

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
May 21, 2008**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cavagnero at 7:10 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Miss Laus, Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Oliver, Mrs. Raymond, Prof. Royals, Mr. Rubino, Mr. Good, Ms. Palladino, Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes, Mr. Nocera (representing Mayor Bingham)

Members Absent: Mr. Lyons, Mayor Bingham, Ms. Kruse

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

There were no citizen requests to address the Board on agenda items.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion to approve tonight's agenda**

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

**Motion to approve minutes**

*Mr. Broverman moved and Mrs. Raymond supported the approval of the regular BOE minutes of May 7, 2008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimously in favor with the exception of Mr. Nargi who was opposed.*

**INFORMATION SHARING SESSION**

**Student Representative Reports**

Ms. Palladino gave a report regarding Tarringford and Vogel-Wetmore schools. Mr. Good gave a report regarding THS, Southwest, and TMS.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. O'Brien reported that she will be attending the senior prom, and last night she attended the Dick's Restaurant Scholarship dinner at which \$20,000 was awarded to THS students. She also reported that last evening she was directed to cut \$1,000,000 from the budget. She assured the Board that the executive team took this directive very seriously but the areas from which they will have to cut and give consideration for cuts are all painful areas. She invited parents and the public to give input and she is thankful for the input she received from the Board of Finance public hearing at which hundreds of citizens expressed their opinions.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

### Certified Staff Resignations/Appointments

Barbara Robinson, Math-MS, resigned eff 6/30/08

### Coaching Resignations/Appointments

Daniel J. Dunaji, Head Football Coach-HS, eff 2008-2009 Fall Sports Season

Notification of Home Schooling: SALBEK08

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **8.1 JROTC PARTNERSHIP – COOPERATION WITH NEIGHBORING DISTRICTS**

Dr. Metallo gave a presentation about the JROTC Partnership. He reported Torrington now has the required number of units for the program. However, they have started talks with neighboring schools about students who may be interested in coming into the program and those talks are continuing. Possibly, next year they will enter into an agreement with 1 or maybe 2 other schools.

Mr. Cavagnero commented that cooperation with other public school systems is definitely the direction the Board would like to be moving in to address funding problems and the expenses of public education. Dr. Metallo and Colonel Gabor also answered questions about how much room is left in the program, the ratio between male and females in the program, the number of THS students presently in the program, and the number of THS students in the graduating class.

### **8.2 MAY 20<sup>TH</sup> BOARD OF FINANCE MEETING DEBRIEF**

Mr. Cavagnero commented that the amount of \$1,000,000 was far more than anyone expected. Unfortunately, now the BOE and administration need to deliberately and methodically try to figure out the best way to divide up the sacrifice among the various student groups. Other Board members asked questions and commented about the impending process and timeline, and the dynamics between spending and revenues and the goals of the City and the Board. Dr. O'Brien stated that administration will be developing draft documents from now until June 4<sup>th</sup> and suggested that the June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting be dedicated to a thorough complete diligent discussion of every single element of the proposal that is brought forth by Mr. Rubino.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **9.1 RECEIVE MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported receiving the monthly financial statement. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

### **9.2 APPROVE BUDGET TRANSFERS**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-026. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-027. The motion carried. All were in favor.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-028. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-029. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-030. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Prof. Royals who was opposed.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-031. Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported withdrawing the motion to approve budget transfer 2008-031.*

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

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-032. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-033. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-034. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-035. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Oliver and Mr. Nargi who was opposed.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-036. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-037. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-038. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-039. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-040. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-041. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Prof. Royals who was opposed.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-042. Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported withdrawing the motion to approve budget transfer 2008-042.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported tabling budget transfer 2008-042. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2008-043. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

**9.3 RECEIVE MODIFICATION OF NCCC COURSE – CRIME SCENE DOCUMENTATION**

*Mr. Oliver moved and Mrs. Raymond supported receiving the modification of NCCC course – Crime Scene Documentation. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Prof. Royals who abstained.*

Dr. Olson explained that the change was necessary because the prior course required the students to be taught off campus and this course can be taught on campus.

**9.4 APPROVE NCCC CLASS PROPOSAL FOR 2008-2009 – CRIME SCENE DOCUMENTATION**

*Mr. Oliver moved and Mr. Rubino supported tabling the motion to approve 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.*

## **9.5 APPROVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN EDUCATION CONNECTION AND TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM 2009**

*Miss Laus moved and Mr. Oliver supported approving the agreement between Education Connection and Torrington Public Schools for Food Service Program 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Broverman who abstained.*

Ms. Haynes explained the costs of the program to the Board, and answered Board questions. Administration reported they planned to have an Education Connection representative come to the Board meeting in June or July. An increase in lunch prices is not anticipated for next year.

## **9.6 HEALTHY FOODS CERTIFICATION**

*Mr. Broverman moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the Healthy Foods Certification opting out of the first part of the program and authorizing the permission for the sale of beverages other than the 5 listed on the certification under certain circumstances. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Ms. Haynes explained that if the first part of the program is not opted out of, it would limit the sale of cookies unless they met the State nutritional content. The second part would allow the administration to sell beverages other than the 5 that are listed which are milk, non-dairy milk, 100% fruit juice, beverages that contain only water and/or fruit or vegetable juice, and water.

## **SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

Fiona Cappabianca stated she feels that a lot of the problems with the budget are due to communication problems. She feels there was a disconnect between the BOE and BOF, and there is also a disconnect between the BOE and the public.

Tracy O'Connell stated that she agrees with Fiona that there is a disconnect.

Doug O'Connell congratulated Mr. Good and wished him luck in his future. He also said that he believes the comments made about the BOF liaison are absolutely false. He stated that the BOF liaison and the mayor repeatedly told the Board that they should be prepared for cuts.

Mr. Cavagnero defended his comments about the BOF liaison as he did not feel he was given a sense of how the BOF felt about the budget. The \$1,000,000 cut came as a complete surprise.

Mrs. Traub stated she was extremely disappointed that this public forum was chosen to discuss the above concerns. She stated she does not speak for herself when she is on the BOF, she speaks for the entire BOF and the mayor, and she shared what she was able to share. Until yesterday at about 2 p.m., she had no knowledge of what the cut was going to be.

### **COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. Nargi commented that he would like to state as an individual member of the BOE, if any individual and specifically a BOF member wants any type of document, he thinks it is imperative that the administration in a reasonable manner give that information and not try to decipher why any individual wants that information. Administration responded that the creation of a public document was what was asked for.

Mr. Nargi also commended Mr. Cavagnero's leadership, and commented on the School Construction grant not being counted as revenue.

Mr. Cavagnero apologized for his previous comments and stated he believes everyone on the BOE and the BOF are concerned about quality education. He believes they now both need to work together and think long-term so as to prevent the same thing from happening again next year.

Mr. Broverman stated that the defibrillators have been installed. One is located near the cafeteria, one is located near the gym, and a portable unit is in the nurse's office. Staff training has begun and will continue.

Mr. Oliver asked that Mr. Cavagnero be a bit more judicious about sounding off and speaking on what he may perceive to be his perception of the Board, in general, because he is speaking on behalf the Board generally.

Mr. Broverman commented that he thinks the BOE should take comfort in knowing how many people came out to the City Hall meeting a few weeks ago and spoke glowingly about the work that the BOE is involved in.

Miss Laus stated she came away from that meeting proud and she knows the Board has come a long way in the past 3 to 4 years.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Rubino reported there will be a budget committee meeting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28<sup>th</sup> at Migeon Avenue.

Mr. Broverman invited the full Board to attend the policy committee at 7 p.m. on June 3<sup>rd</sup> at Migeon Avenue to look at changes to the by-laws and the minutes.

Dr. O'Brien stated they have received their final NEASC report and she is sure the school improvement committee will be looking at that.

Dr. O'Brien commented that she is very respectful of the BOF members and knows their job is extraordinarily difficult. She was not happy about having such a large cut but she will of course follow their directive. She clarified that she thought the cuts were dastardly, not the BOF. She also supported Mr. Cavagnero and his work as Board chair.

**ITEMS FOR THE UPCOMING AGENDA**

Dr. O'Brien has, first of all, the budget modifications, then the tabled transfers, the NCCC course textbook for Board review, and their approval of the NCCC course.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Cavagnero adjourned the meeting at 10:05 p.m.