

TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
February 4, 2009

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lyons at 7:00 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Broverman, Miss Laus, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mrs. Raymond, Prof, Royals (arrived @ 7:05 p.m.), Mr. Rubino, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes, Miss Cavagnero (left @ 7:30 p.m.), Mr. Wright, (left @ 7:30 p.m.), Mr. Robinson (left @ 7:30 p.m.)

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve the regular Board minutes of January 14, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with exception for 1 abstention, 1 opposition.

Miss Laus moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the regular Board minutes of January 21, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION SHARING

Student BOE Representative Reports

Miss Cavagnero gave a report regarding TMS. There will be a PTO meeting on Tuesday, February 10th at 6:30 p.m., and this year parent conferences will be divided by the alphabet: Letters A-H on February 10th from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Letters I-Q on February 11th from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; Letters R-Z on February 12th from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; and February 19th will be an open session from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. There will also be a dance sponsored by the Student Council on Friday, February 13th from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for grades 7 and 8. Admission is \$5 or \$2 if 2 donations to the canned food drive are given in Room 106 to Mrs. O'Hara.

Mr. Wright and Mr. Robinson announced the names of colleges to which the senior class has been admitted so far this year. These included:

Assumption College
Averett College (PA)
Bentley College
Castleton State
CCSU
College of St. Rose
DeSales University (PA)
Drew University
Drexel University
ECSU
Fairfield University
Keene State
LaSalle University
Marist College
Mt. St. Mary
NCCC
Nova SE (FLA)
Pace University
Philadelphia University
Providence College
Quinnipiac University
Roger Williams

SCSU
Seaton Hall University
Simmons College
St. John's University
St. Joseph College
Stetson University
Stonybrook College
Sunny Fashion Institute
Syracuse University
UConn
Union College
University of Hartford
University of New Haven
University of Vermont
URI
Vassar College
WCSU
Wells College
Western New England
Westfield State
Wheelock College
WPI

Miss Cavagnero also reported for THS in that there will be a blood drive tomorrow, February 5th, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., for anyone who is 17 years old or older.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Campbell reported that administration has completed the administrative reviews of all the site budgets, and will be looking at the combined budget early next week in preparation for putting together the Superintendent's budget for presentation to the Board on February 25th.

She also reported the good news that the Governor has proposed that 12% not be cut from the ECS monies for education. He also projected that funding will be level for the next 2 years, but Dr. Campbell does not believe funding will be level for next year. She believes this is going to be a very taxing time to build a budget that can move education forward while at the same time being respectful and responsible to the public.

She also reported that David Bascetta received a \$10,000 check from a Homeland Security Grant for which he had applied. This check was used to install extra security cameras at Southwest School.

She also announced that testing season will begin shortly. It will start early in March, March 2nd or 3rd, and will go through the month of March. Parents will be receiving letters informing them of the testing. Parents were encouraged to make certain that their students will be well rested, and that they eat breakfast.

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
Dana Fudge, Guidance-HS, resigned eff 2/13/09
2. Coaching Resignations/Appointments
Pat Richardson, Asst. Baseball-HS, 2009 Spring Sports, resigned eff 1/29/09
3. Notification of Home Schooling: JONANG09

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 2008 CMT/CAPT Results – Dr. Campbell & Mrs. Babcock

Dr. Campbell and Mrs. Babcock gave a comprehensive presentation regarding the 2008 CMT/CAPT results and how these results are used.

Board members asked questions and had discussion about if the scores that are going up are related to the adoption of the new math curriculum; improved reading and writing training at the middle and high school levels; confidentiality of results; change in focus for teacher in response to results; counseling for individual teachers in response to results; staff who see test results; special ed and regular ed students who write their name down but then freeze when taking test because of anxiety; improvements put in place recently to improve special education; unreasonable expectations of NCLB; the spirit of NCLB; subgroup performance; generation of benchmark graphs for all subtests; reasons why students with disabilities are not meeting goals in their performance on the CMT and CAPT; reports which indicate AYP; some of Torrington's teachers serving on advisory committees at the State level for the creation of some of the tests; timing regarding when tests scores are received in relation to making modifications at the beginning of the academic year; and the correlation between test scores in the high school and the drop-out rate.

ACTION ITEMS

None.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

The CABA legislative breakfast has been rescheduled because of snow for February 11th up at Education Connection.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Miss Laus reminded the Board that the new grievance committee will have a meeting at 6 p.m. next Thursday, February 12th.

Mr. Lyons reported that the school improvement committee met Monday, and PTO issues and concerns were on the agenda. Administration will be looking into those particular

concerns and getting back to the PTO council as soon as possible, in terms of trying to work out the confusions and inconsistencies that were presented at the meeting.

Mr. Broverman reported that the policy committee will meet on Monday, February 23rd, at 7 p.m. at Migeon. Tomorrow he will forward minutes of the meeting to all members of the committee.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

Dr. Campbell reported for February 25th the agenda includes the approval of budget transfers; receiving monthly financial reports; receiving a proposal for the school calendar for 2010-2011, and receiving the Superintendent's budget proposal. The administration and Board leadership will also plan to meet for agenda planning on a day without snow.

EXECUTIVE SESSION REGARDING PERSONNEL MATTERS

Mr. Nargi moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to move into Executive Session for a discussion regarding personnel matters inviting into the session Mr. Joslyn and Dr. Campbell. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board moved to adjourn at 10:30 p.m. All were in favor.