

TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
November 19, 2008

BOE GRIEVANCE HEARING - Administrator

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cavagnero at 7:32 p.m.

Mr. Rubino moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to come out of Executive Session. The motion carried. Miss Laus, Mrs. Raymond, Mr. Rubino, Prof. Royals, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Broverman, and Mr. Nargi were in favor.

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Miss Laus, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Mattiello (arrived @ 7:48 p.m.), Mr. Nargi, Mrs. Raymond, Prof, Royals, Mr. Rubino, Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes, Miss Cavagnero, Mr. Wright, Mr. Robinson

Members Absent: Mr. Oliver, Mayor Bingham, Miss Davis

Mr. Cavagnero reported that Mr. Mattiello stepped out to attend a wake. He was at the previous hearing and he will be back. Mr. Oliver is absent because of continuing health problems.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Noel Croce spoke as a representative for a group who was in attendance at tonight's meeting. She stated that as of tonight they have 1100 signatures on their petition. This petition states that in accordance with Connecticut General Statute Section 10:238, the undersigned being registered voters of the town of Torrington, hereby petition the Torrington Board of Education to hold the public hearing for vote on the following question. Is it in the best interests of the Torrington Public Schools that Dr. Susan O'Brien remain in the position of Superintendent of Schools? The Board should take into account her ability to effectively manage the district and collaborate with parents, students, and staff. Furthermore, the Board should consider whether or not they can trust the Superintendent to act in their best interests going forward. She asked that the Board take this petition into consideration when evaluating Dr. O'Brien.

Mr. Cavagnero asked if Ms. Croce was formally presenting this petition and if the names went to the City Clerk's office. Ms. Croce responded no, only the names that were presented last week. The additional names will be submitted by the end of the week.

Mr. Cavagnero stated that it is his understanding that they have 3 weeks from the time that the Board was first noticed, which was last week, to have a public hearing and the Board will get to that discussion either tonight or on Monday during the meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Miss Laus moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve tonight's agenda. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

INFORMATION SHARING

Student BOE Representative Reports

Mr. Robinson, Miss Cavagnero, and Mr. Wright spoke regarding upcoming events and current news at Southwest School, TMS, and THS respectively.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. O'Brien wished a Happy Thanksgiving to everyone.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lyons moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to approve tonight's consent agenda. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

1. *Coaching Appointments*
Winter Sports Season – 2008-2009
Katie Block, Asst. Boys' Swimming-HS
Erika Fritch, Asst. Girls' Basketball-HS
Michael J. Fritch, Head Girls' Basketball-HS
Jennifer Lefkowski, Head Diving-HS (1/2 of 2-season sport)
Julian Nichols, Head Indoor Track-HS
Tony Turina, Head Boys' Basketball-HS
Mike Tyler, Asst. Indoor Track-HS
Leron Williams, Asst. Boys' Basketball-HS
Eric Mahar, Asst. Boys' Basketball-HS
Andrew Marchand, Head Boys' Swimming-HS
Rick Fasciano, Head Boys' Basketball-MS
Henry Marchand, Ast. Boys' Basketball-MS
Maryann Musselman, Asst. Girls' Basketball-MS
Tammy Ostroski, Head Girls' Basketball-MS

2. *Contract Addenda*
Jill Baranowitz, Coordinating Teacher, Special Education-HS,
effective 2008-2009 (2nd position)
Susan Canciani, Coordinating Teacher, Language Arts-MS,
effective 2008-2009

DISCUSSION ITEMS

None.

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Approve Curriculum Proposal K-5 Language Arts Program

Mr. Broverman moved and Mr. Lyons supported approving the curriculum proposal for the K-5 Language Arts Program. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.2 Approve Curriculum Proposal for K-5 Program Materials

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Lyons supported approving the curriculum proposal for the K-5 Program Materials. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Board members discussed whether to approve entire program and then change later if needed, getting a breakdown regarding numbers over the years, stabilization of the age of the curriculum, cost of the publisher's discount, how and when the curriculum plan will be implemented, and the Board's statutory obligation to receive and approve program materials without liability regarding actually funding the materials at this point.

Dr. Campbell explained that typically when she presents her budget request, she gives the Superintendent the composite price, which is the \$675,000, and then what it looks like for K, 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5. Then she usually meets with the sales representative and bargains for economies.

8.3 Approve Budget Transfers

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2009-007. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2009-009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2009-008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported approving budget transfer 2009-010. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.4 Receive Monthly Financial Report – October, 2008

Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported receiving the monthly financial report for October, 2008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Broverman commented that since the school year is well underway he would like to see more of the money spent on textbooks, library books, and instructional technology for

the students. Ms. Haynes explained the legal fees account looks high because a percentage of these funds are encumbered to Atty. Vic Muschell. A percentage of this is also because of teacher negotiations which were not an expenditure last year.

8.5 Discussion and Possible Action – Carbone Settlement

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to table discussion item 8.5. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Cavagnero reported there is a final agreed upon offer, but there is also one thing that both attorneys agreed that the Board should do as a matter of due diligence, and that is a specific letter which he feels should be discussed in Executive Session. He would like to relate the information briefly at the Board meeting on Monday.

CONTINUED EXECUTIVE SESSION – Continuation of the discussion of the meetings of October 29, 2008 and November 5, 2008 on the performance of Dr. John Metallo while an employee of the Board.

Prof. Royals moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to move into Executive Session. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

The Board went into Executive Session at 8:07 p.m.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to extend the Board meeting past 11 p.m. The motion carried. Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Rubino were in favor. Miss Laus, Mrs. Raymond, Prof. Royals, and Mr. Lyons were opposed.

The Board returned from Executive Session at 11:05 p.m.

POSSIBLE EXECUTIVE SESSION - Discussion concerning the performance of the Superintendent.

Mr. Lyons moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion to table the possible Executive Session until Monday. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

The meeting will be held at THS at 7 p.m. on Monday, November 24, 2008.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

Dr. O'Brien reported for December 3, 2008 meeting, the update on the Charlotte Hungerford Hospital partnership, approving the Dollars for Dreams partnership, the TAG 5-year plan, the receiving the policy committee's proposed revisions to Board by-laws and the proposed revision to policy 7010 entitled Public Use of School Facilities,

approving the process timeline for the appointment of the Torrington High School principal, and introducing the IRS required plan for the 403B plan document will be scheduled.

Dr. O'Brien stated she would relay to Ms. Kloczko that the Board would like an explanation of the process used in developing the TAG plan.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to adjourn at 11:15 p.m. All were in favor.