



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, May 17, 2017
50 Major Besse Drive**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:02PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Fiona Cappabianca, Chair; Joanne Brogis; Daniel Thibault;
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; Jerry Domanico, Director of Business Services;
Le'Tanya Lawrence (6:45PM); Director of Student Services; Susan M.
Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent;

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Jason Lafreniere spoke about the 8th grade DC Trip. There will be a total of 136 students/staff attending the trip. There are 4 students who will represent TMS at the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldiers; Nicholas who won the Essay Contest, Isabella who has the highest GPA, Hunter who has the best attendance, and Mackenzie who was nominated by the teachers.

William Battle spoke. He thanked all the teachers and principals in the Torrington School System for his son's, Darnell Battle's, academic process. He stated that Forbes Elementary school is the best elementary school in the history of mankind. Mr. Battle also stated that Darnell could not have gotten a better education anywhere else.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. All in favor.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

A. Student Representative Report – Darnell Battle

Darnell reported on the amazing things happening in THS. The students participated in Model United Nations. There is an academic awards night where students received various awards. There was a National Honors Induction Ceremony. Seniors have a busy upcoming week; senior outing, prom and graduation on June 25. Darnell welcomed the

incoming Principal of THS and wished him well.

B. Superintendent's Report

Ms. Clemons introduced the new Torrington High School Principal, Andrew Skarzynski. Mr. Skarzynski thanked Ms. Clemons and the Board and stated that he was thrilled to accept the position.

Ms. Clemons introduced the new Torrington Middle School Principal, Valerie Bruneau. Ms. Bruneau thanked Ms. Clemons and the Board and she stated that she has felt very welcomed and feels like this is a family she is looking forward to joining.

Ms. Clemons introduced the new Director of IT Services, Steven Manley. Mr. Manley thanked everyone and stated that he feels very welcomed and looks forward to moving technology forward.

Ms. Clemons gave the Board an update of the district. They have been busy filling the vacated slots. The next step is to interview to fill the Elementary School vacancies. She provided the Board with the Survey results. The participation rate was low and she encourages parents to participate. Through this survey we learned what areas we have to improve on. They are working on a pamphlet that will be handed out at the beginning of the school year that outlines student expectations per grade level and a welcoming committee protocol. Ms. Clemons pointed out that the demographics in Torrington are changing and that we want to make sure that all students, no matter what their background is, are understood. Vogel Wetmore Elementary school was cited by the State for Racial Imbalance. She noted that the survey showed that 61 people were not in favor of closing any elementary school whereas 19 people were in favor. The reason closing down an elementary school is being explored is because of low enrollment, budgetary constraints and racial imbalance.

Ms. Clemons also stated that Torrington has been given the opportunity to win the Working Cities Challenge Grant. This would be an amazing grant to win because our goal is to keep the millennium population in Torrington.

C. East School Renovation

Mr. Bascetta spoke about the conceptual design, scope and cost for the East School renovation. The plans that he submitted to the Board were from a couple of years ago. The kids are not allowed to be in school until the project is done. This will take multiple years. There is enough bonding to cover this project.

After discussion it was determined that there will be an Ad-hock committee created to look at whether East School should be renovated and how, or if East School should be closed. Then Ad-hock committee will let the Board know when they are ready for a Special Meeting and then it will come to the full Board to decide what direction we want to go in.

The Chair formed the Ad-Hock committee that consist of Mr. Truab (committee chair),

Mr. Maniccia, Mr. Knight, and Ms. Hoehne. The committee will last 30 days.

D. Food Service RFP

Mr. Domanico stated that there are 2 bids. It was brought to Budget and they unanimously think that the contract should be awarded to Ed-Advance.

E. Special Education Transportation RFP

Mr. Domanico stated that Shipman and Goodwin reviewed that we are in compliance. The intent of the Bid is route by route basis to see who the lowest bidder is.

F. Paid Lunch Equity Report

Mr. Domanico stated that this is an annual requirement by the USDA to ensure that we are charging appropriate prices for the meals in order to make sure we are not under funding the program. It was determined that our weighted prices are .12 cents below the requirement. We can go up more than .10 cents in price.

Ms. Clemons recommended that we raise the lunch price .25 cents and then we can revisit this topic in 2 years.

G. Healthy Food Certification

Mr. Domanico stated that this is another annual requirement. We need to decide if the district is going to get certified to the States Healthy Food Certification and we need to decide if we want exemptions to that rule. This decision is due by June 30.

After discussion it was decided that this item will be discussed in the upcoming Policy Committee meeting. Those who are impacted by the States Healthy Food Certification should come to the meeting and voice their opinions. We also want to find out what the available menu items would be if we did certify.

H. Capital Funding Carryover Review

Mr. Bascetta spoke on this item. Procedurally he had to send a formal request to the Superintendent to have funds transfer over to the Capital Reserve Fund.

I. Budget Transfers

The Budget Committee was in support for moving all of the budget transfers.

J. Budget Update Year End

The Chair stated that we are going to be okay for now.

K. Policy 5032 New Course Adoption

This item was tabled and will be going back to the Policy Committee for next month.

L. Policy 6095 Graduation Requirements

Ms. Hoehne stated that that the title changed and the number of credits changed for next year.

M. Principal's Search Update Torrington and Vogel Wetmore

Ms. Clemons stated that they have a large number of applications. They are in the process of vetting out what they have. They are looking at interviews possibly starting the first week of June.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Budget Committee – Mr. Traub reported that they are good.
- B. Grievance Committee – The Chair reported that 1 grievance was cancelled last month but it might go forward for next month.
- C. Personnel Committee – Mr. Thibault stated that they had a productive meeting and that next year we will have options on where we can get substitutes.
- D. Policy Committee – Ms. Hoehne reported that New Course Adoption is coming back to policy. Future meeting topics are going to consist of Wellness, Grading, Attendance and Truancy. They will be busy.
- E. School Improvement Committee – Ms. Richardson reported that they sent a request for the administration to look at how we can alleviate the problem that surrounds the date of the Senior Prom.
- F. Education Connection – Dr. Brogis reported that Education Connection is now providing us a report of what they of programs they have done for the entire District.
- G. Curriculum Committee – Mr. Maniccia reported that they had their first meeting but he could not attend. Ms. Lubomski stated that there were representatives from all grades that expressed their concerns about cohesiveness and other concerns.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Food Service RFP

Mr. Traub made a motion to award the Food Service RFP to Ed-Advance. Dr. Brogis seconded the motion. All in favor.

B. Healthy Food Certification

Tabled. All in favor.

C. Special Education Transportation RFP

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the Special Education Transportation RFP. Dr. Brogis seconded the motion. All in favor.

D. Paid Lunch Prices for 2017/2018 School Year

Dr. Brogis made a motion to increase the price of lunch by .25 cents. Ms. Pataky seconded the motion. Y-8, N-1 (Mr. Maniccia)

E. Healthy Food Certification

accidentally written on twice. See Action Item B.

F. Capital Funding Request to Board of Finance

Mr. Knight made the motion for the Superintendent move these funds. Mr. Traub seconded the motion. All in favor.

G. Budget Transfers

Mr. Traub made the motion to approve these transfers. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

H. Policy 5032 New Course Adoption

Tabled.

I. Policy 6095 Graduation Requirements

Ms. Hoehne made the motion to approve Policy 6095. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

J. Possible Action regarding East School Renovation

Removed. The Chair formed the Ad-Hock committee that consist of Mr. Truab (committee chair), Mr. Maniccia, Mr. Knight, Ms. Hoehne. The committee will last 30 days.

K. Approval of Consent Agenda

- i. Approval of Monthly Financials**
- ii. Approval of Board of Education meeting minutes**
- iii. Minutes of Special Meeting April 18, 2017 Student A**
- iv. Minutes of Special Meeting April 27, 2017 Student A**
- v. Receive Subcommittee minutes**
 - **School Improvement – March 1, 2017**
 - **Policy Committee – March 1, 2017**
 - **Budget Committee – April 17, 2017 (Postponed from April 12)**
 - **Personnel Committee – April 12, 2017**
- vi. Appointments & Resignations**

Mr. Knight made the motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Traub wants all the High School kids to be careful for their Prom weekend and wishes everyone to have a good Memorial Day Weekend.

Mr. Thibault welcomed the new administrators and wished them the best of luck.

Mr. Vegaro stated that this is the weekend he worries most for our students. He hopes the new principal can say some words to bring awareness of the dangers this weekend brings.

Mr. Maniccia congratulated the High School for their play Footloose.

Dr. Brogis stated that she wishes to see as many of the Board members as possible for all of the end of the year school activities, especially graduation.

Mr. Knight, Ms. Pataky, and Ms. Richardson welcomed the new administrators and wished them luck.

Ms. Hoehne welcomed the new administrators. She stated that East School 5th graders will graduate from the D.A.R.E program on June 15.

The Chair thanked the committee that did all the interviewing. She wishes the 3 new administrators all the luck and to let the Board know of all the ways they can support them.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

- A. Budget
- B. East School
- C. Non-union contracts

FUTURE MEETINGS

Monday, June 5, 2017 (Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – Grievance Committee

Wednesday, June 7, 2017 (Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

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

Wednesday, June 14, 2017 (Migeon Ave.)

6:30 p.m. – Personnel Committee

7:00 p.m. – Budget Committee

Wednesday June 21, 2017 (THS Library Media Center)

6:00 p.m. Regular Board of Education Meeting

PLEASE NOTE ADDITIONAL MEETINGS WILL BE ADDED AS NEEDED FOR BUDGET

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thibault made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Traub seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:23PM