

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
January 20, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER - The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rubino at 7:11 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

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

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

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

None.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Oliver moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve tonight's agenda. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Nargi supported a motion to approve the special Board meeting minutes of December 2, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mr. Traub, Ms. Cogswell, Mrs. Hoehne, Mrs. Kosmulski, and Mr. Oliver, who abstained.

Mr. Lyons moved and Mr. Oliver supported a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of December 16, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Lyons moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion to approve the expulsion Board hearing minutes of December 29, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Ms. Cogswell, Mrs. Kosmulski, Mr. Nargi, Mrs. Raymond, and Mr. Traub, who abstained.

Ms. Cogswell moved and Mrs. Kosmulski supported a motion to approve the special Board meeting minutes of December 29, 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mrs. Raymond, who abstained.

Mr. Lyons moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the special Board meeting minutes of January 11, 2010. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with the exception of Mrs. Kosmulski who abstained.

Ms. Cogswell moved and Mr. Traub supported a motion to approve the special Board meeting minutes of January 13, 2010, as corrected. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

Student BOE Representative Reports

Mr. Emmett reported that today was the last day of midterms, so tomorrow will be the first day of second semester. Mr. Ji is getting ready for a field trip coming up. There is a swim meet and a basketball game going on in the gym. The blood drive is coming up in February, and some high school students will be going to Torrington School to intern and see if that is something they would be interested in.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Leone announced that two Torrington schools have been recognized as being among those with the top improvement in the State. Forbes was ranked 5th in the State for performance gained on the 2009 CMT testing. They posted a 19.8% change over the course of a year. Forbes was also cited for overall improvement as well. Vogel-Wetmore was cited as being the 10th best performing school in the State with a 16.7% gain. Torrington was the only district in the State to have 2 schools in the top 10. Ms. Lubomski, principal of Forbes, thanked her staff and students.

Mr. Leone reported that the Acceptable Use Policy, which is a policy regarding computer and technology use throughout the district, dates back to 1999 and needs to be updated. This policy will be sent to the policy committee for updating and then returned to the Board for action sometime in the second half of this term, last part of March/first part of April.

Mr. Leone stated that a complimentary upgrade was received this week in regard to the website. They have installed a blog service for the new superintendent. This will be a way to share information with parents and resources throughout the district.

Mr. Leone reported that the central office is badly in need of some artwork. He is going to be reaching out to the principals to solicit artwork from the students. He is hoping for two pieces of artwork from each of the schools. He also hopes to use this artwork for a district calendar for parents with a Torrington theme. That calendar will be unveiled to the principals at the leadership meeting later this week.

Mr. Leone announced that the Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a reading program for elementary schools throughout the Northwest corner on February 3rd. This will be a way for families, the community, parents, and business members to get involved with the schools. Information regarding this will be posted on the website.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Resignations/Appointments/Non-renewals
Tara E. Gaudette, Gradfe 4-SW, Long Term Substitute, hired eff 1/4/2010
Jason C. Beckett, Science-MS hired eff 1/22/2010
2. Contract Addenda 2009-2010
Alison Giramonti, Teacher, 2009-2010 Extended Day Program-VO
Virginia Giaver, Coordinating Teacher, Math-TMS eff 11/23/09
Lori Legendre, Teacher, Extended Day Program-SW, eff 2009-2010
3. Coaching Appointments
Erika Fritch, Asst. Girls' Basketball Coach-HS, eff 2009-2010 Winter Sports Season

DISCUSSION ITEMS

7.1 Update on Dropout Summit

Mr. Joslyn updated the Board on the Dropout Summit. Torrington has received a \$5000 grant to address the problems in the district.

Mr. Leone stated that the plan from this point is to get the group back together in February/March, and to create an action plan with some measurable outcomes.

7.2 Race to the Top

Mr. Joslyn gave the Board a Race to the Top grant update. Projected award monies are \$538,769.

Mrs. Raymond commented that although they hope to get the grant money, their initiatives are going to happen regardless.

7.3 Update on Assistant Superintendent Search

Mr. Leone gave an update on the Assistant Superintendent Search. He announced that they have 22 applicants for the position from 3 states. First round interviews will start tomorrow. Up to 3 out of 8 candidates will be put forward for the second round interviews on January 27th. A finalist candidate is to be selected by the first week of

February, with a recommendation to be made for the Board by February 17th, and a plan for a mid-March start date.

Board members commented on and discussed the number of Board of Ed members on the second interview team. Mr. Rubino polled the Board members on their views regarding the assistant superintendent selection process, and the majority supported Mr. Oliver in representing the Board in the decision.

7.4 Superintendent Budget Calendar Timeline

Mr. Leone explained his recommendations regarding the 2010-2011 budget calendar.

Board members asked questions and had discussion about time for looking over the budget with the budget committee prior to February 17th; reaching out to the Mayor, City, and BOF earlier in the budget process; communicating with the State legislators; and accommodating parents with the school-based workshops by having an a.m. and a p.m. workshop.

ACTION ITEMS

8.1 Overnight/Out-of-State Field Trips

Mr. Lyons moved and Mrs. Kosmulski 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 Mr. Traub supported a motion to approve budget transfer 2010-BAT-08. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

8.3 Receive Monthly Financial Statement - December, 2009

Ms. Cogswell moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to receive the monthly financial statement for December 2009. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Nargi commented on a letter to the editor in the newspaper a couple of weeks ago regarding to the concepts of enrichment versus the TAG program. He requested that the new administration think about this discussion and he requested a presentation to the Board about it.

Mr. Nargi also commented that he is still very interested in bringing uniforms to the school district.

Mr. Lyons commented on ELL and future budget concerns regarding this.

Mr. Traub proposed that the amount of bulk mailings coming out of the Central Office either go electronic or be consolidated into fewer mailings.

Mr. Oliver reported that the TEA negotiating team has met with the TEA and the panel of arbitrators, and the date for the arbitration hearing has been set for Saturday, January 30th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Migeon Ave.

Mr. Rubino commented that he sent everyone a letter regarding the Ad Hoc Committees and he would like to hear back regarding this. If not, he will recommend. He also discussed with the PTO representatives how Board members can get to their meetings, and he would like Board members to make every effort to attend the meetings.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Joslyn reported the grievance hearing was moved to February.

Mr. Oliver stated the personnel committee needs to have a meeting next month.

Mrs. Raymond will be busy with the negotiations for the custodians, the cafeteria, and the secretaries.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA - February 17, 2010

Mr. Leone listed the budget presentation for the upcoming agenda workshop. Additions will be made for the budget committee agenda for an overview of possible revenue and expenditures. There will be an update on the assistant superintendent search, an update on the policy that has been sent to the policy committee, and the possibility of getting to the TAG information. There will be an update on the dropout information probably by the end of February.

Mr. Rubino also commented that he would like to keep tabs on the NEASC reports.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m. All were in favor.