

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
October 15, 2008

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lyons at 7:08 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero (arrived @ 7:26 p.m.), Miss Laus, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Oliver, Ms. Raymond, Prof. Royals, Mr. Rubino, Dr. O'Brien, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes, Mr. Wright (arrived @ 7:20 p.m.); Mr. Robinson

Members Absent: Mayor Bingham, Miss Cavagnero, Miss Davis

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion to approve tonight's agenda**

*Mr. Oliver moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve tonight's agenda as amended. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Mr. Lyons suggested tabling discussion item 7.1, the Dollars for Dreams partnership, until November 5<sup>th</sup>, as some of the Board members of the organization could not come to the meeting tonight. He also suggested that the Equity & Justice suit be received tonight as action item 9.3, as item 9.3, Approval of Dollars for Dreams Partnership, will be tabled. Mr. Oliver suggested tabling item 8.3, Resignation of the THS Principal, of the consent agenda.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Miss Laus moved and Mr. Oliver supported a motion to approve the special meeting minutes from September 17, 2008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Nargi who was opposed.*

*Miss Laus moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the regular Board minutes from September 17, 2008 as amended. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Nargi who was opposed.*

On page 2, the minutes should read 5 instead of 7 elementary schools.

*Mr. Broverman moved and Prof. Royals supported to approve the special meeting minutes from September 24, 2008 as amended. The motion carried. Mr. Nargi, Mr. Broverman, Prof. Royals, Mrs. Raymond, Mr. Mattiello, and Mr. Lyons were in favor. Mr. Oliver, Miss Laus, and Mr. Rubino abstained.*

On page 2, the minutes should read Mr. Lyons instead of Mr. Bates.

*Mr. Rubino moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to approve the regular Board minutes from October 1, 2008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Broverman who abstained and Mr. Nargi who was opposed.*

*Miss Laus moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve the special meeting minutes from October 7, 2008. The motion carried. Miss Laus, Mrs. Raymond, Prof. Royals, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Mattiello, and Mr. Lyons were in favor. Mr. Nargi was opposed. Mr. Rubino and Mr. Oliver abstained.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion to approve the special meeting expulsion hearing minutes from October 8, 2008. The motion carried. Mr. Rubino, Prof. Royals, Mr. Lyons, and Mr. Mattiello were in favor. Mr. Oliver, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Broverman, Miss Laus, and Mrs. Raymond abstained.*

## **CELEBRATIONS**

### **Appreciation of John Pelchat, Acting Principal, THS**

Dr. O'Brien honored John Pelchat for his contributions over the past few months as the acting principal of THS.

## **INFORMATION SHARING SESSION**

### **Student BOE Representative Reports**

Mr. Robinson gave a brief report regarding upcoming THS events.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. O'Brien welcomed Dr. Marsha Olsen, as the new interim THS principal. She also reported that CONN CAN voted Vogel-Wetmore as #8 out of the 10 top elementary schools in the state in 2 performance categories and in service to low-income students.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7.1 Equity & Justice Suit**

Dr. O'Brien briefly outlined the Equity & Justice lawsuit that is being brought forward by some students at Yale University on behalf of a number of municipalities and school districts, as well as individuals. This particular group is challenging the somewhat antiquated ECS funding system, which is the amount of State money that each district gets. Statistics concerning Torrington which are listed in the suit demonstrate that the district is in a state of municipal overload, and the City Council has asked that the Board take a look at this and give a recommendation concerning whether or not the City of Torrington and the Board of Ed should join in this lawsuit.

Board members discussed their option to join the suit.

Dr. O'Brien suggested inviting Steve Cassano, the CCJEF Executive Director of the coalition, to come to a Board meeting to answer questions. The Board agreed that would be a good idea. The Board was asked to email questions for Steve Cassano to Dr. O'Brien this week.

## **7.2 Organizational Chart**

Mr. Joslyn gave a presentation outlining the current certified staff assignments; a summary of the resignations, reductions, retirements, and transfers; and the personnel and budgetary decisions made. He also provided an organizational chart which demonstrated these changes.

Board members asked questions about staff who are assigned to Migeon; layoffs being driven by seniority and certification; the current student population (1232) and the net loss of positions at the high school (4); affect on class sizes; the loss of one administrative position; the loss of positions impact on programs, social studies in particular; changes in enrollment over the first few months; sick time or severance pay; layoffs at the elementary level (1 PE teacher) and middle school (4.5); cut of the tech ed teacher at THS; and ways to increase student interest in tech ed at the high school.

## **7.3 Education Connection Update – Mr. Broverman**

Mr. Broverman gave a brief presentation and informed the Board that he is their representative for Ed Connection. He expressed concern that these programs are not well attended by Torrington students and he would like to see more students taking advantage of these. The Board discussed ideas for improving student attendance.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Oliver supported a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of 8.3 Resignation of THS Principal which was tabled. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

### **1. Certified Staff Terminations due to Financial Restrictions**

Heidi Casarola, Kindergarten-EA (.5), layoff eff 6/30/08

Hilary Cornish, Literacy Support-VO, layoff eff 6/30/08

Taylor Musselman, Physical Education-EA, layoff eff 6/30/08

Michelle Herbert, Grade 1-EA, layoff eff 6/30/08

Carla Perlotto, Literacy Support, TF, layoff eff 6/30/08

Erin Morytko, Social Studies-HS, layoff eff 6/30/08

Michael Schleer, Social Studies-HS, layoff eff 7/16/08

Melissa Banks, Social Studies-MS, layoff eff 7/11/08

Marissa Bruni, Special Education Resource-DW (ea), resigned eff 7/18/08

Agnes Burns, Literacy Support-FB, resigned eff 7/18/08

Sarah Rhoades, Special Education Resources-FB, resigned eff 7/17/08

Jennifer Freese, Schience-HS, resigned eff 7/23/08

Veronica LeDue, Math-HS, resigned eff 8/1/08

Katherine Hanson, Special Education Resource-FB, resigned eff 8/6/08

Linda Bush, Guidance-HS, resigned eff 6/30/08  
Adam Coleman, Biology-HS, resigned eff 8/22/08  
Mary G. Buchanan, Media-SW (.5 FTE), resigned eff 7/31/08  
Elizabeth White, Grade 3-TF, Childrearing LOA eff 2008-2009

Christine McGrath, Speech-DW(vo), .4 FTE, hired eff 8/21/08  
Jocelyn A. Van Buren, Math-MS, hired eff 8/21/08  
Kathleen Orr, Core Subjects-MS (.5), hired eff 8/21/08  
Hilary Cornish, Teacher-FB, recall from layoff eff 8/21/08  
Michelle Herbert, Teacher-VO, recall from layoff eff 8/21/08  
Heidi Casarola, Teacher-VO, recall from layoff eff 8/21/08  
Carla Perlotto, Literacy Support-TF (.5 FTE), recall from layoff  
eff 8/21/08

Cynthia Moniz, Math-HS, hired eff 8/21/08  
Cathy L. Driscoll, Special Education Resource-EA, hired eff 8/21/08  
Ashlee D. Casco-Lopez, Music-EA/TF, hired eff 8/21/08  
Melissa D. Stevenson, Grade 4-EA, hired eff 8/21/08  
Joanne K. Arsego, Special Education-FB, hired eff 8/21/08  
Stacey J. Deloy, Grade 2-TF, hired eff 8/21/08  
Jennifer L. Paprzyca, Substitute Media Specialist-SW (.5 FTE), hired  
eff 8/21/08  
Daniel Reitenbach, Science-HS, hired eff 8/21/08  
Melissa R. Kain, Special Education Resource-FB, hired eff 8/21/08  
Theresa A. Vujs, Special Education Resource-FB, hired eff 10/6/08  
Susan D. Kraut, Science-HS, hired eff 9/3/08  
Laura B. Ramond, Grade 1-FB, hired eff 9/22/08

2. Notice of Intent for Home Schooling: WHIJEN09
3. ~~Resignation of THS Principal: Dr. John Metallo, Principal, HS, resigned  
eff 8/15/08~~

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **9.1 Approve Budget Transfers**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-005. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Nargi who was opposed.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-006. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Nargi who was opposed.*

**9.2 Receive Monthly Financial Statement – September, 2008**

*Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to receive the monthly financial statement – September, 2008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Mr. Broverman asked about the library book expenditure. Mr. Rubino stated that they did fully discuss that at the budget committee meeting and this was brought to Ms. Haynes' attention. Ms. Haynes stated that many have been ordered but not all have been received.

**9.3 Receive Equity & Justice**

*Mr. Broverman moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to receive the Equity & Justice suit. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION - Deliberation re: Carbone Claim**

*Mr. Lyons moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to move into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the pending claim in the form of a written notice from Atty. Randy Lovallo to the Board stating a demand for legal relief on behalf of Gerald Carbone and further stating the intention to institute litigation if such relief is not granted. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

The Board moved into Executive Session at 9:15 p.m.

*Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Oliver supported a motion to come out of Executive Session. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Prof. Royals who was opposed.*

The Board came out of Executive Session at 9:55 p.m.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – To discuss with Board Counsel a confidential communication privileged by the attorney-client relationship**

*Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Mattiello supported a motion to move into Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. to discuss with Board Counsel a confidential communication privileged by the attorney-client relationship. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

The Board came out of Executive Session at 10:48 p.m.

Mr. Cavagnero stated that BOE will meet Oct 29, 7:00 p.m. to hear testimony by Dr. John Metallo. Details regarding the posting to be worked out with Atty. Vic Muschell. Dr. O'Brien will be invited to listen to the testimony with the stipulation that she can listen and take notes, but cannot interact with Dr. Metallo or with the Board. Dr. Metallo will be given the opportunity to present his side of the story in his own terms and without interruption. The Board will be allowed to ask him questions. The Board does not intend to invite Dr. O'Brien's attorney.

A separate executive session will be scheduled for Dr. O'Brien to respond to Dr. Metallo's October 29<sup>th</sup> comments at a future date. Dr. O'Brien stated that everything that was done relative to Dr. Metallo and his future with TPS, or lack thereof, was the result of the work of the Exec Team. She noted the items in the folder represent the exhibits. The testimony took 5 hours she stated.

Dr. O'Brien stated she wished the Exec Team would be a part of the meeting with Dr. Metallo. She felt the Board was bending over backwards to accommodate Dr. Metallo, noting that Dr. Metallo is not an employee and at the same time rejecting the input and presence of its employees who did a very difficult task together. Mr. Cavagnero assured Dr. O'Brien that the Board will talk to the Exec Team at the appropriate time.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Prof. Royals moved and Miss Laus supported motion to adjourn at 11:10 p.m. All in favor.