

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
February 17, 2010**

Principal Workshop

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rubino at 7:20 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Mr. Cavagnero, Ms. Cogswell, Mrs. Hoehne,
Mrs. Kosmulski, Mr. Lyons, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Oliver,
Mrs. Raymond, Mr. Rubino, Mr. Traub, Mrs. Batchelder,
Mr. Leone, Mr. Emmett, Mr. Canciani, Mayor Bingham

Absent: Mr. Ji

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Sally Pirla, 157 Revere St., spoke regarding TAG. She would like enrichment activities to be offered to all students instead of having a segregated TAG program.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Cogswell moved and Mr. Cavagnero supported a motion to approve tonight's agenda. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Oliver moved and Mr. Nargi supported a motion to amend the agenda to include actions items 8.6 and 8.7 in regards to approving the 2010-2011 and the 2011-2012 calendars as recommended by Mr. Leone under discussion items 7.1 and 7.2. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Traub supported a motion to amend the agenda to include action item 8.8 in regards to approving the CJR proposal as discussed under discussion item 7.7. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Ms. Cogswell moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to amend the agenda to include action item 8.9 in regards to approving the letter to the Board of Finance as discussed under discussion item 7.10. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Lyons moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the special Board meeting minutes of January 20, 2010. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Cavagnero, who abstained.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

Student BOE Representative Reports

Mr. Emmett reported that next Tuesday is the high school's History Day; next Thursday is Rachel's Challenge. On March 12th, a semi-formal dance will be held at the Cornucopia. Senior Prom has been planned and will be at the Villa Rosa on the Friday, May 28, 2010, which is the Friday before Memorial Day.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Leone recognized Torrington Public School Music Students who have been selected to Festivals for the 2009-2010 School Year.

Mr. Leone stated that a consultant has been hired to investigate options regarding the BOE broadcast concerns.

Mr. Leone gave a presentation regarding the Torrington Public School Board of Education Budget. He outlined the next steps as being school-based budget workshops on February 18-February 28, 2010; a budget committee meeting on March 10, 2010; and the presentation of the budget on March 17, 2010, to be followed by 2 public hearings on March 22nd & March 24th. The final Board vote is scheduled for March 31st at a special Board meeting.

Board members asked questions and discussed the issue of seatbelts and child safety on buses, possible additional expenses in regards to needs for monitors, more buses, and more staff on the buses in case of emergencies; possibility of bonding this expense; and the importance of monitoring and watching the legislative debate regarding these issues.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Cavagnero supported a motion to approve tonight's consent agenda. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

1. Resignations/Appointments/Non-renewals
Benjamin J. Lovell, Long Term Substitute, Gr. 3-Forbes
Effective 2/8/10 through approximately 5/20/10
2. Coaching Appointments
Gerry Carbone, Head Baseball Coach HS, Spring 2010
Art Richardson, Assistant Baseball Coach HS, Spring 2010

Mike McKenna, Assistant Baseball Coach HS, Spring 2010
Joe Minutillo, Head Golf Coach HS, Spring 2010
Maryann Musselman, Head Softball Coach HS, Spring 2010
Tammy Ostroski, Assistant Softball Coach HS, Spring 2010
Mark Moulton, Tennis, Boys', Head Coach HS, Spring 2010
Tennis, Girls', Head Coach HS, Spring 2010
Rick Dubois, Track, Boys', Head Coach HS, Spring 2010
Alan Kittle, Track, Boys', Assistant Coach HS, Spring 2010
Jada Mattiello, Track, Girls', Head Coach HS, Spring 2010
Katie Block, Track, Girls', Assistant Coach HS Spring 2010
Drake Waldron, Baseball Head Coach MI, Spring 2010
Erika Fritch, Softball Head Coach MI, Spring 2010
Andrew Marchand, Track & Field, Boys', Head Coach MI,
Spring 2010
Henry Marchand, Track & Field, Boys', Assistant Coach MI,
Spring 2010
Dave Lopardo (retired), Track & Field, Girls', Head Coach MI,
Spring 2010
Brian Kiernan, Track & Field, Girls', Assistant Coach MI,
Spring 2010

3. Contract Addenda 2009-2010
MSG Varsity

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 2010-2011 Calendar Request

Mr. Leone reported that TEA requests changing the 2 professional development days on February 22nd and 23rd to August 23rd and 24th, as the 2 dates in February are too close to the CAPT and CMT. This would add 2 instructional days prior to the testing period.

Board members asked questions and had discussion about issues with the teacher's contract. Mr. Leone strongly recommended having students in school as much as possible in the months of January and February leading up to the March assessment.

7.2 2011-2012 Calendar Revision (1st Read)

The same request as above was made for the 2011-2012 Calendar.

Both discussion items 7.1 and 7.2 were amended to the agenda as action items 8.6 and 8.7.

7.3 High School Principal Search

Mr. Joslyn gave an update in regards to the high school principal search for THS. He expects to have a finalist name by the June BOE meeting with a plan for a July 1st start date.

Board members asked questions and had discussion about the BOE finalist interviews before the superintendent makes his final recommendation, changes in the process as far as involving the personnel committee, rounds of interviews finalists will go through, participants in the interview groups, possible site visit after the finalist interviews on May 10th, recommendation for high school student participation in interviews, and the timing in regards to the presentation of the contract to the BOE.

7.4 Technology Presentation (Proposed April)

Mr. Leone has asked his technology team to give an update to the Board at the April Board meeting in regards to inventory, and replacement and professional development needs. The goal would be to revise the current plan for 4 years moving out.

Board members asked questions and had discussion about the proposed meetings being post budget, meeting on April 7th to discuss proposals pre budget, and giving the technology team time to roll out an idea of where the school district should be in the years down the road.

Mr. Leone stated that he would be happy to move the technology presentation back to give it the diligence it deserves, and then move the TAG presentation to April, and the special ed presentation to June. Technology could then be given a new date possibly in the summer.

Mr. Traub indicated this would make sense because technology does not have money allocated in this budget yet, but TAG does.

7.5 TAG Presentation (Proposed May)

Discussed as above under discussion item 7.4.

7.6 Special Education Presentation (Proposed June)

Discussed as above under discussion item 7.4.

7.7 CJR Proposal

Mr. Leone introduced the CJR proposal which was presented to the budget committee last week. It is 3 proposals from Connecticut Junior Republic which give TPS discounted rates from March 1, 2010, to the end of August, 2010, for a 10% discount for 10 students; from September, 2010, to the end of August, 2011, for 15 students; and from September, 2010, to the end of August, 2011, for 20 students. There are currently 7 students from TPS at CJR.

Board members asked questions and had discussion about the student selection process by PPT, separate transportation contract costs, parental input into placement, threshold at which the contract goes to the next level, peak being based on what CJR can provide, CJR students currently receiving diplomas from THS, and future CJR students receiving CJR diplomas.

Mr. Rubino requested amending the agenda to include this proposal as action item 8.8, which was done.

7.8 All Star Proposal

Mr. Leone introduced the All Star Transportation Proposal, which will limit some of the expense scenarios discussed earlier. This was presented to the budget committee last week and moved to a discussion item. This proposal offers a potential savings of \$162,462.60 for 2010-2011 and \$170,733.60 for 2011-2012. In exchange for this offer, All Star has requested an extension which runs through 2015, with an increase of 4% per year.

Board members asked questions and had discussion about transportation competitors and their prices, trade off of savings now for All Star security later, fairness of rates, and guaranteeing All Star longevity as a bargaining tool.

7.9 Legislative Agenda

Mr. Leone stated this came up as a discussion item in regards to a question about whether the Board wished to draft a legislative agenda which addresses some of their concerns in terms of ECS reduction or in terms of seatbelts being mandated or other reforms being pushed.

The Board decided to move this to the school improvement committee for discussion.

7.10 Letter to the Board of Finance

Mr. Leone stated a draft letter to the Board of Finance was circulated last week at the budget committee. On February 3rd, Mr. Rubino, Ms. Batchelder, and Mr. Leone held a meeting with Mayor Bingham and Wendy Traub from the Board of Finance to discuss the outstanding deficit of \$451,000 as pertains to the insurance fund. This letter would transfer \$203,732 labeled as BOE project reimbursement. It would bring the deficit down to \$247,411, which it currently is believed will be available for allocation later in the year.

Mr. Rubino recommended that the Board approve this letter.

The Board decided to amend the agenda to add this as action item 8.9.

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Overnight/Out-of-State Field Trips

Mr. Oliver moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the Overnight/Out-of-State Field trips. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.2 Approval of Budget Transfers

Ms. Cogswell moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2010 for the purchase of 25 desktop computers. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.3 Receive Monthly Financial Statement - January, 2010

Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Traub supported a motion to receive the monthly financial statement for January 2010. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.4 Acceptance of Enrollment Report

Mr. Lyons moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion to accept the January 2010 Enrollment Report. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.5 Recommendation for Assistant Superintendent Vacancy

Mr. Oliver moved and Mrs. Kosmulski supported a motion to appoint Susan Cole Domanico for the position of Assistant Superintendent. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Nargi who abstained.

8.6 Approval of 2010-2011 Calendar Change

8.7 Approval of 2011-2012 Calendar Change

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Traub supported a motion to approve the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 calendar changes as discussed. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.8 Approval of CJR Proposal

Mr. Oliver moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve the CJR agreement as discussed. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.9 Approval of Letter to the Board of Finance

Ms. Cogswell moved and Mrs. Kosmulski supported a motion to approve sending the letter to the Board of Finance as discussed. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Cogswell reported that the budget committee minutes will no longer be in the packet until they are approved by the budget committee.

Mr. Cavagnero reported that a school improvement committee meeting with a very full agenda will be held tomorrow night at 6:30 p.m. at Forbes.

Mr. Nargi reported that a policy committee will be meeting on Monday with some discussion on school uniforms. He asked the public to email the administration about their feelings regarding school uniforms. Mr. Nargi, Mr. Leone, and Ms. Cogswell all agreed further discussion needs to be held regarding how to handle the budget in regards to lawyer's fees.

Mr. Oliver reported that the personnel committee met today, but he is not able to report what was being discussed.

Mr. Rubino reported that an arbitration decision is due back on February 25th.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA - March 17, 2010

Ms. Cogswell stated that she would like to see the All Star Transportation item come up for action at the next meeting, as it is part of the budget process.

Mr. Leone reported the budget will be presented at this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 p.m. All were in favor.