

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING  
November 18, 2009**

**CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lyons at 6:05 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

Present: Mr. Broverman, Miss Laus, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Mattiello  
(arrived at 7:06 p.m.), Mr. Nargi, Mr. Oliver,  
Mrs. Raymond, Prof. Royals (arrived at 6:58 p.m.),  
Mr. Rubino, Dr. Campbell, Mrs. Batchelder, Mr. Arum,  
Mr. Emmett

Absent: Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Ji, Mr. Canciani

**PRESENTATION - Upward Bound Program**

Mr. Harnett and the UBA teachers gave a presentation regarding the Upward Bound Program for the 7th and 8th graders based at TMS.

The Board took a short recess beginning at 7:12 p.m. The Board returned at 7:20 p.m.

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

Kathy Peterson, 445 Lorraine Lane, asked why parents were not invited to join the committee of Board members, administrators, teacher, and student who went to Hartford on November 12th.

Mr. Lyons stated that some of the Board members and the teacher were also parents.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**INFORMATION SHARING SESSION**

**Student Board Representative Reports**

Mr. Emmett reported that the Boys' Soccer Team was playing in the semi-finals tonight. If they win tonight, they will play in the finals on Saturday and there will be a pep rally for them on Friday, and then a pep rally on the following Tuesday for the Thanksgiving game. Spirit week started yesterday and will continue until next Tuesday with a different theme every day including Hat Day and Jersey Day. On Saturday, there will be a semi-formal dance.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Arum reported that starting in January, a high school credit diploma program with Education Connection will be starting at the night school. It will begin on January 23rd. They are looking at about 20 children who might be interested, and the program will be free of charge this year.

He met with Warner Theatre. They are looking at a program hopefully to start in January. They may have a grant from the Torrington Arts Education Agency Fund to start a program for every 2nd grader in the Torrington Schools. It will be a speaking and improv program which will last for 8 weeks, and will be taken during their music, art, or PE.

He and Dave Bascetta meet on a monthly basis with the Park and Rec Commission to work on starting an internship program for high school students to work with Park and Rec events, similar to the internship program for high school students going to the elementary schools.

He has also met with the BOF twice in regards to the health benefits programs. They have also met with the ad hoc committee concerning the excess cost grant. He is keeping open communication with the BOF concerning those 2 items along with the capital fund.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

1. Resignations/Appointments  
Jean R. Collins, Long Term Substitute, Music-DW(ea),  
hired eff 10/23/09  
Jennifer L. Fernandez, Long Term Substitute, Grade 3-VO,  
hired eff 11/6/09
2. Coaching Appointments -Winter Sports 2009-2010  
Mike J. Fritch, Girls' Head Basketball-HS  
Erika Fritch, Girls' Asst. Basketball-HS  
Jennifer Lefkowski, Boys' Diving (1/2 season)-HS  
Julian Nichols, Head Indoor Track-HS  
Andrew Marchand, Head Boys' Swimming-HS  
Katie Block, Asst. Boys' Swimming-HS  
Henry Marchand, Asst. Boys' Basketball-MS  
Tammy Ostroski, Head Girls' Basketball-MS  
Maryann Musselman, Asst. Girls' Basketball-MS
3. Notices for Home Schooling: JOHTAY 10; WISEMM10
4. Notice for Grant Applications

Title II, D, Application for Educational Technology Entitlement Grant  
(ARRA)- 2009-2010  
Consolidated Application (Part II), ESEA Federal Grants - 2009-2010

5. Resignation of Middle School Custodian Joseph Richardson for retirement purposes, eff 10/30/2009

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7.1 Staffing Report - 2009-2010 - Mr. Joslyn**

Mr. Arum reported that the Board has been given an Executive Summary from Mr. Joslyn, information on how the cuts have affected the school system, and outlines regarding the class sizes at the elementary schools, middle school, and high school.

### **7.2 Update on Special Education Services**

Mr. Arum stated after the Board had reviewed the Futures report, he sent out a note to all the student services staff to hold a special ed summit to give their opinion on the report. The meeting was held at Migeon Avenue and emails were also sent regarding this, and he received 58 responses from staff. Overall, the consensus was that staff wants Southwest School to come back to the rolls of Torrington. They would like to expand the Pre-K regular ed to an early intervention support program. They would like more therapeutic programs for behavioral issues. They would like to take the next step in regards to the Upward Bound program which has been successful. They would like improved school to work transitions. Strategies called SRBI (science researched-based intervention) and RTI (response to intervention) were mentioned as ways of intervening before a child becomes involved in special education. Pre-K parent training and afternoon alternative programming were mentioned.

Board members discussed and asked questions about timelines in regards to putting these programs into practice and bringing Southwest School back.

### **7.3 2008-09 Strategic School Profiles**

Mr. Arum and Dr. Campbell summarized and answered questions regarding the Executive Summary of the Strategic School Profiles - 2008-2009 which was provided to the Board.

Board members discussed and asked questions about the greater percentage of eligible students for free and reduced programs and its effect on Title I funding, the effect of the increase in the Hispanic population on the ELL programs, the economic cost related to having so many gifted and talented students, the reasons why Torrington has such a high percentage of special education students when comparing their numbers to the State percentage, and the reasons for the higher percentage of juniors and seniors enrolled in courses for college credit as compared to the State percentage.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **8.1 Approve Out-of-State Field Trips:**

- a. Forbes Flyers Travel Team - December 19, 2009

- b. 18th Annual Holiday Classics, The Apollo, Manhattan, NYC  
THS Jazz Band - March 13, 2010, Berklee College of Music  
Jazz Festival, Boston, MA**
- c. 8th Grade Social Studies Classes - May 5, 2010, FDR Home  
and Museum, Hyde Park, NY and W. Point Military Academy,  
West Point, NY**
- d. Chorus, Grades 6-8 - June 4, 2010, Westfield North Middle  
School, Westfield, MA and Six Flags, Agawam, MA**

*Prof. Royals moved and Mr. Broverman supported a motion to approve the 4 out-of-state field trips listed above. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

## **8.2 Approval of Budget Transfers**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2010-BAT-04. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2010-BAT-05. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2010-BAT-06. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

## **8.3 Receipt of Monthly Financial Statement - October, 2009**

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

## **8.4 Approve Proposed Revision to Policy No. 7025, School Volunteers**

*Mr. Broverman moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to approve the proposed revision to Policy No. 7025, School Volunteers. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

## **8.5 Approve Proposed Revision to Policy No. 6100, Health Services**

*Mr. Broverman moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the proposed revision to Policy No. 6100, Health Services. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

## **8.6 Approve Proposed Revision to Policy No. 6192, Suspension/Expulsion**

*Mr. Broverman moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to approve the proposed revision to Policy No. 6192, Suspension/Expulsion. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

#### **8.7 Approve Proposed Revision to Policy No. 6040, Dress Code**

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

#### **8.8 Approve Proposed 2010 Regular Meeting Schedule**

*Miss Laus moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the proposed 2010 regular meeting schedule. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

#### **8.9 Approve Signature Authorization for Child Nutrition Program**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion to approve the Signature Authorization for the Child Nutrition Program. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

#### **8.10 Report of the Negotiation Team and Possible Action on TEA Contract**

Prof. Royals gave a report regarding the meetings between the negotiation team and the teacher's union. They do have an agreement for the next 2 years. In 2010-2011, teachers will receive a 1/2 step and a 0.5% increase to top step. In 2011-2012, again a 1/2 step and a 0.75% increase to top step which averages out to a 2.94% salary increase. For 2010-2011, it is 1.54%. The teachers are also paying an additional 1% for their health insurance. They are working with the TEA to develop a retirement incentive.

Mr. Joslyn reminded the Board that this was a mediated settlement. They met with the mediator last Tuesday evening, and the teachers ratified the tentative agreement yesterday.

Mr. Rubino stated that the implications from the budget standpoint for 2010-2011 is an increase of \$389,000. For the combination of the 2 years it would be a \$1,000,000 increase to the budget. There will also be savings in regards to the changes in the payment for the health insurance, but this is hard to project at this point.

*Prof. Royals moved and Mr. Mattiello supported a motion to approve the recommendation by the negotiation team. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Miss Laus who abstained.*

#### **8.11 Appointment of Superintendent of Schools**

Mr. Mattiello summarized the process used in selecting a candidate for the Superintendent of Schools. Mr. Lyons confirmed the candidate of choice as Mr. Christopher Leone.

*Mr. Mattiello moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion for the Board Chair, Mr. Lyons would be authorized to discuss compensation and other terms and conditions of employment with Christopher Leone and report any agreement to the Board within 2 weeks. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

Mr. Lyons stated some dates have been set for Mr. Leone including November 30th when he will come into the district during the day and meet and greet, and then December 2nd a special meeting will be held to finalize the appointment.

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

Mr. Lyons reported that the CABA Conference will be held on Friday, and he will be attending. Tomorrow night is their delegate's meeting which he will also attend.

Mr. Raymond, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Lyons, and Mr. Oliver commended Mr. Mattiello, Mr. Broverman, Prof. Royals, and Miss Laus for their work on the Board.

Mr. Oliver recognized their new business manager.

Mr. Lyons also gave kudos to Dr. Campbell, Ms. Silva, and Mr. Arum.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None given.

#### **ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA**

Welcoming of newly elected Board members and election of Board officers.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m. All were in favor.