



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 27, 2017, 6:30PM
50 Major Besse Drive**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:31PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Fiona Cappabianca; Joanne Brogis; Ellen G. Hoehne; Bill Knight; Armand Maniccia; Wendy Pataky; Jessica Richardson; Kenneth P. Traub; Peter Vegaro

Administration: David Bascetta, Director of Facilities; Denise L. Clemons, Superintendent; Le'Tanya Lawrence; Director of Student Services; Steven Manley, IT Director

Absent: Susan M. Lubomski, Daniel Thibault

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Veronica from the High School spoke. She mentioned that the start of the school year was very difficult. She loves to see that the BOE recognizes how hard the teachers have been working. She praised THS for going above and beyond to make the start of the school year successful.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

Mr. Knight made a motion to amend the agenda to add to Policy Committee under Committee Reports, seconded by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

A. Staff Recognitions: The following staff members received kind words and a certificate from Ms. Clemons:

1. Christopher Autunno, East School
2. Yong Kim, East School
3. John Paganini, East School
4. Kathy Cook, Southwest School
5. Donna MacDonald, Southwest School
6. Kim Bushka, Southwest School

7. Amongst the staff members, Ms. Clemons handed out a certificate to a well deserving grade 4 student named Amya Rodriguez from Vogel-Wetmore School. She goes out of her way to help make her school and her world a better place. She put together an Anti-Bullying group during recess where people sign a list to promise to never bully.
- B. Pra-Educator of the Year-2018:** The following staff members received plaques from Ms. Clemons as well as a kind statement about why each individual deserves this recognition:
1. Diane Greene, Forbes School
 2. Sally Richtmeyer, Southwest School
 3. Valerie Peacock, Tarringford School
 4. Kathi Peterson, Vogel-Wetmore School
 5. Danielle Valunas, TMS
 6. Sarah Morrison, THS
- C. District Para-Educator:** Ms. Clemons presented her with a plaque and kind sentiments.
1. Tammy Randall, East School
- D. Teacher of the Year-2018:** Ms. Clemons presented the following individuals with a plaque and kind sentiments.
1. Claire Pepper, Social Worker, East School
 2. Diane Hart, Teacher, Forbes School
 3. Sarah Hollenbeck, Teacher, Southwest School
 4. Kristen Wabrek, Literacy Interventionist, Vogel-Wetmore School
 5. Gina Whaley, Science Teacher, TMS
 6. Cindy Amoroso, Art Teacher, THS
- E. District Teacher of the Year:** Ms. Clemons presented her with a plaque and kind sentiments.
1. Brandy Zima, 3rd Grade Teacher, Tarringford School

The board gave a standing ovation to all of those who were recognized tonight. The Chair gave thanks on behalf of the board for all the sacrifices that these individuals have made to help out the students of Torrington. Dr. Brogis stated that para-educators are indispensable.

The Chair wanted to recognize a member who was not on the list, Wendy Fadoir. Wendy has been cleaning the outside of THS and has been working hard to make it look inviting when people pull in to THS.

- F. Superintendent's Report:** Ms. Clemons stated that this week has had a lot of challenges. Last week we were blessed to have two very well executed presentations on the Pre-K and Special-Ed analysis. Ms. Clemons stated that one thing that has been glaring overall in all the categories of the race and ethnicity is that a quarter is identified as Special-Ed. We are going to try to provide more services to try to make sure we are not over identifying because of a language barrier. She reported there is a change of leadership in the Middle School and that Dr. Buchanan is the intermittent Principal of TMS.
- G. Field Trips:** The following field trips were presented in the board's packet. There were no questions on any of the information.
1. **TMS-Peabody Museum-Salem, MA-5/8/18, 5/9/18, 5/10/18**
 2. **Vogel-Wetmore-Sturbridge Village-Sturbridge, MA-6/8/18**

3. THS-Yale New Haven-1/18/18, 1/19/18, 1/20/18, 1/21/18

H. Contracts

- 1. Athletic Trainer Support Agreement-**Mr. Traub stated that this contract was reviewed in budget to see if the contract is hourly or lump sum. Turns out it is lump sum and it comes out around \$30.00/hr. We need to be cautious about using the hours since we are paying for them. There are 30/hrs in the Fall, 25/hrs for Winter, and 25/hrs for Spring. Budget is in support of this contract.
 - 2. Delta T-**There was a lot of discussion on what the rates are for Delta T contract vs the old contract with Kelly Services. The fees for Delta T for paras are \$21.25, subs \$114.58 and teacher subs are \$230.00. The board is not opposed to approving Delta T for the para-professionals.
- I. 2017/2018 Calendar Change-**Ms. Clemons proposed to remove Veteran's Day (Feb. 20) and first day of April vacation (April 16) as no school days and make them into snow days. The goal is to prevent going past June 22 deadline. There would be activities in the classroom for Veteran's Day for students to be educated on the history, etc. If these two days are not used, then school would end two days earlier. The Chair just wanted to bring this information up to the board to think about it. The next step is to talk to the Union and this will come back in October.
- J. Curriculum Update-**Teachers have been receiving training with the Bridges training with the math program. Curriculum Committee is meeting on Oct. 5.
- K. Special Education State of the Union-**There was discussion on the Torrington UConn branch falling through. It was stated that there is another place they are trying to move the branch and right now it is in the negotiations stages. Another discussion was to see where in the Race and Ethnicity statistics do ELL and S-Ped students overlap.
- L. Strategic Plan-**Ms. Clemons stated that she is doing target data collection so if this place is not working we would come back and fix it. The Chair clarified for the board that this plan is a "Helicopter" of the district, and something to strive for.
- M. Community Mentors-**The Chair stated that some of our High School students lack positive adult role models outside of school. There are kids who are dealing with a lot of problems at home. We are hoping to form a community program, similar to Big Brother and Big Sister, to have adults to come in to work with kids or for the kids to just have someone to talk to. The mentors must be finger printed and pass background checks. This would be great for students to establish relationships where they can get a summer job, internship, and receive help with their resume. This is another way we could reach students that may have been otherwise overlooked.
- N. Food Nutrition-**Speaker handed out a packet. The speaker pointed out the program goal is to steer children to eat balanced meals and not purchase a la carte. We raised our a la carte prices. There are not reimbursements when children purchase a la carte, only if they purchase a full meal. A full meal is that one of the 3 things that they choose has to be a fruit or vegetable. The Chair requested more information on what the a la carte prices are.
- O. Monthly Financials-**Mr. Traub reported that the monthly financial just show how much we have spent. It is hard to evaluate them. Hopefully, next month, we can actually input the budget figures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Budget Committee**-Mr. Traub reported that the Student Activity Reports are being worked on. There were no budget transfers. RFP Updates and S-Ped department will be covered in October. The Year-End Budget looked good.
- B. Grievance Committee**-none
- C. Personnel Committee**-no report
- D. School Improvement Committee**-Ms. Richardson reported that we have been looking to change the Senior Prom date and there will be a new date soon. She also announced that there will be a rotation location schedule for SIC meetings so everyone can learn more about the different schools.
- E. Ed-Advance**-Dr. Brogis reported that the Major Regional Meeting is Oct. 5 from 4-6PM.
- F. Policy Committee**-Ms. Hoehne reported that they have been reviewing the attendance policy and it is a work in progress.
- G. Curriculum Committee**-no meeting yet. First meeting is Oct. 5 at 2:15 at THS.
- H. Torrington Public School Restructure Ad Hoc Committee**-Mr. Traub reported that they will set a date soon to meet again.

ACTION ITEMS

- A. Field Trips:**
 - 1. TMS-Peabody Museum-Salem,MA-5/8/18, 5/9/18, 5/10/18**
Mr. Knight made the motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Pataky. All in favor.
 - 2. Vogel-Wetmore-Sturbridge Village-Sturbridge,MA-6/8/18**
Mr. Knight made the motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Pataky. All in favor.
 - 3. THS-Yale New Haven-1/18/18, 1/19/18, 1/20/18, 1/21/18**
Dr. Brogis made the motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Pataky. All in favor.
- B. Contracts:**
 - 1. Athletic Trainer Support Agreement**
Mr. Traub made the motion to approve, seconded by Dr. Brogis. All in favor.
 - 2. Delta T**
Mr. Traub made the motion to approve only the para-professional portion, seconded by Ms. Maniccia. All in favor.
- C. 2017/2018 Calendar Change**
Tabled.
- D. Strategic Plan**
Dr. Brogis made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Traub. All in favor
- E. Approval of Board of Education Meeting Minutes-August 23, 2017**
Mr. Traub made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Knight. All in favor
- F. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes-June 8, 2017 (A)**
Ms. Richardson made the motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Pataky. All in favor
- G. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes-June 8, 2017 (B)**
Dr. Brogis made the motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Pataky. All in favor
- H. Approval of Special Meeting Minutes-July 26, 2017**
Mr. Knight made the motion to approve, seconded by Dr. Brogis. Y-7, Abstain-1 (Mr. Traub). Motion passes.
- I. Approval of Consent Agenda**

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on October 25, 2017

- a. Approval of Monthly Financials**
- b. Receive Subcommittee Minutes**
 - i. Policy Committee-June 7, 2017**
 - ii. School Improvement Committee-June 7, 2017**
 - iii. Budget Committee-June 19, 2017 and August 22, 2017**
 - iv. Appointments & Resignations**

Mr. Traub made the motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Knight. All in favor

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Maniccia – commended all the staff and teaches and everyone for working through some tough times and making it a good beginning of the school year.

Mr. Vegaro – good school year and he would like to reiterate that a decision about closing a school needs to happen soon.

Dr. Brogis – stated that the school year started very well. She hopes we can get a student representative again.

Ms. Pataky – she stated that the girls bathroom at TMS is awesome!

Chair – she reported that there is as student battling leukemia at THS and there is a fund raiser pasta dinner for the student.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

1. Monthly Financials
2. Budget Transfer
3. RFP for SPED
4. Delta T
5. Food Service
6. Data Review SPED
7. AP Testing

FUTURE MEETINGS

Wednesday, October 4, 2017 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. — Policy Committee (Postponed)

7:00 p.m. – School Improvement and Community Relations Committee

Wednesday, October 11, 2017 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:30 p.m. – Personnel Committee

7:00 p.m. – Budget Committee

Wednesday, October 18, 2017 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

Wednesday, October 25, 2017 (at THS)

6:30 p.m. – Regular Board of Education Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Traub made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:57PM.