

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
March 4, 2009**

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cavagnero at 7:22 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

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

Absent: Mr. Oliver, Mayor Bingham, Mr. Robinson

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Joe Ammirato spoke regarding getting out-of-district costs under control.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Mattiello supported a motion to approve tonight's agenda as amended. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Cavagnero added an update on the superintendent settlement and a placeholder regarding the actions related to this discussion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

Student BOE Representative Reports

Mr. Wright gave a report regarding colleges to which THS students have been accepted and news from TMS. The PTO will be sponsoring a dance for all grades on Friday, March 27th, and a musical "Guys and Dolls" will be performed on Saturday, March 21st. Miss Cavagnero gave a report regarding THS. The ceramics club will sponsor an "Empty Bowl" event on Wednesday, April 8th @ the Torrington Elk's Lodge. "Empty Bowl" is a nationwide project to heighten the awareness of world hunger. A simple meal of soup, bread, and dessert will be served to approximately 200 people. Handmade bowls will also be given. All proceeds will go to the Community Kitchen of Torrington, the local soup kitchen. Ceramic students put in a total of approximately 400 hours in preparing for this project. Tickets go on sale Monday, March 9th @ the main entrance of THS.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Campbell reported that the Forbes Flyers will be performing at the Big East Tournament held @ Yale University on March 7th and again at halftime on March 8th. They will also be performing the morning of March 7th at the Kindergarten Fair, an event sponsored by the Torrington Early Childhood Collaborative.

Dr. Campbell spoke again regarding the lack of clear signals coming from Washington and the State concerning funding. She encouraged all Board members and others to talk to their representatives and members of Congress because there are important issues in regards to funding which are still in flux.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Certified Staff Resignations/Hires

Jacqueline Bonaguide, World Language, French-HS, retire eff 6/30/09
Robert Toth, Social Studies-MS, retire eff 6/30/09
Nancy Katz, Psychologist-HS, retire eff 6/30/09
Mark Purcell, Social Studies-MS, retire eff 6/30/09
Darlene Stannard, Grade 4-TF, retire eff 6/30/09
Rosanne M. Field, Grade 1-VO, Long-Term Substitute, hired eff 1/25/09
Diane E. Haggis, Grade 1-VO, Long-Term Substitute, hired eff 1/5/09
Jennie L. Levin, Guidance-HS, Long-Term Substitute, hired eff 3/2/09

2. Coaching Resignations/Appointments

Katie Block, Asst. Girls' Track-HS hired eff 2008-2009 Spring Sports
Eric Mahar, Asst. Baseball-HS, hired eff 2008-2009 Spring Sports
Drake Waldron, Head Baseball-MS, hired eff 2008-2009 Spring Sports

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Update on Superintendent Settlement

Atty. Vic Muschell gave an update on the superintendent settlement. He informed the Board that he has been asked to draft a final agreement regarding the settlement. He stated that the major issue which still remains is whether the superintendent was still getting paid as she was on administrative leave with pay. His recommendation was to stop pay if it has not already been stopped.

Mr. Nargi asked why Atty. Muschell was asked to draft the agreement when Atty. Weber was hired by the Board to be the special counsel. Mr. Cavagnero stated that Atty. Weber relinquished his duties as of February 23rd, and recommended that the regular Board attorney finalize the document.

Dr. Campbell stated that she wanted to make clear to the public that when administration was directed by the Board to cease payment to Dr. O'Brien, Ms. Haynes carried out that

directive. However, Ms. Haynes had some questions regarding the details because some of the providers, like the life and health insurance providers, have stipulations that she needed to ask questions about. Apparently, these questions were misperceived as challenging the Board's authority and she wanted to make clear that this was not the case.

Prof. Royals asked Atty. Muschell if he had finished drafting the settlement. Atty. Muschell responded that it was done and in Atty. Rosenblatt's hands.

7.2 CABA Presentation on Superintendent Hiring Process – Robert Radar

Mr. Radar gave a presentation on the superintendent hiring process. He strongly recommended that the Board hire a search consultant.

Board members asked questions and had discussion about the time period needed to hire a new superintendent, the search process for getting an interim, the process for hiring a consultant, the cost of a search with and without a consultant, and starting off with a 3-year term.

7.3 Update on THS Principal Search – Mr. Joslyn

Mr. Joslyn gave an update regarding the THS Principal Search. The position has been posted, and they are putting together interview teams and looking towards a start date of July 1st. First round interviews will be April 6th and second round interviews will be April 20th. Another important date will be the March 24th meeting, 1:30 p.m. for students, 2:30 p.m. for THS staff, 3:30 p.m. for administrators, and 7 p.m. for parents and community in the Media Center. The deadline for applications will be March 25th.

Board members asked questions and had discussion about the number of candidates who will be interviewed, Eliza Holcomb's role in the interview process, when Mr. Joslyn will know the actual number of candidates to be interviewed, having an estimate regarding number of candidates by the next Board meeting on March 20th, notifying graduate schools for education, and notifying Sally Reese because of her extensive connections in the area.

Mr. Cavagnero asked for a timeline regarding the search and interview process to be given to Enid and distributed to the Board.

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Actions related to Superintendent Settlement

No motions were given.

8.2 Receive Proposed Revision to Policy No. 2030, entitled *Acceptable Educational Use of the Internet, Networks, and Internet Safety*

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

Mr. Broverman and Dr. Campbell explained the proposed revisions in the policy.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Fiona Cappabianca requested public access to Board packets during their meetings.

Mr. Cavagnero requested that 3 copies of the Board packet be available at each Board meeting.

Noel Croce requested that the budget be posted online.

Mr. Cavagnero stated that the Board and administration try to accommodate this.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Lyons stated that CAFE on the hill was held today, and several issues were discussed including special ed legislation dealing with who has the burden of proof in regards to PPTs, issues regarding approaching collective bargaining units, and unfunded mandates that were on the table for discussion. In-school suspension issues will be delayed for 2 years, but there is a bill on the table dealing with shortening the school year and starting school after Labor Day starting in September of 2009. He urged Board members to keep abreast of the legislative updates to see where they are going and to make their voices heard as needed on issues.

Mr. Mattiello stated that the school year proposal was regarding starting a uniform start date which may or may not have the effect of shortening the school year.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rubino stated that the March 2nd meeting was rescheduled for March 9th starting at 6:30 p.m., and there will be a meeting tomorrow for the budget review for THS, TMS, and athletics at TMS.

Mr. Lyons stated they are still working out a meeting with PTO for April 6th at Torrington.

Mr. Broverman stated that he has asked administration to investigate what other districts have in reference to their procedures for the hiring and retention of lawyers. They are going to have feedback on that for the next policy meeting. Secondly, Mr. Broverman has found out that CAFE doesn't have a policy on hiring, but does have a policy on how to use attorneys so the policy committee will be obtaining a copy of that.

Mr. Mattiello stated that he feels the next best step for the personnel committee is to make a set of recommendations looking at the CAFE document and map out a sensible calendar, and also to make a recommendation on the role of the consultant.

Miss Laus stated that the grievance committee is meeting next Thursday, March 19th at 6 p.m. She and Mr. Rubino can attend, but they need a third Board member to be available for this meeting. Mr. Broverman stated he will most likely be able to attend.

Mr. Rubino stated the budget committee is looking forward to their meeting tomorrow to follow through and continue with the budget hearings.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

Dr. Campbell stated that for discussion items she has an update on the THS principal search, a discussion of the superintendent search process, and a CREC consultation regarding out-of-district placements. For action items, she has approving budget transfers, receiving the monthly financials, receiving the proposed school calendar for 2010-2011, approving the revisions to the acceptable use of the Internet policy, and approve the budget committee's budget recommendations for 2009-2010. She also has added an executive session should any teacher whose contract is not being renewed decide not to resign.

Mr. Mattiello will check if the CREC consultant will be available.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m. All were in favor.