

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
February 25, 2009

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cavagnero at 7:15 p.m.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

Members Present: Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Miss Laus, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Oliver, Mrs. Raymond, Prof. Royals, Mr. Rubino, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes, Miss Cavagnero (left @ 7:20 p.m.)

Members Absent: Mayor Bingham, Mr. Wright, Mr. Robinson

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve the expulsion hearing minutes of February 9, 2009. The motion carried. Mr. Nargi, Mr. Lyons, and Mr. Rubino were in favor. Miss Laus, Mrs. Raymond, Prof. Royals, Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Oliver, and Mr. Mattiello abstained.*

*Mr. Broverman moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of February 13, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Lyons moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of the Superintendent's termination hearing from February 13, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Mattiello moved and Mr. Oliver supported a motion to approve the special meeting minutes related to pending litigation from February 18, 2009, as amended. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Miss Laus who abstained.*

Miss Laus suggested that it be noted in the minutes that Dr. O'Brien was duly noticed but did not appear. Mr. Cavagnero agreed.

*Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Nargi supported a motion to approve the expulsion meeting minutes of February 19, 2009. The motion carried. Mr. Rubino, Mr. Lyons, and Mr. Nargi were in favor. Mr. Oliver, Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Prof. Royals, Mrs. Raymond, and Miss Laus abstained.*

## **INFORMATION SHARING**

### **Student BOE Representative Reports**

Mr. Wright and Mr. Robinson were not present as they were supporting the girl's basketball team.

Miss Cavagnero gave reports regarding Tarringford School, TMS, and THS. At Tarringford School the following events will be held: Family Movie Night on March 6<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Silent and Live Auction with live entertainment on Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6 p.m. at the Cornucopia, and a Family Reading Night and Storytime with Teachers K-2 on Saturday, March 27<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

At TMS, the TMS Drama Club will present an adaptation by Broadway of the original "Guys and Dolls" @ 7 p.m., Saturday, March 21<sup>st</sup> in the TMS auditorium with snow dates of March 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>. Tickets may be purchased at the door, and will be \$7.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children ages 12 and under. The TPS Music Department will host its annual "Night of Jazz" concert on Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> @ 7 p.m. The concert will be free of charge and will be held in the TMS Auditorium.

At THS, the CAPT will be given next week for all sophomores and some juniors after school. Students not taking the test will have shortened days during this week. The girl's basketball team is playing their NVL championship game against Kennedy in Crosby tonight @ 7 p.m., and the boy's swim team is having their senior night tonight @ 7 p.m. @ the YCMA in Torrington. A THS Raider Pride rally was held last Thursday and was a success. All fall sports teams and winter sports teams were recognized, as well as all clubs and school groups. The THS Student Council continues to work on prom and an upcoming semiformal dance which will be held in March. Also, the Student Council with the help of Dr. Olsen is beginning to plan a modified version of the annual T-fest, which is a week-long celebration of THS and Torrington pride that brings together the community.

The following THS music students were selected to represent THS in the Connecticut All-State Music Festival which will be held on April 2-4 @ the Hartford Convention Center: Bridget Bertoldi, Flute–All-State Orchestra–Top 6 in the state; Michelle Wallace, Bassoon–All-State Orchestra–Top 5 in the state; John DelVento, Euphonium–All-State Band–2<sup>nd</sup> in the state; Brian Nowell, Trumpet–All-State Jazz Ensemble–#2 Jazz Trumpet in the state; and Garrett Rapsilber, Tenor–All-State Chorus. This is the first time ever that THS will be represented in each All-State Ensemble.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Campbell reminded the Board and the viewing audience that students in grades 3 through 8, and in grades 10 and 11 will be participating in State testing. The tests are

scheduled usually in the morning. If there are any questions about the testing schedule, call the individual buildings as each building has a copy of the testing schedule.

Dr. Campbell also spoke regarding a subject prompted by a letter from CABA. CABA has been sending regular updates about a lot of chaos which is going on legislatively concerning mandates which affect funding. She feels that a careful eye needs to be kept on this, as this could result in mandates which may reduce funding to public schools.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Certified Staff Resignations/Hires

Karen Bentley, Kindergarten-TF, retire eff 6/30/09

Doreen Page, Music-MS, retire eff 6/30/09

Joann Stefurak, Language Arts-MS, retire eff 6/30/09

Michelle Stietzel, Reading & Language Arts Specialist-EA,  
resigned eff 6/30/09

Tara E. Gaudette, Special Education-SW, Long-Term Substitute,  
hired eff 1/5/09 through 3/19/09

Rosanne M. Field, Grade 1-VO, Long-Term Substitute,  
hired eff 1/5/09 through 4/19/09

Rebecca S. Scoville, Grade 4-TF, Long-Term Substitute,  
hired eff 1/26/09 through 6/17/09

Jessica C. Rhodes, Guidance-HS, hired eff 3/2/09

2. Resignation of David Barber, School Custodian-DW (tf), eff 4/3/09

3. Coaching Resignations

Eric Mahar, Head Baseball-MS, 2009 Spring Sports,  
Resigned eff 2/6/09

4. Notices for Home Schooling: DAIDAN09

## ACTION ITEMS

### 7.1 Approve Budget Transfers

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-017. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-018. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

## **7.2 Receive Monthly Financial Report – January, 2009**

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

## **7.3 Approve Stipend for Erica Pucci as Technical Project Manager, eff 1/09 to 6/09**

*Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Broverman supported a motion to approve a stipend of \$2,500.00 for Erica Pucci as Technical Project Manager, effective 1/09 to 6/09. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

## **7.4 Receive/Discuss Proposed Guideline for Use of Attorneys**

*Mr. Lyons moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to table the proposed guideline for the use of attorneys until the policy committee brings forth any particular guidelines. The motion carried. Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Lyons, Miss Laus, Prof. Royals, Mr. Rubino, and Mrs. Raymond were in favor. Mr. Nargi was opposed and Mr. Mattiello abstained.*

Mr. Broverman stated that the policy committee at their January meeting asked Mr. Joslyn to draft internal regulations for the hiring and use of attorneys which he did and it is included in the Board packet. However, the policy committee met last night and discussed the regulations and some ideas were shared that might streamline and make the regulations more effective. The policy committee plans to discuss this again and they are not ready at this time to make any real recommendation about the hiring of attorneys. Their next meeting is on the agenda for March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7 p.m. at Migeon Avenue.

## **7.5 Receive Superintendent's Budget Proposal for 2009-2010 Dr. Barbara Campbell, Acting Superintendent**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to receive the Superintendent's Budget Proposal for 2009-2010, Dr. Barbara Campbell, Acting Superintendent. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Dr. Campbell gave a presentation on the budget proposal for 2009-2010. Focuses included increasing instructional time, addressing Board goals, and anticipating economic effects on the budget. The new literacy adoption, new biology textbooks for the high school, some capital projects, and the AYP summer school have been postponed. Regular education summer school and the AYP extended year were not included in the budget. Some staff positions were also cut.

The Board and administration discussed and asked questions about the impact of postponing the K-3 literacy program, the projected revenue flow for next year, the

Upward Bound transition to the high school, and use of resources to educate parents to reinforce the education of their children.

## **7.6 Action on Superintendent Termination**

*Mr. Lyons moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion to table this action. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

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

Mr. Lyons stated there will be a CABE on the Hill meeting this Wednesday. Upcoming legislative issues confronting education will be discussed. He will send an email to Board members and administration regarding the details of the meeting.

Dr. Campbell stated that the Mayor told her to encourage Board members to work very hard with CABE to get their voices heard.

**Mr. Nargi requested the administration get a breakdown of the actual cost of the last 2 expulsion hearings.** Ms. Haynes agreed. He also requested that administration have dialogue with CJR regarding the availability, cost, and feasibility of the use of their pool to provide the swim team with the best and most economically sound swim program. Dr. Campbell stated that this will be done as part of the Charlotte Hungerford partnership exploration.

Mr. Rubino congratulated the middle school on an impressive invention convention last week. He thought it was very well presented.

Mr. Rubino also congratulated the Chamber Choir and wished them good luck next weekend.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Broverman reported that the policy committee met last night and approved a recommendation for the e-rate funds which will be in the Board packet for reception at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Mattiello reported that the personnel committee will be meeting next Wednesday, March 4<sup>th</sup> @ 6 p.m. for an update from Dr. Campbell.

Miss Laus reported that the grievance committee met before the meeting tonight and are moving forward.

Mr. Lyons reported that the school improvement committee had to cancel the meeting with the PTO, and still needs to set a new time.

Mr. Rubino reported there is an athletic opening as far as the Board of Education member for the Booster Club. This has been open for the last 2 years.

**ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA**

Dr. Campbell reported that no items were put on the March 4<sup>th</sup> agenda so as to be sensitive to the fact that budget hearings would be starting and no one knew where the Superintendent hearings were going to go. So she will review that tonight.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to adjourn at 8:48 p.m. All were in favor.