

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
December 16, 2009**

PRESENTATION - THS Career Internship Program

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lyons at 7: 05 p.m.
Mr. Rubino took over as Board Chair after his appointment.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Mr. Cavagnero, Ms. Cogswell, Mrs. Hoehne,
Mrs. Kosmulski, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Oliver,
Mrs. Raymond, Mr. Rubino, Mr. Traub (arrived @
6:50 p.m.), Mrs. Batchelder, Mr. Arum, Mr. Emmett,
Mr. Ji

Absent: Mr. Canciani

Election of Chairman

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Oliver supported a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Frank Rubino for the position of Board Chairman. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Election of Vice-Chair

Ms. Cogswell moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. David Oliver for the position of Board Vice-Chair. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Election of Secretary

Mr. Nargi moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the appointment of Mr. Bates Lyons for the position of Board Secretary. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Lyons moved and Ms. Cogswell supported a motion to approve tonight's agenda. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lyons moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of October 21, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Traub, Mr. Oliver, Mrs. Kosmulski, and Ms. Cogswell who abstained.

Mr. Oliver moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of November 18, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Ms. Cogswell, Mr. Traub, Ms. Hoehne, and Mrs. Kosmulski who abstained.

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve the special Board meeting minutes of November 23, 2009 for Student A. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve the special Board meeting minutes of November 23, 2009 for Student B. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

Student BOE Representative Reports

A student representative reported that Southwest held their Winter Concert on December 3rd. On December 18th, the Belles and Beaux will perform for the entire school. December 22nd will be Polar Bear Express/Pajama Day. On December 15th & 16th, there will be holiday stores opened where children can purchase a variety of gifts for \$1.00. At THS, the semi-formal was held and went off without a hitch, the Thanksgiving game we won, and the basketball game is going on right now.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Arum recognized Madison from East School for winning 2nd place in the State of Connecticut's Safety Poster Contest.

He reported attending "It's a Wonderful Life" by the drama department, and that the THS Chamber Choir performed at the inauguration and were unbelievable.

The Drop-out Summit was cancelled and rescheduled for after Christmas. A \$5000 grant was applied for which will be for drop-out prevention. The money will be used in the 3rd, 6th, and 9th grades, if the money is gained, to hire tutors to come in to help the children who are reading below level for 26 weeks.

A grant with Education Connection was also applied for on the 21st Century Learning Environment. If that comes through, there will be additional money for technologies.

On January 8th, Ms. Batchelder and Mr. Joslin will be attending a Notification Conference on a Race to the Top meeting. This is money that the Federal Government is earmarking to states. The State has to put a proposal together and wants to listen to districts.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Nargi supported a motion to approve tonight's consent agenda. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

1. Resignations/Appointments/Non-renewals

Kristin L. Toczko, Long Term Substitute, Guidance-HS,
hired eff 11/23/09

Sally VanDereedt, Science-MS, resigned eff 12/18/09

Suzanne C. McKitis-Perillo, Long Term Substitute, Grade 5-FB,
hired eff 11/30/09

2. Contract Addenda

Jessica Bocola, Choral Director, Spring Musical Production-MS

Hilary Sterling, Drama Choreographer, Spring Musical Production-MS

3. Coaching Appointments - Winter Sports 2009-2010

Michael Ciesco, Asst. Boys' Basketball-HS

John Strawson, Asst. Boys' Basketball-HS

Mark Moulton, Asst. Indoor Track-HS

Don Whitley, Head Boys' Basketball-MS

4. Notices for Homeschooling: INFJAM10

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 10-Year Enrollment Projections

Mr. Arum summarized the results of the TPS 10-Year Enrollment Projections.

Board members discussed and asked questions about reasons for the decline in the enrollment from the middle school to the high school, non-residents, reasons for the peak in the long-term enrollment for Torrington while other school districts are declining, use of enrollment projections in budget planning, expected changes as relates to income, expected changes as relates to student migration out of Torrington, and the changes in drop-out rates and possible magnet schools affecting the high school enrollment.

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Approve Board Standing Committee Assignments

Mr. Oliver moved and Ms. Cogswell supported a motion to approve the Board

Standing Committee Assignments as amended. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

The following changes were made: Mr. Lyons will be chairing the Negotiations for the Administrators and Mr. Cavagnero will be chairing the School Improvement & Community Relations Committee.

Mr. Rubino reported that he would like to leave the PTO Liaison Assignments for the schools open at this time and have the School Improvement & Community Relations Committee hold possibly half their meetings at the schools and then contact the PTOs. The other liaisons could be handled by sending out emails regarding their meetings so interested Board members can attend.

8.2 Approve Out-of-State Field Trips:

- a. **New York City Lincoln Center, NY Philharmonic,**
May 19, 2010, Grades 6, 7 & 8.

Ms. Cogswell moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the Out-of-State Field Trip to the New York City Lincoln Center, NY Philharmonic, on May 1, 2010, Grades 6, 7, & 8. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.3 Approve Budget Transfers

Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Cavagnero supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-2010. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.4 Receive Monthly Financial Statement - November, 2009

Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Cavagnero supported a motion to receive the monthly financial statement for November, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.5 Receive/Approve Recommendation for Amendments to 403(b) Plan Document

Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Traub supported a motion to receive/approve the recommendation for amendments to the 403(b) Plan Document.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Lyons gave other Board members some information that was distributed during the CAFE orientation and the Race to the Top meeting.

Mr. Nargi thanked and commended Mr. Arum for his work as acting superintendent. Mr. Rubino added kudos from the Board as Chair and thanked for Mr. Arum's work on the budget. Mr. Cavagnero also thanked and commended Mr. Arum for his work.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rubino stated as new committees were just formed, he will pass this section until next month.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA - January 20, 2010

Mr. Lyons would like a report on the drop-out committee, and the issue on the Race to the Top because there is a deadline on it. Budget issues will also be discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m. All were in favor.

Attest,

Secretary