

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING**

April 22, 2009

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cavagnero at 7:12 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Miss Laus, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mrs. Raymond, Prof. Royals, Mr. Rubino, Mr. Wright, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes

Members Absent: Mayor Bingham, Mr. Oliver, Miss Cavagnero, Mr. Robinson

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

Joe Ammirato, 79 Brass Mill Dam Rd., spoke regarding the money spent on out-of-district placements. He urged the Board to proceed with an assessment of out-of-district costs as soon as possible.

Louise Basso, 572 Prospect St., spoke regarding the policy on controversial issues. She stated she feels this policy is very vague and she would like it explained in depth. She also stated she feels that any costs other than giving the students their fundamental education should be tabled this year.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

*Miss Laus moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion to approve tonight's agenda. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Pending Litigation**

*Prof. Royals moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing pending litigation inviting Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes, and Atty. Shaw. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. and returned at 8:53 p.m.

*Mrs. Raymond moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to come out of Executive Session. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Lyons moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to approve the settlement of the Valenti versus the Torrington Board of Education matter and further to authorize the acting superintendent of schools to execute the settlement agreement*

*on behalf of the Torrington Board of Education. The motion carried. Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Rubino, Mrs. Raymond, and Miss Laus were in favor. Mr. Cavagnero and Prof. Royals were opposed.*

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

None.

## **INFORMATION SHARING**

### **Student BOE Representative Reports**

None.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Campbell reported that the servers were down in the Torrington Public Schools, so since 3 p.m. yesterday there has been no receipt of emails. She hopes this to be back up and operating soon.

She also honored and thanked all administrative support staff on their special today, and reported that for the 9<sup>th</sup> time in 10 years, TBS and the City of Torrington have been recognized as the best community for music education.

She reported that the Torrington Education Collaborative, a number of state and local agencies, and Cheryl Kloczko, the administrator assigned to early childhood, have worked together to put together Torrington's birth through eight 3 year plan as mandated by the State. Public comment is needed for this plan before May 11<sup>th</sup>.

She also reported for at least the second if not the third year in a row the public school audit report had no management comments. In other words, the report demonstrated extremely good order in its business practices.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Mr. Broverman moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve tonight's consent agenda. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

### **1. Certified Staff Resignations/Hires**

Todd Thompson, Math-HS, resigned eff 4/9/09

Nicole L. Polak, Math-MS, hired eff 4/2/09

Tara E. Gaudette, Long-Term Substitute, Grade 5-SW,  
hired eff 4/6/09

Jessica N. Papp, Kindergarten-FB, hired eff 4/9/09

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7.1 CTE Needs Assessment**

Mr. Lyons reported that the school improvement committee discussed the needs assessment document and that the high school teachers will be making recommendations to the administration and to the Board as to what careers to enhance.

Dr. Campbell stated they are considering Business/Finance and Nursing/Physician Assistants as core areas based on resources that are available in the community surrounding TPS.

Board members had discussion and asked questions about weighting of the credits, timeline for rolling this out, and Board involvement in the process.

## **7.2 Superintendent Search Consultant Update**

Dr. Campbell reported that Eliza Holcomb faxed her preliminary proposal yesterday and provided a copy for the Board. The next step will be for Mr. Joslyn to talk with Ms. Holcomb about the money page as there is \$3000 available this year and \$11,000 available after July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Mattiello stated he would like to have Eliza Holcomb meet with the personnel committee to inform some of the business decisions involved.

## **7.3 Athletic Trainer Contract with Physical Therapy Center**

The athletic director answered Board questions regarding the contract.

## **7.4 Recommendation from the Administration on a detailed Timeline for the RFP Process to hire an appropriate firm to conduct a Torrington Special Education Assessment Analysis**

Mr. Lyons stated that the school improvement committee discussed this item and answered Board questions regarding this. Board members asked about who would be selecting the respondent and the Board's participation in the selection process.

*Mr. Nargi moved and Mr. Broverman supported a motion that the Board have at least 1 representative on the selection committee. The motion did not carry. Mr. Nargi and Mr. Broverman were in favor. Everyone else was opposed except for Mr. Mattiello who abstained.*

Mr. Cavagnero stated that he feels CREC would be a good choice for this process.

Mr. Lyons stated that the reason the RFP process was decided upon was because other organizations expressed an interest. Dr. Campbell added that another reason an RFP process was decided on was because CREC runs some of the facilities at which some of Torrington's students are currently outplaced.

Mr. Lyons also stated that a Board member would be involved in the process through the school improvement committee. Mr. Nargi stated he does not think that is sufficient. He would like 1 person designated to actually be actively involved with the negotiation and the execution of the contract.

Mr. Broverman stated that he is most interested in a completion date. He asked that a reasonable conclusion date be written into the timeline.

*Mr. Mattiello moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion that the school improvement committee be given the opportunity to review and comment on the RFP prior to issuance scheduled for May 6, 2009, and that the school improvement committee receive from the selection committee of the administration no more than 2 recommendations for presentation to the school improvement committee for approval. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **8.1 Receive Policy on Controversial Issues**

*Prof. Royals moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to receive the policy on controversial issues. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

### **8.2 Approve Proposed School Calendar – 2010-2011**

*Miss Laus moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the proposed school calendar – 2010-2011. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

### **8.3 Approve Budget Transfers**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-023. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

### **8.4 Receive Monthly Financial Report – March, 2009**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to receive the monthly financial report – March, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

### **8.5 Receive Technology Plan – 2009-2012**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to receive the technology plan – 2009-2012. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Dr. Campbell gave a brief overview regarding the technology plan.

### **8.6 Approve Athletic Trainer Contract with Physical Therapy Center**

*Mr. Mattiello moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve the athletic trainer contract with Physical Therapy Center. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

## **SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

Louise Basso commented that she feels that the Board only should pick who should do the special education assessment.

Joe Ammirato commented that he agrees with Mrs. Basso in that the RFP process should be Board controlled.

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

None.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Lyons reported that the school improvement committee will have a meeting on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, with the PTO to discuss the facility issues; on Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, at 7 p.m. the ceremony for the high school alumni awards will be held; and will have a regular meeting on Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. at Migeon Avenue.

Mr. Broverman reported that the policy committee will have a meeting on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at Migeon Avenue.

Miss Laus reported that the grievance committee will have a meeting on Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, at 5 p.m.

Mr. Cavagnero reported Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> is the National Honor Society induction, and Board members are invited to attend. This will be in the little theatre.

The Board of Finance will have a meeting on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m.

Miss Laus stated that the second round of interviews for the principal search will be on Thursday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7 p.m. and Board members are needed for this.

## **ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA**

Dr. Campbell reported that the discussion items will include an update on the THS accreditation progress on meeting the recommendations, and revisions to the THS and TMS codes of conduct. Action items will include appointment of the high school principal, the approval of a controversial issues policy, receipt of the agreement between Ed Connection and TPS for the food service program for 2010, receipt of the healthy food certification, approval of the technology plan that was received tonight, and approval of the superintendent as the co-signatory for the EDO99.

Mr. Nargi asked about adding discussion in regards to school uniforms at the middle school. The Board and administration discussed that this issue would be best done at a later time, but strongly agree that it needs to be discussed

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The Board moved to adjourn at 11:08 p.m. All were in favor.