

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
January 21, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Members Present: Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Miss Laus, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Oliver (left @ 8:53 p.m.), Mrs. Raymond, Prof. Royals, Mr. Rubino, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes

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

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

HEARING REGARDING THE TERMINATION OF THE SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT

Atty. Muschell stated that he contacted Atty. M. Jackson Weber about acting as the hearing officer for these hearings. Atty. Weber agreed but was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Atty. Muschell brought Atty. Weber's calendar so that future dates could be arranged.

Cheryl DaMato introduced herself as the court reporter who will be transcribing the hearings. Atty. Michael McKeon of Sullivan, Schoen, Campana, and Connon, LLC, 646 Prospect Ave., Hartford, CT, and Atty. Leon Rosenblatt, 10 N. Main St., West Hartford, CT, introduced themselves to the Board as well.

Future meetings were tentatively scheduled for Thursday, February 12th; Friday, February 13th; and Saturday, February 14th, with a 7:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. start for the evenings respectively, and a 10 a.m. start for the Saturday meeting. February 18th was identified as a backup date.

Board members asked questions and discussed when transcripts of hearings would be available if a Board members was unable to attend one of the meetings; how procedural disputes were to be handled; procedural issues ultimately being the Board's decision; role of the Board's mediator in the proceedings; confirmation regarding the location of the meetings as Migeon Avenue; meetings being public as requested by Dr. O'Brien;

McKeon's role as prosecutor regarding the case; and clarification of the steps taken and ahead in the termination of Dr. O'Brien's contract.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Mindy Hobson spoke in behalf on behalf of the Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative. They have successfully completed their coat drive and were able to give out 311 coats and other winter accessories to Torrington area students. They now will begin a clothing drive for school clothes for those who need them. They will also be giving out school supplies.

Fiona Cappabianca spoke regarding concerns about the hearing. She is concerned that there has not been a time limit set on the hearing, and she was hoping the hearing would be wrapped up this month as Dr. O'Brien is still being paid on administrative leave.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were available.

INFORMATION SHARING

Student BOE Representative Reports

Student representative were not available as they were studying for exams.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Cavagnero read the list of colleges to which Torrington high school students have been admitted as Mr. Nargi had requested.

Dr. Campbell reported that she and Ms. Haynes went to the Board of Finance meeting on Tuesday night so they could learn of the status of the Heating Assistance Grant. She publicly thanked Mayor Bingham and the Board of Finance for passing along to the Board \$56,800 for energy costs

Mr. Lyons asked about the possible withdrawal of peanut butter in the schools. Ms. Haynes reported Education Connection usually pulls things according to these reports.

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Approve Proposed Revision to Policy No. 6040, entitled *Student Dress Code*

Mr. Broverman moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion to approve the proposed revision to Policy No. 6040, entitled Student Dress Code. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.2 Approve Proposed Revision to Board By-Laws

Mr. Broverman moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to approve the proposed revision to Board By-Laws as amended. The motion carried.

Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Broverman, Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Rubino, Mrs. Raymond, and Miss Laus were in favor. Prof. Royals was opposed.

Board members discussed concerns and options and decided to amend the motion pending language changes to include that any 3 Board members will constitute a quorum and that any Board member may participate in any Grievance Committee meeting with full voting privileges.

8.3 Approve Proposed Revisions to Policy No. 7010, entitled Use of Public School Facilities

Mr. Broverman moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to approve the proposed revisions to Policy No. 7010, entitled Use of Public School Facilities. The motion carried. Mr. Nargi, Mr. Broverman, Prof. Royals, Mrs. Raymond, and Miss Laus were in favor. Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Lyons, and Mr. Rubino were opposed.

Mr. Broverman and Ms. Haynes explained that the changes were being suggested as a way to recover energy costs. Also State statute allows the Board to authorize the creation of a fund from which these bills could be paid. The money collected by this policy change would go into this fund.

The Board had a lengthy discussion as several Board members were opposed to this revision.

Mr. Nargi stated he wanted the minutes to reflect that he wanted this to include the not-for-profit as well.

8.4 Approve Budget Transfers

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-015. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-016. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.5 Receive Monthly Financial Report – December, 2008

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to receive the monthly financial report for December, 2008. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.6 Approve CAFE Services for Recruiting THS Principal

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Nargi supported a motion to approve CAFE Services for recruiting the THS Principal as amended by Dr. Campbell. The motion

carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Prof. Royals who was opposed.

Mr. Joslyn did a cost analysis regarding comparing in-house recruitment versus recruitment with the assistance of CABA, and he came up with a figure of approximately \$4400.00 to do the recruitment in-house. The price for CABA services was previously estimated to be approximately \$7500.00. He stated he informed Eliza Holcomb from CABA services regarding the Board concerns and a possible ala carte pricing, and though she was reluctant to give a menu of services, she stated she would come out and talk about where help is needed and then give a reasonable price on what her services would be. His recommendation was at the very least to tap into Eliza's wide range of connections to make sure that the brochures were distributed throughout the State and nationally using her knowledge for the hot spots to hit. He also highly recommended her services with the focus groups. He did talk to Eliza about the fact that Torrington is already paying a CABA membership fee, but Eliza works as an independent contractor endorsed by CABA so the price would be her price. CABA does get a discount which is passed along to her for things like advertising, so that is the advantage in having a membership with CABA.

After a lengthy discussion regarding the best option in this situation, Dr. Campbell suggested Mr. Joslyn negotiate services with Eliza Holcomb for the most cost effective portions of the interview process for between \$3000,00 and \$4500.00, with administration doing the rest.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Tammy Royer, 135 Allison Drive, Torrington, spoke against the revisions to policy made regarding the public use of school facilities.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Lyons reported that the school improvement committee will meet February 2nd, Monday evening, at 7 p.m. at Migeon Avenue.

Mr. Rubino reported that budget committee met tonight and he thanked the BOF for the \$56,800 which was transferred over for energy costs.

Mr. Broverman reported that the policy committee is meeting on Monday, January 26th at 7 p.m. at Migeon Avenue, 1 hour after the personnel committee meeting. They will be looking at the teaching of controversial issues, a policy concerning the hiring of lawyers, and the judicial responsibilities of Board members.

Mr. Cavagnero stated the appointments for the grievance committee will be Mr. Broverman, Miss Laus, Mr. Rubino, and Mr. Lyons with Miss Laus acting as chairperson.

Mr. Mattiello moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the grievance committee assignments. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

Dr. Campbell stated a presentation will be given regarding the 2008 CMT/CAPT results and answers will be given to the questions posed by the Board about the SSP.

ADJOURNMENT

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