



Torrington Public Schools

Packet for SIC Meeting

November 29th, 2023



Torrington Public Schools

MICHAEL J. WILSON
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

School Improvement Committee Wednesday, November 29, 2023, 6:00 P.M. Torrington School Media Center

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. Torrington School Report
 - b. Community Partner Report: Fit Together
 - c. TAG Update
7. Topics for Future Meetings: homogeneous vs. heterogeneous grouping, school climate, pathways update, online materials as replacements for textbooks, personal finance and

community service requirements, four-year college acceptance/retention, needs analysis,
dress code violation report

8. Comments for the Good of the Order
9. Adjournment

Next Meeting: January 3rd / Migeon Avenue School

Future Meetings: February 7th / Migeon Avenue School, March 6th / Southwest School, April
3rd / Forbes School, May 1st / Torrington Middle School, June 5th / Torrington High School



Torrington Public Schools

MICHAEL J. WILSON
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

School Improvement Committee Wednesday, November 1, 2023, 6:00 P.M. Vogel-Wetmore School Media Center

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. Cronin, Mr. Putnam, Mr. Wilson, Ms. Fergusson, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Klimaszewski, Ms. Galullo, Mr. Clyne, Ms. Rinaldi, Mr. Scott, Mr. P. Michelson, Mr. J. Michelson, Dr. Deacon, Ms. Kane, Ms. Creedon, Ms. Paye, Mr. Craig
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes. Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
5. Public Participation: None
6. Discussion and Next Steps:
 - a. Vogel-Wetmore School Report: Ms. Todor reported on the wonderful time she had visiting Vogel-Wetmore. It was mismatch day. She saw a lot of active learning. Kindergarten field trip was cancelled due to weather so the farm delivered the pumpkins to the school. Ms. Todor reported hearing a lot of happy conversations about the pumpkins. It was such fun that she had a hard time leaving. Mr. Michelson agreed that it was such a nice visit. They all know Ms. Todor and were so happy to have her visit. Mr. Michelson shared that the reading program is going fantastically. The teachers have really embraced the reading program. The coaches have been so supportive of our new reading program, and they have been working extra hard to cover all the grades and to give teachers feedback. Mr. Kissko reported that the teacher was reading a book to the classroom and on the smartboard on the front – the page was right there. The Harvest Fair had a good turn out and the kids had fun. Yesterday, the kids dressed as their favorite book characters and they had the best day.

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

b. School Improvement Progress, School by School:

Ms. Fergusson stated that she has had the honor and privilege to go around to all the schools with Mr. Wilson from day one and she can attest to all the great things the schools are doing.

Mr. Clyne reported on Forbes: The presentation started with Academic STAR Assessments. Grade 4 has 70% kids on grade level and Grade 5 has 74% kids on grade level. He shared some of the great work that happens every single day – data team meetings, instructional coaching, district and school-based professional development, grade level meetings review of student work, unpacking of curriculum, planning etc. Attendance – the average daily attendance is 95.6% Some of the strategies that they use are LEAP/home visits, attendance meetings, phone calls, attendance contracts etc. Families are making a concerted effort to have the kids come to school – even if they are late.

Ms. Galullo reported on Torrington: Enrollment to date is 645 and growing daily. She shared the DIBELS data from Grade K-3. The percentage of students scoring at or above benchmark will increase to 65%, 68%, 70% respectively as measured by the Fall 2023 to Spring 2024 DIBELS assessment. She also presented STAR math data and which students are at benchmark, on watch, intervention, or urgent intervention. Ms. Galullo shared some academic strategies her school uses: Implementation of literacy program aligned to the science of reading, PD directly aligned to the new resource and the science of reading, coaching support in the new resource implementation, thematic units that weave science and social studies standards into literacy and many more. She shared that 95% of the kindergarten through 3rd grade students will respond favorably to “The adults in my school care about me.” She also shared that 95% of students will report that they feel safe at school. Ms. Galullo shared some of the culture and climate strategies – MTSS process for behavior, community relations, PTO has been phenomenal, Pawsome certificates and awards, family engagement events and many more.

Mr. Michelson reported on Vogel-Wetmore: He shared the STAR assessment data. For 1st, 2nd and 3rd testing in ELA and Math the goals will be from 50-60%. He believes that these goals are very obtainable. At least 85% of the students will respond positively to the statement “The adults at my school really care about me.” He talked about the children who get Eagle tickets. There is a monthly assembly to recognize these students. Coaches meet regularly with teachers to plan and adjust. There is a daily Number Corner. The children are having fun and learning at Vogel-Wetmore.

Ms. Rinaldi reported on TMS: SEL goal is 85% of 6th and 8th graders “I feel comfortable sharing my thoughts and ideas in class” in the 2023/2024 spring School Student survey. She shared the strategies the school did to achieve this. She shared the SBA ELA, and math data. The mean percentile in both content areas for all the grade levels should be 50%. Some of the strategies they are

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

doing to reach these goals: meeting times will be student focused with defined structures and protocols to maximize student outcomes, teachers will analyze data, set goals, look at student work, and provide feedback, to plan effective instruction, and teachers will share at-home academic strategies with parents and more. Stakeholders Feedback goal: 80% of parents will respond favorably to the prompt “The school helps me understand what my child needs to learn to be successful at his/her grade level.”

Brian Scott reported on THS: Goal #1 ensure a culture of caring that supports student engagement: Last year, THS was under the State average for attendance so these are some of the strategies we will continue to use: alternative education, communicated detailed attendance regulation, attendance committee, and LEAP and Social Worker Home Visits. Goal #2: improved reading and mathematics performance. Intervention and support for students and professional learning. They raised the percentile rank to 50% or higher. Goal #3 – strengthen collaborative and effective planning for instruction that engages students in rigorous and relevant learning. Mr. Scott strongly believes that there is nothing better for PD than the internal expertise of the teaching staff – help our new teachers and struggling teachers grow. Strengthen communication between the school and families/community members through Parent Square, Newsletter and School Wide Goal.

Dr. Deacon filled in for Dr. Buchanan and shared her report on Southwest: He shared the Academic STAR Assessment for grades 4 and 5. He also shared the DIBELS assessment and Text Reading Comprehension. Some of the Academic Strategies: Data Team Meetings, Instructional Coaching, Gradel level meetings, benchmark implementation, student success team meetings, peer observations and many more. He shared the Attendance data – this has been much improved. There is also a reduction with the top 5 behaviors. He shared the climate strategies and some of those are mental health/behavior team meetings, BCBA/RBT assistance, lunch bunch groups, mystery dragon, dragons of the month, student leadership council, and Therapy Dog visits and many more.

Questions on any of the school reports may be brought to a future SIC meeting.

- c. Website, Altice, Social Media Updates: Moved to next month.
 - d. TAG Update: The TAG program has started. All the students are going to the CT Science Center, and they get to design their own rollercoaster. You can purchase Jimmy’s grinder tickets for the fundraiser and the proceeds will go towards the TAG program.
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:

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

Jeff: "Very informative thank you."

Fiona: "Nice to see what is going on in the schools."

Michael: Thanks for sharing. Our schools are great and you got a little snapshot tonight."

9. Adjournment: Ms. Hoehne made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 P.M.

Next Meeting: November 29th, Torrington School

Future Meetings: January 3rd / Migeon Avenue School, February 7th / Migeon Avenue School, March 6th / Southwest School, April 3rd / Forbes School, May 1st / Torrington Middle School, June 5th / Torrington High School

DRAFT