

TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
July 27, 2010
6:00 pm

Torrington Public Schools
355 Migeon Avenue

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Rubino at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

A moment of silence was observed for Board Member, Susan Cogswell, who passed away July 20, 2010.

Roll Call:

Present: Mr. Cavagnero, Mrs. Hoehne, Mrs. Kosmulski, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Oliver,
Mrs. Raymond, Mr. Rubino, Mr. Traub, Mrs. Batchelder, Mrs. Domanico,
Mr. Leone

Absent: Mr. Lyons, Mayor Bingham, Mr. Emmett, Mr. Ji, Mr. Canciani

ANTICIPATED EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion on Personnel Matter; Invited into the Executive Session were Mrs. Domanico, Mrs. Batchelder, Mr. Joslyn.

Mrs. Raymond moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion to move into Executive Session. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

No public participation was scheduled for this evening.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Oliver moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion to approve the Board of Education Minutes, June 16, 2010. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

Prior to Information Sharing, Mr. Leone and Mr. Rubino acknowledged the loss of Board Member, Sue Cogswell.

6.1 Acknowledgments - Mr. Leone

An award was presented to Vic Muschell by Mr. Leone and Mr. Rubino for his 28 years service as legal counsel to the City of Torrington and Torrington Board of Education.

6.2 CMT/CAPT Preliminary Data

Mr. Leone presented a preview of CMT (Connecticut Mastery Test) and CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test) baseline results to be given in full to the Board at the August meeting. Some of the key high-level results were reviewed in relation to State and expectations to AYP (Adequate Yearly Progress) and NCLB (No Child Left Behind).

Mr. Leone announced non-informational sharing items:

News from the federal government today that it will be announced August 5 about the \$5 million ID3 Grant, the Board's first alternative school application.

Last week, the State approached the Board of Education in conjunction with their High School Graduation Initiative Grant and asked to participate in that grant with the State's support for our grant.

Final touches on a \$1.53 million 3-year request from the U.S. Dept. of Education to create an alternative high school in Torrington as a regional model.

6.3 Technology Plan

Gerry Crowley and Erica Pucci presented the Torrington Public Schools Technology Update from the Board of Education plan submitted in 2009.

The presentation was a review of the current technology status as well as looking forward a couple of years.

Currently, the inventory is almost 1400. An additional 80 laptops were installed in TMS for the 7th grade Upward Bound project. The old student information system was updated to web-based version Power School with Parent Portal to be implemented and accessible for the 2010-2011 school year. Technology upgrades were given.

The infrastructure is insufficient for network connections between schools and upgrades are planned, with the funds provided by E-Rate and the school budget. Staff training models expansion is being researched.

Expanded community communications have been a focus: Parent Portal, Torrington website, and working on partnerships with the community.

The Horizon Report 2010 was offered highlighting the technology department's vision and seven roadmap goals.

Specific technology replacements, upgrades and needs were presented by school through summer, 2012.

Board members' discussion included: fiber optic planning and cost savings after installation and unused strands available to the city for use/sale that would benefit, not only the school, but the community at large; Goal 1 Cloud Computing – applications available as a service over the internet; the Bio21 Grant Project provided the district approximately \$140,000; how to shape the classrooms and build up the hardware while chasing a moving technology target; interactive white boards (smart boards); 5-year replacement cycle for hardware, software, and professional development to spread costs over time, i.e., costs for 250 machines a year @ est \$500/machine would take \$125,000 reserve/year, not taking into account discounts and other savings; reduction in cost to replace text books with Apple iPads with all sorts of download access; thin client migration to ultimate cost savings; proficient utilization of future technology; teachers renewing their professional certificates in the State of Connecticut are currently required to earn 15 hours of CEUs in the area of technology integration in the classroom; building up the consortium to buy in bulk for significant savings.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Torrington Public Schools and Torrington Public Schools Administrative Association-Reorganization of Student Support Services

Mr. Traub moved and Mr. Nargi supported a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Torrington Public Schools and Torrington Public Schools Administrative Association-Reorganization of Student Support Services. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.2 Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Torrington Public Schools and Torrington Public School Administrative Association-Mentor Principal

Mrs. Raymond moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Torrington Public Schools and Torrington Public School Administrative Association-Mentor Principal. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.3 Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Torrington Public Schools and Brooker Memorial-Dental Clinic Expansion

Mr. Cavagnero moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Torrington Public Schools and Brooker Memorial-Dental Clinic Expansion. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.4 Approval of Articulation Agreement between Torrington Public Schools and Northwestern Connecticut Community College

Mrs. Kosmulski moved and Mr. Traub supported a motion to approve Articulation Agreement between Torrington Public Schools and Northwestern Connecticut Community College. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.5 Acceptance of Grant Funds-AARA-Educational Technology (Title IID)
Biotechnology Technology for Torrington High School

Mrs. Hoehne moved and Mrs. Kosmulski supported a motion to accept the Grant Funds-Biotechnology for Torrington High School. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.6 Discussion on Changes to Field Trip Forms/Approval

Mrs. Domanico explained significant changes to existing form including: information about coverage for classes when teachers would be leaving the school to accompany their students and get a better estimation of the cost of the subs, and added solicited information from the trip sponsor about availability of financial aid and equitable process to include all students for trips related to curriculum. No action at this time; Approval at future meetings.

7.7 Acceptance of June Enrollment Report

Mrs. Hoehne moved and Mrs. Kosmulski supported a motion to accept the June Enrollment Report. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.8 Acceptance of 2010-2011 Budget

Mrs. Kosmulski moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion to accept the 2010-2011 Budget. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.9 Acceptance of June 2010 Financial Statement

Discussion included: Difficult news on substitutes and absences in May and June and back-dated bills from 2008-2009 for provided services.

Mr. Traub moved and Mrs. Kosmulski supported a motion to accept the June 2010 Financial Statement. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.10 Approval of Budget Transfers

Mrs. Raymond moved and Mr. Oliver supported a motion to approve the Budget Transfers. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.11 Approval of Superintendent Recommendation for Middle School Principal
Mr. Leone made recommendation for Steven Gotlieb to be appointed principal of Torrington Middle School.

Mr. Cavagnero moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion to approve Mr. Gotlieb as the principal of Torrington Middle School. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.12 Approval of Superintendent Recommendation for Mentor Principal
Mr. Leone made recommendation for Dr. Olsen to be appointed as Torrington Middle School/Torrington High School Mentor Principal.

Mrs. Hoehne moved and Mrs. Raymond supported a motion to approve Dr. Olsen's appointment as Torrington Middle School/Torrington High School Mentor Principal. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.13 Approval of Superintendent Recommendation for High School Principal
Mr. Leone made recommendation for Joanne Creedon to be appointed as Torrington High School Principal.

Mrs. Kosmulski moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion to approve Mrs. Creedon as Torrington High School Principal. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.14 Approval of Committee Recommendation for Capital Needs Assessment
Mr. Leone made the recommendation and there was discussion by Mr. Rubino, Mr. Cavagnero, and Mr. Nargi.

Mr. Cavagnero moved and Mr. Rubino supported a motion to approve the Committee Recommendation for Capital Needs Assessment. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.15 Approval of Attorney Policy
Mr. Cavagnero asked questions to Mr. Leone and Mr. Joslyn elaborated. Mr. Nargi made recommendation to any Board of Education members who want to sit in attorney interviews is welcome.

Mr. Nargi moved and Mr. Traub supported a motion to approve the Attorney Policy. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.16 Approval of Contract with Breakthrough Education for Final Year of Upward Bound Academy Training

Mr. Leone makes the recommendation to the Board to accept the proposal with discussion from Mr. Nargi and Mr. Oliver.

Mr. Oliver moved and Mrs. Hoehne supported a motion to approve the Proposal for Services at Torrington Middle School Upward Bound Academy/Year 3. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

7.17 Approval of Torrington Middle School and Torrington High School Handbooks

Mr. Oliver moved and the motion was supported to approve the Torrington Middle School and Torrington High School Student Handbooks for 2010-2011.

CONSENT AGENDA

A move was made and supported to approve tonight's Consent Agenda. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.

1. Resignations/Appointments

Susan Walsh-Teacher, BOE, Appt. Eff. 07/01/10
Benjamin Lovell-Teacher, FB, Appt. Eff. 08/23/10
Jennifer Fernandez-Teacher, VO, Appt. Eff. 08/23/10
Brandy Prahm-Teacher, VO, Appt. Eff. 08/23/10
Jeffrey Dudek-Admin., MS, Res. Eff. 06/30/10
Eric Maher-Teacher, SW & TF, Appt. Eff. 08/23/10
Matt Harnett-Admin., MS, Res. Eff. 08/01/10
Rosanna Canino, Teacher, FB, Appt. Eff. 08/23/10
Mary Morton, Teacher, FB, Appt. Eff. 08/23/10
Theresa Vujs, Teacher, FB, Recall Eff. 08/23/10
Kathy Martin-Ocain, Teacher, MS, Res. Eff. 07/07/10
Cathy Driscoll, Teacher, EA, RIF Withdrawn
Melissa Kain, Teacher, FB, RIF Withdrawn
Daniel Dunaj, Teacher, HS, Appt. Eff. 08/23/10
David Sprowson, Teacher, HS, Appt. Eff. 08/23/10
Maxwell Mason, Teacher, HS, Appt. Eff. 08/23/10
Lydia Johnson, Teacher, VO, Appt. Eff. 08/23/10
Barbara Beebe, Teacher, HS-MS, Appt. Eff. 08/23/10
Courtney Quigley, Teacher, EA, Appt. Eff. 08/23/10
Cheryl Kloczko, Admin., MI, Appt. Eff. 08/01/10
Dr. Beth Robin, Admin., MI, Appt. Eff. 08/01/10
Mitchell Foote, Admin., MI, Appt. Eff. 08/01/10

2. Coaching Appointments

Sabrina Smeltz-Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2010

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Leone announced Mrs. Kosmulski's resignation from the Board.

The Policy Review Timeline for the Torrington Board of Education Policy Book during the 2010-2011 school year and Dress Code/Uniform Policy Review Timeline were presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Personnel Committee Meeting Minutes Approved June 16, 2010

2. School Improvement Committee Minutes Approved June 23, 2010

3. Policy Committee Minutes approved June 23, 2010

4. Budget Committee Minutes Approved July 14, 2010

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA – August 18, 2010

Mr. Leone explained the items for the upcoming agenda.

1. CMT/CAPT Report
2. Teacher Evaluation Plan/Document

FUTURE MEETINGS

1. School Improvement Committee-July 28, 2010
2. Policy Committee-July 28, 2010
3. Budget Committee-August 11, 2010
4. Board of Education Retreat-Saturday, August 21, 2010

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Oliver moved and Mr. Cavagnero supported the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. The motion carried. The vote was unanimous.