

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING  
November 12, 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. Lyons, Mr. Nargi, Ms. Raymond, Mr. Rubino, Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes, Mr. Wright, Miss Cavagnero

Members Absent: Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Oliver, Prof. Royals, Mayor Bingham, Miss Davis, Mr. Robinson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion to approve tonight's agenda**

*Miss Laus moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve tonight's agenda as amended. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

The TAG 5-Year Plan will not be discussed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Miss Laus moved and Ms. Raymond supported a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes from October 15, 2008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Nargi who was opposed.*

Mr. Broverman mentioned that on page 3, he had asked for the Social Studies class sizes, given that there were 2 less teachers. Mr. Joslyn has given him those numbers.

Mr. Lyons commented that he would like to get back to highlighted actions in the minutes.

**INFORMATION SHARING SESSION**

**Student BOE Representative Reports**

Mr. Robinson and Miss Cavagnero gave reports regarding upcoming events and news from THS.

**Superintendent's Report**

Dr. O'Brien reported that the celebration for the Teacher of the Year will be held tomorrow night at Central Connecticut State University. Sandy Mangan is Torrington's Teacher of the Year.

She also reported that in regards to No Child Left Behind, the extended day program has begun in all of the elementary schools.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Mr. Lyons moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried. Miss Laus, Ms. Raymond, Mr. Rubino, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Broverman were in favor. Mr. Cavagnero and Mr. Nargi were opposed.*

1. Certified Staff Assignment Changes  
Dr. Marsha Olsen as THS Interim Principal, effective 10/20/2008  
Joanne R. Creedon as THS Interim Assistant Principal, effective 10/20/2008
2. Certified Staff Resignations/Hires  
Nancy B. Tracy, ELL Teacher-DW, hired eff 8/28/08
3. Resignation of THS Principal  
Dr. John Metallo, Principal-HS, resigned eff 8/15/08
4. Coaching Appointments  
**Fall and Winter Sports – 2008-2009**  
Elizabeth Brewer, Dance Team Coach-HS  
Melissa Viscariello, Head Cheerleading-HS  
Kristin Driscoll, Asst. Cheerleading-HS  
  
**Fall Sports – 2008-2009**  
Glenn Aeschliman, Head Girls' Soccer-HS  
Harry Dauphinais, Head Girls' Swim-HS  
Paul Denza, Asst. Football-HS  
Timothy Driscoll, Asst. Boys' Swim-HS  
Richard Dubois, Asst. Football-HS  
Kevin Flaherty, Asst. Football-HS  
Michael C. Fritch, Asst. Boys' Soccer-HS  
Michael J. Fritch, Head Boys' Soccer-HS  
Janet Giampaolo, Head Girls' Volleyball-HS  
Michael Guy, Asst. Football-HS  
Michael Lumpkin, Diving-HS  
Michael McKenna, Asst. Football-HS  
Maryann Musselman, Asst. Girls' Volleyball-HS  
Arthur Richardson, Asst. Girls' Soccer-HS  
Drake Waldron, Head Cross Country-HS  
David Lopardo, Head Cross Country-MS  
Brian Kiernan, Head Boys' Soccer-MS  
Jeanne Browne, Head Girls' Soccer-MS  
Henry Marchand, Head Girls' Volleyball-MS  
Susan Diaferio, Assistant Girls' Volleyball-MS

5. Contract Addenda

**Elementary Extended-Day Programs (October-February)  
(all Regular Ed program except where noted)**

Kathy-Ann Campbell, TF	Kristin Ciccone, FB
Carolyn Shaggy, TF	Kristin Ciccone, FB (ELL)
Karen Osborne, TF	Corrine Jasmin, FB
Kathleen Hague Fritch, TF	Margaret Gaines, FB
Dawn Cottone, TF	Diane Hart, FB
Brandy Grant, TF	Diane Hart, FB (ELL)
Stacie Joslyn, TF	Georgeann Sabia, FB
Karen Mangine, TF	Georgeann Sabia, FB (ELL)
John Budge, TF	Heidi Casarola, FB
Kimberly Bushka, EA	Michelle Blakeney, SW
Diane Considine, EA	Kelley Browning, SW
Diane Know, EA	Andrea Drewry, SW
Kathleen Pelkey, EA	Sarah Hollenbeck, SW
Michelle Ayotte, VO	Leanne Russell, SW
Christine Chapin, VO	Valerie Vitalo, SW
Kathleen Murphy, VO	Pauline Palladino, VO
Matthew Parkhouse, VO	Liza Pescatore, VO
Rachael Placentino, VO	Dawn Pollutro, VO
Cameron Pruchnicki, VO	Mary Svetz-Juliano, VO
Jean Beck, VO	

**HS Student Transition Leader**

Newell Porch, resigned effective 10/28/08  
Deborah Manasse, hired effective 10/29/2008

**Coordinating Teacher Appointments – 2008-2009**

Henry Marchand, Special Education-MS  
Lisa Hodgkins, Special Education-MS

6. Intent to Home School: WOZZAC09

**DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**8.1 Dollars for Dreams Partnership**

Tracy O’Connell gave a presentation regarding the Dollars for Dreams Partnership whose mission is to assist in funding learning and social enrichment programs for all the children in Torrington. Their vision is to create a partnership with the whole city, businesses, residents, and the Board of Education, to raise funds, and implement free educational and social enrichment after school programs. They have recently partnered with the Warner to allow children to explore their interests and abilities in the arts. They now hope to partner with the Board of Ed and have this in place by late fall/beginning of 2009.

Board members asked questions and made comments about the process of signing up students, specific wants from the Board of Education, costs to the children and the district, administrative preapproval of forms given to the children, statement of endorsement of the Board of Education in their advertising, who will run the curriculum, role of administration in the approval of curriculum, if Board of Education approval is needed to run the Dollars for Dreams program, and how the application acceptance will be done.

Mr. Broverman asked if a report could be made to the Board of Education at the end of first section regarding how many students participated with an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the program. Ms. O’Connell stated that the grant program requires that kind of report also, and they could provide the Board with a copy of that report.

Dollars for Dreams and Dr. O’Brien stated that they are seeking a cooperative partnership with the Board which would not involve any cost. Costs are funded by grants and fundraising, but Board of Education approval is needed for administration to run the program through the schools.

The Board requested Ms. O’Connell return on December 3<sup>rd</sup> with a draft from her attorney regarding her proposal, including specifics regarding what role the administration will have in running the program and information regarding how the program will be monitored. A copy of the application was also requested

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **9.1 Vote to Join the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Educational Funding – Dianne DeVries**

Dianne DeVries gave a brief presentation and overview regarding the project.

Board members asked questions regarding similarities to prior cases, the coalition’s proposal regarding which districts get more or less money, expectations for the Board if they join in partnership, ways equity is determined, and specifics concerning funding.

*Mr. Broverman moved and Miss Laus supported the Board of Education join the suit brought by the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Educational Funding, and encourage the City Council of Torrington to join in this effort.*

*Mr. Broverman moved and Miss Laus supported withdrawing the above motion.*

*Mr. Broverman moved and Miss Laus supported that the Torrington Board of Education join the suit brought by the Connecticut Coalition for Justice in Educational Funding. The motion carried. Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Lyons, Miss Laus were in favor. Mrs. Raymond, Mr. Rubino, and Mr. Nargi were opposed.*

## **9.2 Approve Dollars for Dreams Partnership**

*Mr. Broverman moved and Miss Laus supported to table the approval of the Dollars for Dreams Partnership until December 3, 2008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

## **9.3 Receive Curriculum Proposal K-5 Language Arts Program**

*Miss Laus moved and Mrs. Raymond supported receiving the curriculum proposal K-5 Language Arts Program. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Dr. Campbell gave a presentation regarding the proposed K-5 Language Arts Program.

Board members asked questions regarding the inclusiveness of the program, when the current curriculum was implemented, the relationship between the curriculum and the actual funding of the resources, the differences between a curriculum map and a curriculum plan, formatting of the plan, assessment pieces, life expectancy of the curriculum, and difficulty variations between the curriculum and State standards.

## **9.4 Receive Curriculum Proposal for K-5 Program Materials**

*Miss Laus moved and Mrs. Raymond supported receiving the curriculum proposal for K-5 Program Materials. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Dr. Campbell explained the process used for selecting the curriculum and then recommended that the Board adopt “Good Habits, Great Readers” at a cost of \$675,000. This would be a K-5 adoption, but could be broken up into 2 or 3 year adoption so the cost would not have to be swallowed at one time.

Board members asked questions regarding what would be done if the money was not there this year; break down numbers regarding consumables for students versus textbooks, etc.; possibility of a presentation of the numbers in a maximum sense letting the Board make decisions as the budget process goes along; and assurances from the publisher regarding changes in the materials.

## **9.5 Formal Acceptance of Torrington Building & Renovation Project as Complete**

*Miss Laus moved and Mr. Lyons supported the formal acceptance of the Torrington Building & Renovation Project as complete. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Rubino who abstained.*

Ms. Haynes explained this would be the first required step so available money can be received to finish the project.

## **9.6 Receive Process Timeline – Appointment of THS Principal**

*Mr. Broverman moved and Mr. Lyons supported receiving the process timeline for the appointment of the THS principal. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Mr. Joslyn explained his process in developing the timeline.

Board members asked questions and made comments regarding what the typical interview committee looks like, inclusion of students in the interview process, who actually makes the hiring decision, the Board's input in the interview and hiring process, and the Board approval process of the new administrator.

**Mr. Nargi asked for something in writing concerning the Board's role versus the administration's role in the hiring process.**

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

None.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Budget committee is meeting tonight regarding the partnership with CHA on the special ed and upcoming budget transfers. Mr. Lyons commented that they are moving forward with the partnership with CHA on the out-of-district SPED students. On Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>, they are looking to have the members of CHA come to the Board meeting and give a full presentation as to what they want to do.

Mr. Lyons is hoping to have a School Improvement Committee meeting on Dec. 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss students who have been expelled and what happens after that.

Policy committee met on Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>, and did consider a number of changes to some of the policies regarding the dress code and the creation of a new grievance committee. On Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>, they will be meeting again to look at the issue of what is charged for school facilities and revisit the issue of attending meetings by the use of technology.

### **ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA**

Dr. O'Brien stated action items include approving the curriculum proposal K-5 Language Arts, approving the curriculum proposal for the program materials, approving the budget transfers, receiving the monthly financial report, approving the process timeline, and continuing discussion of the special meeting from October 29<sup>th</sup> regarding the performance of John Metallo while an employee of the Board, with the administration finishing their presentation.

Dr. Cavagnero added that the Board would also like to follow with an Executive Session to begin the evaluation of the superintendent.

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Broverman supported a motion to hold a formal evaluation of the Superintendent immediately following the continuance of a presentation on the Dr. Metallo hearing. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

The Board will plan to continue their discussion at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, November 24, 2008.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Miss Laus moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to adjourn at 10:00 p.m. All were in favor.