

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
March 18, 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, Mrs. Raymond, Prof. Royals, Mr. Rubino, Dr. Campbell, Ms. Haynes

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

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

None.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Broverman moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of February 4, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Cavagnero who abstained.

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve the grievance hearing minutes of February 12, 2009-A. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Broverman, Prof. Royals, Mrs. Raymond, and Mr. Cavagnero who abstained.

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve the grievance hearing minutes of February 12, 2009-D. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Broverman, Prof. Royals, Mrs. Raymond, and Mr. Cavagnero who abstained.

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve the grievance hearing minutes of February 12, 2009-E. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Broverman, Prof. Royals, Mrs. Raymond, and Mr. Cavagnero who abstained.

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve the grievance hearing minutes of February 12, 2009-F. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Broverman, Prof. Royals, Mrs. Raymond, and Mr. Cavagnero who abstained.

Prof. Royals moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to approve the special Board meeting minutes of February 23, 2009, regarding the Termination of the Superintendent Contract.

Prof. Royals moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to table the special Board meeting minutes of February 23, 2009, regarding the Termination of the Superintendent Contract, until the original document is available for comparison. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Mattiello supported a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of February 25, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Lyons moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of March 4, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION SHARING

Student BOE Representative Reports

None.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Campbell spoke regarding the superintendent search and shared with the Board the key characteristics that superintendents look for when they consider moving to another district or taking their first superintendent's job.

Miss Haynes briefly explained how the federal stimulus monies will apply to Torrington.

Mr. Cavagnero recognized Maureen Beach, a kindergarten teacher at Forbes School, who passed away this week.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lyons 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
Barbara Julian, Business-HS, retire eff 6/30/09
Lisabeth Milewski, Math-HS, retire eff 6/30/09
2. Notice for Home Schooling – SOUMAR09

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 CREC Consultation Services re: Out-of-District Placements

Mr. Mattiello introduced Mr. George Dowaliby from CREC who gave a presentation regarding the services that CREC provides in regards to special education program review.

Board members asked questions and had discussion about the use of State standards as reference points in evaluation of districts, CREC's responsiveness and flexibility in regards to the needs of the district they are working for, cost of the program review being dependent on the needs and wants of the district, percentage of program reviews which indicate that the district's special ed programs are not adequate, possible survey of student's needs via the IEPs and looking at local services, confidentiality issues, contractual obligations to the Board, CREC's interaction levels with the Board and administration, and how CREC will provide an overview systemically of the special education program and who they would be working closely with.

Mr. Mattiello recommended the Board have the school improvement committee set up a meeting with representation from the administration and develop something to bring to CREC and then bring back for the April 22nd meeting. Other Board members were in agreement with this plan.

7.2 THS Principal Search Application Status

Mr. Joslyn updated the Board on the THS principal search process. He reported that as of this time there is not a huge pool of candidates, but he and Eliza Holcomb were working very hard to attract the best possible candidates for this position.

7.3 Superintendent Search

Miss Laus moved and Mr. Broverman supported a motion to table discussion item 7.3 until the April 1st regular Board meeting. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.4 Superintendent Settlement Agreement

Atty. Vic Muschell updated the Board on the current status of the superintendent settlement agreement. He recommended that the agreement be finalized tonight.

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Approve Superintendent Settlement Agreement

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Nargi supported a motion to approve the Superintendent Settlement Agreement. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

The Board meeting was recessed from 9:15 p.m. until 9:25 p.m.

The meeting was resumed at 9:25 p.m.

8.2 Approve Budget Transfers

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

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-019. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-020. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2009-021. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.3 Receive Monthly Financial Report – February, 2009

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

8.4 Receive Proposed School Calendar for 2010-2011

Prof. Royals moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to receive the proposed school calendar for 2010-2011. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.5 Approve Proposed Revision to Policy No. 2030, Acceptable Educational Use of the Internet, Networks, and Internet Safety

Mr. Broverman moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion to approve the proposed revision to Policy No. 2030, Acceptable Educational Use of the Internet, Networks, and Internet Safety. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.6 Receive Budget Committee's Budget Recommendation for 2009-2010

Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to receive the budget committee's budget recommendation for 2009-2010. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Nargi requested that administration break down the numbers for the literacy program for K1 to K2, with projected monies of reimbursement, for the next meeting.

Mr. Broverman requested hypothetically looking at adding 3 elementary school teachers back into the budget and seeing how that might affect class size.

Mr. Cavagnero requested information regarding the cost of substitute teachers, professional development, and consulting.

Mr. Cavagnero requested that the athletic director be present at the next meeting prepared to discuss options regarding the use of the CJR swimming pool.

Mr. Rubino requested looking at money in the budget for the new superintendent search.

Dr. Campbell recommended that the April 1st meeting be spent primarily on the Board's budget with line item questions being sent to Mr. Rubino or Mrs. Haynes before that time. After discussion, the Board agreed to this plan, starting the meeting at 6 p.m. instead of 7 p.m.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Tammy Royer spoke regarding the superintendent settlement agreement. She stated that she felt there was a misrepresentation regarding final checks made out to Dr. O'Brien.

Mr. Cavagnero responded that the dollar amounts and the final figures of closing out this settlement were almost exclusively handled between the two lawyers.

Fiona Cappabianca expressed concerns regarding discussing budget issues over email. She also expressed concerns over enough time being allowed for public input in regards to the budget.

Mr. Cavagnero stated the Board can exchange information, but Board members cannot debate or advocate issues over email. Mr. Cavagnero stated that the agenda for the next meeting will be modified to allow a time period for public participation.

Fiona Cappabianca also expressed concerned in regards to the cost of substitute teachers.

Mr. Joslyn will give information at the April 1st meeting in regards to the cost effectiveness of the use of Kelly services for substitute teachers.

Kathi Petterson expressed concerns regarding staffing and class size at THS.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

None given.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Lyons reported that the school improvement committee will be meeting on April 6th.

Mr. Broverman reported that the policy committee will be meeting on Monday night at 7 p.m. at Migeon Avenue. The agenda has been posted.

Mr. Mattiello reported that the personnel committee will be meeting March 26th at 6 p.m. at Migeon Avenue regarding the superintendent search and the transition plan.

Miss Laus reported that the grievance committee will be hearing several custodial grievances tomorrow night at 6 p.m.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

Executive session regarding pending litigation and discussion of the budget as stated previously.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board moved to adjourn at 10:45 p.m. All were in favor.