



Torrington Public Schools

**Packet for SIC Meeting**

*October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023*



## Torrington Public Schools

MICHAEL J. WILSON  
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSSON  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

### School Improvement Committee Wednesday, October 4, 2023, 6:00 P.M. Migeon Ave.

There will be an opportunity to call in and speak as noted in the body of the agenda during public comment. Those calling in will need to state their name and address for the record and will be subject to the same rules as for in-person participation. Dial-in number: (425) 436-6343 Access Code: 225583

The meeting may be watched live via this link <https://vimeo.com/event/26843> The link is also published in the Board of Education section of the website. If you are participating in public comment, please mute the live stream while you are speaking.

### Agenda

*Comments may be solicited at any time during the meeting as recognized by the Chair*

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Approval of Agenda
4. Approval of Minutes
5. Public Participation: *Members of the public and staff may bring to the committee's attention information, ideas, or matters of concern related to all the duties and responsibilities of this committee. This committee will not allow comments regarding specific staff members or personal grievances. The time for individual remarks will be apportioned according to the number of speakers and will be limited to five minutes per speaker unless extended by the chair.*
6. Discussion and Next Steps:
  - a. Community Partner Update: Eileen Marriott, KidsPlay
  - b. Reading Program Update
  - c. TAG Update
  - d. Alliance Update
  - e. Meeting Location Decision

- f. Prioritize Topics for Future Meetings List
7. Topics for Future Meetings: homogeneous vs. heterogeneous grouping, school climate, pathways update, facilities realignment, online materials as replacements for textbooks, AP access, personal finance and community service requirements, four-year college acceptance/retention, needs analysis, personal finance, community service, dress code violation report
8. Comments for the Good of the Order
9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: November 1<sup>st</sup>, TBA

Future Meetings: November 29<sup>th</sup>, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup> Locations TBA

These minutes have not yet been approved by the Torrington Board of Education.



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### School Improvement Committee Wednesday, September 6, 2023, 6:00 P.M. Migeon Ave.

#### Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:00 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Mr. Kissko, Ms. Todor, Ms. Hoehne, Ms. Gelormino (Teacher Representative)  
Also Present: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Burger, Mr. Cronin, Mr. Putnam (Remote), Ms. Fergusson, Ms. Keene, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Klimaszewski, Dr. Deacon, Ms. Creedon, Mr. Michelson (IT), OCIB Presenters
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Todor made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Ms. Hoehne. All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes: Ms. Todor made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Hoehne. All in favor.
5. Public Participation: None
6. Discussion and Next Steps:
  - a. Community Partner Update: Our Culture is Beautiful – OCIB Shawn Matel and Sheena Mitchell spoke on behalf of OCIB. The organization is about exploring culture, language, education, traditions, music and more. They offer African Drumming, storytelling, and workshops. Shawn and Sheena explained how OCIB partners with school districts and what types of programs can be offered at the various grade bands. Ms. Fergusson and Ms. Creedon will meet with Effie, Shawn, and Sheena next month to discuss in greater detail.
  - b. 2023-2024 Launch: Ms. Fergusson stated that it has been a positive start to the school year and the schools and buildings have had positive energy. The summer learning program was very targeted and tightly aligned K-5 with the new literacy resource being implemented this year. Ms. Gelormino shared that the students were able to partner up with 5 Points Gallery. The kids put together a show in just 3 weeks. They made all the set pieces there. There were 7 high school interns who were helping/teaching the TMS students and helping them problem

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solve. They would like this partnership with 5 Points to continue for the school year – more to come on that.

Ms. Schulte shared the HR summer recap. Some of the highlights are that the district hired 27 teachers, 3 administrators, 23 paraprofessionals and a Superintendent. ESS has been actively recruiting over the summer. She shared the Convocation slideshow for the BOE members.

Ms. Klimaszewski stated that she interviewed over 90 people this summer. They are in good shape for certified staff. They are still working on the paras and the Social Worker.

OTL Updates: Elementary Summer Program – 168 students in K-5 attended two 2 hour sessions met 4 days/week for 4 weeks. Instructional focus on improving reading skills and strategies. There was a co-teaching model to meeting students' individual needs – whole group and small group instruction every day. The teachers who participated in Summer School got to use the new Benchmark materials.

Summer Learning at THS – Summer Academy June 20-22. 39 students completed 44 courses (they received a 65 for the course.) Teachers identified students who demonstrated mastery who just needed a few more assignments. There were 4 core content teachers and a Spanish teacher.

4 week program July 10 – August 3 and 67 students recovered credit.

Summer Learning at TMS – 4 week program with 94 students participating. All students who participated received mathematics and humanities (reading, writing, and speaking centered on high-interest topics.)

Summer EL Learning Program for Secondary Newcomers: First years we were able to offer at the secondary level. Two classes, one for TMS and one for THS. Participation was voluntary – 34 students attended. Focus was on all 4 language domains: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. Social + Academic language.

- c. TAG Update: Ms. Klimaszewski shared the update with the committee. Students are being identified, and plans are being finalized to notify families. More to come next month.
  - d. Alliance Update: More to come.
  - e. Meeting Location Schedule: Every year, this committee has its meetings at different locations so the principals can present on location at their respective schools. The committee discussed whether it might make more sense to select one permanent location to make it more convenient for IT. Ms. Fergusson will talk to the principals about coming in and to get their input. Discussion will continue next month.
7. Topics for Future Meetings: homogeneous vs. heterogeneous grouping, school climate, pathways update, facilities realignment, online materials as replacements for textbooks, AP access, personal finance and community service requirements, four-year college acceptance/retention, needs analysis, personal finance, community service, dress code violation report
  8. Comments for the Good of the Order: (paraphrased)  
Ellen: “Great meeting all; hard work.”  
Cathy: “So good to hear about the great start and a happy school year. Thank you for all your hard work.”

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Glenn: "I was intrigued by Joanne's bilingual information."

Jeff: "Great start to the year; summer program may have been a great asset to the district."

John: "Thank you for everyone who presented tonight and thank you for all the hard work this summer."

9. Adjournment: Ms. Hoehne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:22 P.M.

Next Meeting: October 4th, Migeon Avenue School

Future Meetings: November 1<sup>st</sup>, November 29<sup>th</sup>, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, February 7<sup>th</sup>, March 6<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, May 1<sup>st</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup> Locations TBA

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