollars per year so as to stabilize costs.

Line item cuts agreed upon were the SPED ODD, athletic supplies, athletic officials, equipment, miscellaneous, high school entry fees, membership costs, legal costs, and TAA membership costs. The 2 primary line items of disagreement, as far as nonstaff cuts, were concerning the extended day and capital cuts. Staff line item cuts of non-instructional paras and the secretary retirement at the high school were discussed and agreed upon.

Administration explained that staff cuts to teachers were primarily determined by enrollments and class size. The wording of teacher contracts was also considered.

Mr. Broverman moved and Mr. Oliver supported a motion to extend tonight's meeting for until no later than 11:30 p.m. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Board members cited the capital budget, extended day, staffing cuts, CAFE membership, substitute costs, parking, BOE expenses, consultants, tutors, rental wages, custodian price out, and the MS sports program as areas they would like the administration to investigate further for discussion at future meetings.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Mr. Rolfe spoke in supports of applying any savings in the real budget to proposed budget cuts.

ITEMS FOR THE UPCOMING AGENDA

Dr. O'Brien reported items will include recognition of EDP graduates, the First Day of Kindergarten Fire Truck Ride Raffle, and action items of textbook adoption, receiving monthly financial statements, approving budget transfers, and approving the 2008-2009 Revised Budget.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Cavagnero adjourned the meeting at 11:25 p.m.