



## Torrington Public Schools

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ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

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### School Improvement Committee Meeting Wednesday, November 1, 2017, 6:00PM East School

#### *Minutes*

1. Call to Order – 6:04PM
2. Roll Call – Ms. Richardson (Chair), Ms. Pataky, Mr. Maniccia
3. Approval of Agenda – Motion to approve made by Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Pataky second.  
All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes: October 4, 2017 – Motion to approve made by Ms. Pataky, Mr. Maniccia second.  
All in favor.
5. Information Sharing and Discussion Items:
  - a. East School Visit and Highlights by Ms. Richardson:
    - Beautiful setting: the staff and school community have decorated the school. There is also a School Garden. They are making the most of what they have.
    - Building is old, many issues: boiler, parking already limited with the addition of the pre-k and snow-even more limited. School seems very full. No closets; no storage space.
    - Active, but positive learning environment. Behavior is very good.
    - Literacy and numeracy RTI supports are making a difference.
    - Special education: 10.8%.
    - Free and reduced meal population: 43%, but not designated Title I as per the state. The demographics of East are changing. There are many challenges at East School as there are at the other schools throughout the district. The school staff wants to increase their diversity and address racial imbalance.
    - There were questions from parents about closing East School. Mr. Maniccia addressed these concerns. He spoke about the Ad Hoc Committee progress.
  - b. Communications Update – On-going process.
  - c. SGC Updates – There was on-line voting regarding the 2 vacant board positions.
  - d. AP Discussion – The Full board agreed that SIC would address the district AP Policy, AP courses and requirements:
    - In the future the following would be discussed: (this is not an exhaustive list, but reflective of the initial brainstorming)
      - Test scores
      - DRG comparison data
      - Class sizes

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on December 20, 2017.

- Numbers of students who took the test
  - Philosophical discussion: AP exams “mandatory” vs “encouraged”
  - Success measures
  - Looking at pass rates
  - When is the AP administered
  - Parent and student education and information events/methods of sharing communication
  - Student rights and information
  - AP scholar awards
  - Offer AP classes earlier
  - Which colleges and universities accept AP exams for credit
  - Who should take the AP classes? Pre-requisites?
  - UCONN vs AP-teaching syllabi.
  - Do other districts face the lack of participation in taking the test?
  - What are the resources and qualifications for teachers?
  - Who has been trained for UCONN and AP courses?
6. Comments for the Good of Order:  
Mr. Maniccia thanked Ms. Richardson and Ms. Pataky.
7. Topics for Future Meetings:
- a. Forbes Visit and Highlights
  - b. Communications Update
  - c. AP Discussion
8. Adjournment – 7:04PM; Motion by Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Pataky second. All in favor.
9. Next meeting: January 3, 2017, 6:00PM, Forbes School