

TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
May 19, 2010

Torrington High School - 7:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rubino at 7:00 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, Mayor Bingham, Mrs. Batchelder, Mrs. Domanico, Mr. Leone, Mr. Canciani

Absent: Mr. Emmett, Mr. Ji

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Cynthia Jerram, 140 Hoerle Blvd, art teacher at Torrington High School, introduced student art by cameraman, Cameron Chase. Ceramics Club sponsored "Spend an Afternoon with Your Favorite Teacher" with 2 administrators, 24 teachers, 1 Guidance Counselor, 48 students, and 250 children participating in a variety of art projects. As a success, it was submitted and favorably acknowledged by the Connecticut Association of Schools as a school community activity.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved and Mrs. Kosmulski supported a motion to approve the regular Board meeting minutes of April 21, 2010. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous with one abstention.

Mr. Lyons moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion to approve the special Board meeting Expulsion Hearing minutes of April 28, 2010. For the record, it was Mr. Rubino, Mrs. Hoehne and Mr. Lyons that were present. The motion carried. The vote was unanimously supported by 3 in favor. All others abstained.

Mr. Lyons moved and Ms. Cogswell supported a motion to approve the Budget Hearing minutes of March 22, 2010. The motion was amended by a Board member to combine March 22 and 24, 2010 Budget Hearing minutes, and the

motion was seconded by a Board member. The motion carried. The vote was unanimously supported with 4 abstentions.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

5.1 Student Recognitions-Mr. Leone

Following very successful months of March and April, students and teachers were recognized for their participation and achievement for (TMS and THS) Connecticut History Day, (THS) World Language, (TMS) Invention Convention competitions.

5.2 Student Announcements-Mr. Canciani

Raider Pride Week this week; next Friday, May 28, is Prom; and Senior Outing is coming up June 11.

Mr. Leone stated while the Special Education Presentation is being set up, with the Board's permission, an update was given on last night's budget meeting. The Board of Finance approved the Board-recommended budget with a reduction and savings based on a revised quote of \$369,000 and an additional cut of \$100,000. We will be presenting to the Budget Committee for reconciliation for the final budget for 2010-2011. The goal of class size for all children will be maintained.

5.3 Special Education Presentation-Dr. Beth Robin and Mr. Mitch Foote

Snapshot of Special Education, pre-K through 18-25 age group, over the last three years focused on 2009-2010 (based on March counts of this year) was presented.

Questions and clarifications were addressed by the Board members and Dr.'s Robin and Foote regarding out-of-district placements. A partnership with CJR had been formed to focus on the older students, i.e. with 17 credits and 18-20 years old ready to drop out. CJR closed as a residential facility and opened as a day program offering unique hands-on, applied type credits to these students through math, culinary, etc. so they could subsequently graduate.

Board members examined the significant increase in Secondary Special Education Students by Disability. A change in the identification process on July 1, 2009 affected this increase.

Board members continued discussion as to the best long-term model for the 18-21 year-old group noting expanded community experiences and life-skill teaching, as presented to the Budget Committee last week.

Proficiency goals and AYP were discussed as to state vs. district program success.

5.4 ELL Presentation-Mrs. Cheryl Kloczko

Mrs. Kloczko presented a review of the current program for students who are acquiring English as a second language and to appraise their progress in proficiency and in meeting state academic performance standards.

Board members evaluated and discussed ELL services, projected student numbers, program progression, target goals, and trending translation into overall budgetary concerns.

Quantify services to ELL students the amount of cost to the school district this year and projected cost for next year to be brought to the Budget Committee next month.

5.5 Secondary Reform Goals-Mr. Leone

Mr. Leone shared the document that came out of three community-based meetings in February, March and April with performance goals to be set forward:

1. Reduction of the 4-year cumulative drop-out rate by 5% over the next 3 years;
2. Attendance as measured by grade by TMS and THS will be representative and within 1.5% of the entire district average;
3. Decrease suspensions and referrals by 10% per year for each of the next 3 years;
4. Successful 6-12 curriculum for core subjects English, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies by 2013;
5. Decrease number of students retained in a grade by at least 10% a year for the next 3 years.

This document will be shared online and be part of June discussion.

The Board discussed with Mr. Leone the possible potential problems, method evaluation and revised laws to meet the goal specifically for point 3.

5.6 High School Principal Search-Mr. Leone

The second round finished by the Committee last week and moved forward the recommendation to the superintendent's office. Administration has not been able to bring forward a finalist and expects it to be an agenda item back in front of the Board in June.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

1. Resignations/Appointments

Jennifer Fernandez, L/T Sub, Teacher, VO, App. Eff. 04/26/10

Diane O'Neil, Teacher, FB, Ret. Eff. 06/30/10

Awilda Vega, Teacher, VO, Ret. Eff. 06/30/10

Kyle O'Toole, L/T Sub, Teacher, FB, App. Eff. 06/16/10

2. Coaching Appointments

John Nickles, Coach, HS, App. Eff. Spring 2010

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Homework Policy (2nd Read)

Mr. Nargi moved and Mrs. Kosmulski supported a motion to approve the Homework Policy 6110R. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.2 Grading Policy 6111 (2nd Read)

Mr. Oliver moved and Mr. Lyons supported a motion to approve the Grading Policy 6111 (2nd Read). The motion carried. The vote was unanimous. There were two abstentions.

7.3 Electronic Devices Policy (2nd Read)

Mr. Nargi moved and Mr. Traub supported a motion to approve the Electronic Devices Policy (2nd Read) with corrections. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.4 Attorney Policy 2008R (1st Read)

Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Oliver supported a motion to move the Attorney Policy 2008R (1st Read) back to the Policy Committee for re-evaluation. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.5 Race to the Top (Phase II) Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Oliver moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to move for Superintendent Leone's and Chairman Rubino's signatures to submit the Race to the Top (Phase II) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the Savings Clause on behalf of the Board. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.6 Special Education Administrators Memorandum of Understanding

Ms. Cogswell moved and Mr. Traub supported a motion to approve the Special Education Administrators Memorandum of Understanding. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.7 Connecticut Health Clinics Memorandum of Understanding

Mr. Cavagnero moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the Connecticut Health Clinics Memorandum of Understanding. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.8 Approval of Field Trips

Mr. Cavagnero moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve the Schedule of Field Trips through July 2010. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

Board member moved and board member supported a motion to direct the Policy Committee to draft a policy on field trips. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.9 Approval of April Financials

Ms. Cogswell moved and Mr. Cavagnero supported a motion to accept the April Financials. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.10 Approval of Budget Transfer

Ms. Cogswell moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion to accept the Approval of Budget Transfer. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.11 Approval of Enrollment Report

Board member moved and Mr. Oliver supported a motion to accept the Approval of Enrollment Report. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Leone we have been previously been using an out-of-state recording service to transcribe the Board minutes, and we have been notified by that service that she will be no longer doing those minutes. We are in the process of reviewing how to move forward.

Mr. Cavagnero in observation of what just transpired in the City of Torrington in setting the tax rate, it leaves me to urge the Board of Education and Administration that we have to think about providing education in a different manner, creatively figuring out ways to provide services at the best costs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Budget Committee

Mrs. Cogswell: Minutes from April 14 and a very good presentation in June on ways to deal with getting the older students in Special Ed out into the community. We will also see a presentation in June by Ryan Frederickson on advertising in the schools.

2. School Improvement Committee

Mr. Cavagnero: Minutes from March 9 and we will be meeting on Monday for an information sharing session for staff members, administration, and all Board of Education members will learn the future of our guidance dept.

3. Policy Committee

Mr. Nargi: The big issue is the school uniform policy. Parents and faculty in agreement need to become more vocal and come to the next policy meeting, write letters to the editor, etc. for more public support.

4. Personnel Committee

Mr. Oliver: The Personnel Committee met before this meeting and reviewed 3 MOU's that we are recommending to the full Board for approval in June: 1) a 10-month secretarial position; 2) concerning 6-12 literacy in coaches---extended day, extended year; and 3) recognizing coaching experience and stipends associated with it.

5. Grievance Committee

Mr. Traub: The Grievance Committee met in early May. The recommendation by Board council was for the TEA to re-evaluate and re-submit.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA – June 16, 2010

1. TPS Blueprint
2. TPS Curriculum
3. Retirement Bios
4. Advertising in Schools (Ryan Fredrickson)
5. ALP Program at Torrington High School as proposed for 2010-2011 school year (Mitch Foote)
6. Budget Approval for 2010-2011

Mr. Oliver moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.