

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

**CALL TO ORDER** - The meeting was called to order by Mr. Lyons at 7: 05 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, Mrs. Batchelder, Mr. Arum,  
Mr. Emmett

Absent: Mr. Oliver, Mr. Ji, Mr. Canciani

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

Fiona Cappabianca, 3 Stoneridge Drive, spoke regarding the budget. She thanked Mr. Arum for his leadership. She wants the Board and administration to realize that the budget cuts made have affected everyone's children in the TPS. She suggested the Board visit the sites to see firsthand the affects of the cuts made.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Board member corrected Item No. 6.1 which should read 12/31/09, not 12/30/09, Item No. 8.2d which should be eliminated as the High School Latin Studies field trip will not be taking place, and Item No. 8.12 which should read receipt, not approval.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

*Prof. Royals moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve the regular BOE meeting minutes of July 15, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Cavagnero and Miss Laus who abstained.*

*Miss Laus moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the regular BOE meeting minutes of September 16, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Broverman moved and Prof. Royals supported a motion to approve the expulsion hearing minutes of September 30, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Miss Laus, Mrs. Raymond, Mr. Rubino, Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Nargi, and Mr. Mattiello who abstained.*

*Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve the BOE meeting minutes of October 7, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Cavagnero and Mr. Broverman who abstained.*

Correction was noted to change Fred Rubino under Members Present to Frank Rubino.

## **INFORMATION SHARING SESSION**

### **Student BOE Representative Reports**

Mr. Emmett reported excitement regarding having the THS Student Internship Program back in force. The interns are working with students in improving their reading and math skills.

Southwest School PTO will be hosting its Annual Fall Fest including pumpkin decorating and the opening of their book fair. This event will be on Thursday, October 22nd.

Torrington Teacher of the Year, Barbara Hengstenberg, will be attending the event at Central Connecticut State University on Thursday, October 29th, in honor of her title.

Torrington School will welcome their new interns who will assist the teachers in their classrooms. On Friday, September 25th, an open house was held at Torrington School from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to welcome new School Choice families. On Monday, September 28th, enrollment grew by 19 students. Torrington teachers and administrators will travel to Waterbury tomorrow to attend an evening workshop presented by Dr. Nancy Boyles, professor, national consultant, and author. On Saturday at 6 a.m., 18 Torrington school teachers and administrators will travel to Columbia Teacher's College Reading and Writing Project. The staff will share their new learning techniques with colleagues and students.

Students and staff celebrated Heavenly Hats Day last Friday. Students donated a dollar and were able to wear a hat in school for the entire day. Teachers who did not wear hats were charged a dollar. Over \$400.00 was raised. This was a national celebration and money will be used to purchase hats for children undergoing chemotherapy treatments.

The Annual Fall Festival is scheduled for Friday, October 30th. Activities will include mask decorating, guessing games, limbo, and much more. Proceeds will

assist Torrington school families in need during the holiday season. The Annual Book Fair will run from October 20th to November 5th.

For THS, Spirit Week will lead up to Homecoming which is November 21st. The semi-formal homecoming dance will be at the Cornucopia. The girl's swim team is undefeated and the boy's and girl's soccer team along with the football team all have winning records. At the blood drive, 57 pints of usable blood was given. The Ultimate Frisbee Tournament was held last night.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. Arum recognized the new business manager who was present at the meeting.

Mr. Arum noted the restart of the High School Internship Program this week. There will be 18 THS students going to all of the elementary schools. They will get 1/4 of a credit for 45 hours, and 1/2 credit for 90 hours.

He is meeting on a monthly basis with \_\_\_\_\_, as a means of meeting the goal of using all the talents of the school and community.

They are also working with Brooker Memorial. A pilot program will begin in January, but parents will be informed about the program in November at Forbes and Vogel-Wetmore. It is a dental program for all the children at no cost. A hygienist will come into both schools to look at the children's teeth, clean them, and fluoride them, and give their report to the parents. If parents do not have a dentist, Brooker Memorial will take care of that.

He met with UCONN, who is looking at another internship program where college students will be coming to THS on family studies. They are looking to start that internship in January, and also maybe next year have another UCONN program for family studies and guidance.

There is a monthly meeting with Torrington Area Health regarding H1N1. The meeting will be tomorrow and staff at Torrington schools will attend. Further information will be coming.

The Wellness Committee met yesterday. They are writing a grant with Education Connection to implement a smoking prevention program.

Mr. Arum, the high school principal, middle school principal, a number of social workers and guidance counselors, and a fellow from juvenile court went to a dropout prevention program sponsored by the governor.

Mr. Lyons added that the school improvement committee will be looking at some of the recommendations made by the dropout prevention program.

### **CAPT 2009 Student Advanced Level Recognition**

He congratulated the elite Connecticut and THS students who really advanced on the 2009 Connecticut Academic Performance Test which takes place in math, reading, writing, and science. Dr. Olson recognized each student individually.

Mr. Lyons congratulated the students on behalf of the Board.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve tonight's consent agenda as amended. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

1. Resignations/Appointments/Non-renewals

Dr. Barbara Campbell, Asst. Superintendent, resigned eff 12/31/09  
Barbara Oles, TESOL-FB, Long-Term Substitute, hired eff 9/15/09  
Jean M. Hunter, Long-Term Substitute, Guidance-MS,  
hired eff 10/5/09  
Rebecca R. Schwartz, Long Term Substitute, Science-MS,  
hired eff 10/8/09

2. Contract Addenda

**Extended Day Program - 2009-2010**

Melissa Stevenson, Teacher-EA  
Jennifer M'Sadoques, Teacher-EA  
Christine Lage, Teacher-EA  
Angela Calabrese, Teacher-EA  
Kimberly Bushka, Teacher-EA  
Travis Boucher, Teacher-EA  
Emily Marchand, Teacher-SW  
Sarah Hollenbeck, Teacher-SW  
Christina Fiorillo, Teacher-SW  
Andrew Drewry, Teacher-SW  
Jill Ciccarelli, Teacher-SW  
Kelly Browning, Teacher-SW  
Michelle Blakeney, Teacher-SW  
Julie Amato, Teacher-SW  
Jordan Jones, Teacher-EA  
Georgeann Sabia, Teacher-FB  
Chalise Ross, Teacher-FB  
Susan Pelchat, Teacher-FB  
Robin Ledversis, Teacher-FB  
Corrine Jasmin, Teacher-FB  
Kelly Hagymasi, Teacher-FB  
Margaret Gains, Teacher-FB  
Kimberly Budget, Teacher-FB  
Awilda Vega, Teacher-VO

Mary Svetz-Juliano, Teacher-VO  
Christine Poklemba, Teacher-VO  
Matthew Parkhouse, Teacher-VO  
Pauline Palladino, Teacher-VO  
Kathleen Murphy, Teacher-VO  
Melissa Ferrucci, Teacher-VO  
Jean Beck, Teacher-VO  
Dawn Pollutro, Teacher-VO  
Karen Osburne, Teacher-TF  
Karen Mangine, Teacher-TF  
Brandy Grant, Teacher-TF  
Kathy-Ann Campbell, Teacher-TF  
Kathleen Hague-Fritch, Teacher-TF  
Dawn Cottone, Teacher-TF  
John Budge, Teacher-TF  
Kate Shaggy, Teacher-TF  
Kathy Wollschlager, Teacher-TF  
Chalise Ross, Coordinating Teacher for Elementary Bilingual/ELL  
Programs, eff 2009-2010

3. Coaching Appointments  
Joseph Deptula, Asst. Football-HS, eff 2009-2010 Fall Sports  
James Burns, Asst. Football-HS, eff 2009-2010 Fall Sports  
(Total of 5 Asst. Football Coaches)
4. Notices for Homeschooling: GRODAV10  
(9 students to date)
5. Approval of George Klug to serve as Regional Agricultural Committee  
Member Representing the Torrington Board of Education on the Region 6  
Agricultural Science & Technology Center Advisory Board

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **7.1 Futures HealthCore**

Michael Neiman, Dominic Vita, Futures Education along with members of the UBA team at Torrington Middle School presented their findings regarding their Out-of-District Placement Review for Torrington Public Schools.

Board members discussed and asked questions about medical treatment expenses, educational testing for out-of-district students, proactive strategies for implementation of the data, alternative opportunities which could be linked to either THS or another area facility, clarification of the data, comparison between districts regarding their out-of-district costs, districts who have created alternative schools and their success rate, relationship between early intervention and the possible reduction of costs at a later date, and correlations between substance abuse and student problems.

Futures representatives stated that the school district does not pay for medical treatments in general, but they do pay for related services such as speech and language therapy, physical therapy, and occupational therapy which are educationally related, school-based health services.

Mr. Cavagnero supported a special meeting to further discuss implementations in regards to this study.

## **7.2 Proposed Board Goals 2009-2010**

Mr. Arum presented the Board Goals for Academic Year 2009-2010.

Board members discussed and asked questions regarding the meaning of the symbol X under Results We are Seeking Column, action on establishing the Parent Academy as a way to enhance community connections, adding a To Be Completed column to the Board Goal chart, budget being done in a chart context as well, using the Board goals to evaluate the superintendent and establish the budget, and steps being taken on the plan to decrease the dropout rate at the high school.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

### **8.1 Approval of BOE Committee Assignments**

*Miss Laus moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve the BOE Committee Assignments. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

### **8.2 Approval of Field Trip Proposals:**

- a. **Forbes Flyers Travel Team (12 Students) - Nov.5-8, 2009**  
**Bouncing Bulldogs Workshop, Raleigh/Durham, NC**
- b. **High School, Grades 11&12, Honors and AP (50 Students)**  
**The Metropolitan Museum, NYC, Dec. 17, 2009**
- c. **High School Grades 10-11-12, Honors/AP UCONN**  
**(10-20 Students), Washington DC Closeup, March 14-19-2010**
- d. **Torrington Grade 5 (100 Students) - May 12-14, 2010**  
**Natures Classroom Camp Washington, Lakeside, CT**

*Prof. Royals moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the above 4 field trip proposals. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous*

### **8.3 Authorization to File Application for Immigrant Children and Youth Program Grant Funds - 2009-2010**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to receive the authorization to file application for Immigrant Children and Youth Program*

*Grant Funds - 2009-2010. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Prof. Royals who abstained.*

#### **8.4 Approval of Budget Transfers**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2010-BAT 01 as revised. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Nargi and Prof. Royals were opposed.*

Mr. Arum made the following corrections: First item \$36,000 should be \$16,500; third item \$5,656 should be \$6,156; and final item \$52,488 should be \$33,488.

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2010-BAT 02. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2010-BAT 03. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

#### **8.5 Receipt of Monthly Financial Statement - September, 2009**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to receive the Monthly Financial Statement - September, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

#### **8.6 Approval of Board Goals - 2009-2010**

*Prof. Royals moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the Board Goals for 2009-2010. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

#### **8.7 Receipt of Proposed Revision to Policy No. 7025, School Volunteers**

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

#### **8.8 Receipt of Proposed Revision to Policy No. 6100, Health Services**

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

#### **8.9 Receipt of Proposed Revision to Policy No. 6192, Suspension/Expulsion**

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

#### **8.10 Receipt of Proposed Policy No. 2009, Consultants**

*Mr. Broverman moved and Miss Laus supported a motion to receive the proposed Policy No. 2009, Consultants. The motion was tabled until a future meeting. The vote was unanimous.*

Mr. Broverman noted a correction in the policy. It should read "to hire professional consultants on an as-needed basis" in the policy statement.

Mr. Cavagnero stated he would like statement 3 to read "The superintendent shall provide on a monthly basis the following information to the budget committee: a) a list of each consultant hired who is either working or about to begin working in the school district; b) a description of the scope of each consultant's work; and c) an assessment tool for use by the Board of Education for a designated subcommittee of the Board for the purpose of evaluating the cost benefit of each hired consultant." He would like to end with this paragraph: "The BOE or a designated subcommittee of the Board shall evaluate the performance of each consultant within 2 months of the completion of their work."

Mr. Broverman and Miss Laus stated they would like to hear what the administration has to say about this.

Mr. Mattiello stated he would like statement 3 to include an explanation as to why the hiring was necessary and the anticipated or realized gain. He would also like some type of formal analysis with a threshold, either expenditure amount or length of contract.

Mr. Nargi supported Mr. Cavagnero's suggestion.

#### **8.11 Receipt of Proposed Revision to Policy No. 6040, Dress Code**

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

#### **8.12 Receipt of Elementary School Code of Conduct - 2009-2010**

*Mr. Rubino moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to receive the Elementary School Code of Conduct - 2009-2010. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.*

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

Mr. Lyons thanked Dr. Campbell for her work and stated he is sorry to see her go. Mr. Broverman also thanked and commended Dr. Campbell. Other Board members agreed.

Mr. Lyons stated he would be attending the CABA conference next month.

Mr. Nargi stated he would like to know at what point the administration decided to not work at the high school this year in relation to the Upward Bound program. He had thought the Board agreed with the administration that they wanted to see this implemented at the high school.

Dr. Campbell responded that she thinks it was March 16th when the Board was told that they were not going to go forward with the high school program that would carry Upward Bound into the 9th grade. The Board then asked administration to explain how the TAG students and the Upward Bound students would be supported at the high school. At a subsequent Board meeting, Dr. Campbell and Mr. Joslyn explained how the high school was going to keep track of the TAG and Upward Bound students.

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Miss Laus reported the grievance committee met regarding a custodian grievance, a care professional grievance, and a secretarial grievance which was dropped. At the present time, there are no outstanding grievances.

Prof. Royals stated that teacher negotiation meetings are in progress to decide on salary.

### **ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA - November 18, 2009**

Policies, superintendent recommendation, possible info on Upward Bound program, possible updated report on dropouts, and a possible report on impact of loss of staff on students especially in regards to class sizes.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 p.m. All were in favor.