

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Wednesday August 15, 2012
7:00 PM**

**Torrington High School
Media Center
Major Besse Drive**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:14pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Cavagnero, Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Merola, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Rovero, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Traub, Mrs. Domanico, Mr. Joslyn, Mrs. Kloczko, Mr. Brady, Kevin Finn

Absent: Mrs. Cappabianca, Mrs. Batchelder, Mayor Bingham, Austin Kelson, Sorceres Rivera-Tamarez

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Mr. Traub read aloud the purpose of the School/Community Session and related all emergency exit information.

There was one (1) speaker regarding parenting, legislation and the school system.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to amend the agenda by adding number nine (9) to the Information Sharing Session, and correcting number eleven (11) to Over Sight from Over Site, and to approve the amended agenda. Mr. Cavagnero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from July 18, 2012. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote passed with seven (7) yea's and two (2) abstentions from Mr. Rovero and Mr. Brady.

ITEM OF ACTION

Introduction and welcome of new BOE member Karl Brady

Mr. Traub introduced Mr. Karl Brady to the Board. Mr. Thibault made a motion to accept Mr. Brady to the BOE. Mr. Cavagnero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Rovero swore in Mr. Brady as a member of the Torrington Board of Education.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

- 6.1 Senator K. Witkos, State Rep. R. Willis, and State Rep. M. Cook attended this meeting to address and take questions from the Board regarding the impact of decreases in ECS funding, available monies for Magnet Schools, and available monies for remodels, additions, etc. of existing buildings.

Rep. M. Cook gave the Board members charts explaining how the ECS funds were distributed. Rep. R. Willis spoke about the ECS funding formula. She also related who the ECS chairmen and committee members are. She recommended that the Board “make their voices heard” to that committee. Senator K. Witkos gave the Board a brief overview of what ECS is and how/why it came about. He also gave an example of the ECS formula. Rep. M. Cook and Senator K. Witkos spoke about available monies for Magnet schools and remodels, additions, etc. of existing school district buildings. They said that more funding would be available for renovation of existing buildings than new buildings.

Mr. Cavagnero had a question regarding the amount of ECS funds given to towns with higher than state required levels of special needs children. He asked if the towns that have less than the required state level of special needs children could possibly receive less ECS funding and the towns with higher levels receive more. Rep. R. Willis explained that the formula for ECS won't change until the state could increase funding across the board. Rep. M. Cook offered to pass the Board's suggestions along to the ECS committee.

Mr. Thibault would like to see the state mandates decrease. Senator K. Witkos suggested reaching out to colleagues on other committees/legislative committees to push back due dates. Rep. M. Cook said that much of the funding for education comes with guidelines that have to be adhered to.

Mr. Nargi spoke about the changing environment of Torrington. He is concerned that the state is not in tune with the dynamics of Torrington. He asked when the ECS formula would change to reflect the changing dynamics that have occurred within the last five (5) years.

Rep. R. Willis said that ECS is flat funded. Rep. M. Cook said that they fight very hard to get Torrington on the map with great programs and small clumps of money trickling down from the state. Senator K. Witkos explained that cities and towns are second tier; when it comes to budgeting the state comes first. As of now the state is funding thirty-six percent (36%) of public education. He wishes they could fund fifty percent (50%).

Mr. Kissko asked if flat funds doled out to towns from the ECS is fair because some towns get more funds from the state based on social engineering criteria. Rep. M. Cook explained that some of the other funds from the state to the towns are federal dollars. Mr. Kissko asked if it was fair that some towns get more funds overall from the state than other towns. Rep. M. Cook said you can't compare big towns to smaller towns. Some school districts are priority districts. Senator K. Witkos said that over the years some legislators have been able to tweak the

formula. Mr. Kissko stated that he does not like being told something he knows isn't true.

Mr. Brady had a question regarding the concept of how the money follows the child. Do the funds follow the child from school to school? Rep. R. Willis said it is hard to follow the funds right now child because different schools get different funding. Mr. Brady feels the state is favoring one type of education over another; it is not based on what each individual child needs. Mrs. Kloczko stated that we would have to have something to draw people to our school.

Mr. Merola spoke about how complicated the ECS formula is to understand. He asked if the construction funds would be available for a "school within a school" or new building construction. Rep. M. Cook stated that the person who has that answer just happens to be away this week and she will get that answer as soon as she can.

Mr. Rovero was worried about a particular mandate concerning technology and testing. Rep. M. Cook told him that due dates can be pushed back. He was wondering if any part of ECS is geared toward competing schools, or if there are discussions, for example, about high schools competing against trade schools for college bound students.

Rep. M. Cook said these discussions are happening. Mr. Rovero expressed worries that Torrington is graduating kids that are not college bound, whereas Oliver Wolcott Tech is graduating kids who are college bound. He asked if tweaking the ECS funding has taken this into consideration. Rep. R. Willis said that seventy percent (70%) of jobs in Connecticut within the next ten (10) years will require post secondary education.

Mr. Traub thanked the legislators for coming. He asked if he could hold them to the fact that there will be no reduction to any city. He explained that they heard that the federal government was cutting funds and wanted to know where the state stood. He asked if the state could say no to any funds if the mandates are too much. He stated that in the past Torrington High was the school for college bound kids, and the technical and vo-ag schools were generating the work force. Now it is opposite and everyone has to be on the same page. Rep. M. Cook asked if cutting trade classes was a choice of the Board. Mr. Nargi said it was because of funding. Mr. Traub told the legislators that they are counting on them to represent Torrington's best interest in anything the state is doing.

Mr. Cavagnero expressed that a radical approach has to be taken to break out of the box that public education has become. Rep. M. Cook asked for feedback from the board members.

Mr. Nargi said that health insurance needs to be addressed at the state level. He says there is no competitiveness at the local level. He stated that legislation needs to be enacted so that teachers' contracts can be negotiated in open sessions, not closed sessions. He said that courts should deal with criminal student behavior that has a deterrent and rehabilitative effect on the student. He also stated that technical schools should be integrated into communities that sit under jurisdiction of local boards of education.

Mr. Merola reiterated what Mr. Nargi said; bridging the gap between the technical schools and the high schools to share resources would be beneficial.

Mrs. Domanico stated that in the past there have been talks with Oliver Wolcott Tech but they

are unwilling to partner with Torrington High, although the schools do share some small things.

Mrs. Kloczko said that being a public school, you can't pick and choose who your student body. The technical and vo-ag schools, although they are public schools, are able to enroll or reject students based on their performance. They can also expel students as they see fit and these students have no choice but to attend the local public school. The local school had to take them whether they want them or not. Mr. Traub stated that some of these students are sent back extremely behind in their credits. This leads to students dropping out, and then the dropout rate goes up. Instead of the technical or vo-ag school getting the dropout statistics, the public school does.

6.2 School-Based Arrest Distributions

Mrs. Kloczko presented to the Board a graph of the number of students arrested and what for in Torrington and surrounding towns. She also said the courts asked the administration for some more intervention so not as many kids get arrested or in trouble. She stated several actions that the administration and community members are doing to negate bad behavior. Mr. Kissko wanted to know if these activities would cost more money than they are already spending. Mr. Merola wanted to know how many students were arrested on campus.

6.3 THS-Average Daily Attendance (2010, 2011, 2012)

Mrs. Domanico presented the Board with the attendance records for the past three (3) years. Mr. Nargi wanted to know if the days missed are just attendance statistics or if the days are broken down to excused and unexcused absences. Mr. Kissko wanted to know if any state funding is based on attendance records.

6.4 CT Education Agencies using Odysseyware (on-line learning program)

Mrs. Domanico presented the Board with an overview of on-line learning vendors being used by different districts. Mrs. Hoehne wanted to know how long the districts not using Odysseyware have been using their on-line learning vendors. Mr. Nargi wanted to know if some other towns are using on-line learning vendors.

At this time Mr. Merola made a motion to amend the agenda by adding item number five d (5d) Alternative Energy Report. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

6.5 Superintendent Report

Mrs. Domanico gave the Board a summary of the My College Options program.

Mrs. Kloczko gave the Board an update on Transportation Services.

Mrs. Domanico gave the NEASC report for THS to the Board.

Mrs. Kloczko updated the Board with an Alternative energy report. Mr. Traub said that any alternative energy route is at least eighteen (18) months away, so the immediate energy needs have to be addressed. Mr. Merola wanted to keep deadlines in mind.

6.6 Certified Staffing Update 2012-2013

Mr. Joslyn gave the Board an update on resignations and vacancies being filled.

At this time Mr. Thibault made a motion to extend the meeting past 10:00pm. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

6.7 U.S. Dept. of Education-Clarification of sequester impact on four (4) accounts with advance funding

Mrs. Kloczko clarified the sequester impact on four (4) separate accounts for the Board.

6.8 On-line Learning Program final update

Mrs. Kloczko gave the Board a final update of the On-line Learning program. Mrs. Domanico talked about costs of general education summer school.

6.9 Live broadcast update

Mr. Traub gave the Board an update regarding the live TV broadcast of the regular BOE meetings.

DISCUSSION ITEMS/ACTION ITEMS

7.1-7.3 Mrs Hoehne made a motion to approve policy 6006 (attendance), policy 6110 (homework), and policy 6111 (grading). Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

7.4 Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the amendment to 403 (b) plan for certified staff. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

7.5 Mr. Rovero made a motion to accept the financial statements. Mr. Merola seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous. Mr. Nargi discussed health insurance.

7.6 Mr. Merola made a motion to approve the revised 2012-2013 TPS calendar. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

7.7 Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve Local 1579 Para Contract Language. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

CONSENT AGENDA

Resignations/Appointments

Gretchen Mosca, Coord. Teacher, Math, MS, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Hilary Sterling, Coord. Teacher, LA, MS, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Kathryn Vinal, Coord. Teacher, SS, MS, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Susan Ewart, Coord. Teacher, Science, MS, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013

Christel Doyle, Summer School, Lead Teacher, HS, Appt. Eff. 7/9/12-7/20/12
Susan Westphal, Summer School Lead Teacher, THS, Appt. Eff. 7/9/12-7/26/12
Michelle Pavia, Teacher, Grade 1, Forbes, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Meghan O'Rielly, Teacher, Grade 4, TF, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Rebecca Scoville, Teacher, Grade 5, TF, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Sarah Smedick, Teacher, Grade 1, VO, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
David Sprowson, PE/Health Teacher, HS, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Bianca Volles, Sp/L Path., DW, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Marcalla Olson, Devel. Primary Teacher, FB, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Yolanda Cifaldi, Kdg. Teacher (0.5), SW, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Alana Crosby, Class Book Adv., HS, Appt. Eff. 2013-2013
Susan Comito, Wld. Lang. Span. Teacher, HS, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Sarah Pettinicchi, Sped. Teacher Learning Center, EA, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Jane Banning, Sped. Resource Teacher, TF, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Lorraine Ferrante, Sped. Voices Teacher, VO, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Jonathan Horton, Sped. LINKS Teacher, HS, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Mark Magas, Sped. ATP Teacher, MS, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013
Kristen Wabrek, LT/Sub, Literacy Support, VO, Appt. Eff. 8/27/12
Chalise Ross, Bilingual Teacher, FB, Resignation Eff. 7/23/12
Tonia Munroe, LA Teacher, MS, Resignation Eff. 7/16/12

Notices for Homeschooling

A.P., Grade 2, Eff. 2012-2013 School Year
C.P., Grade 7, Eff. 2012-2013 School Year

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Merola had a question about his Ipad.

Mr. Traub asked each Board member for their top five (5) goals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 10.1 Budget Committee-July 11, 2012
- 10.2 Policy Committee-June 6, 2012
- 10.3 School Improvement Committee-June 6, 2012
- 10.4 Personnel Committee-No report
- 10.5 Grievance Committee-No report

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA-September 19, 2012

- 11.1 Financial Statement
- 11.2 Committee Reports
- 11.3 Summary of Staffing for all schools
- 11.4 Over Sight Panel for THS
- 11.5 Alternative Energy Report
- 11.6 AP and College Credit Courses, Enrollment and Offerings
- 11.7 Attorney Question for Full Board
- 11.8 School and District Performance Index-SPI and DPI
- 11.9 CMT/CAPT Results
- 11.10 THS School Profile
- 11.11 Live Broadcast Update-September or October

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 12.1 Policy Committee Meeting-August 22, 2012 and September 5, 2012
- 12.2 School Improvement Committee Meeting-August 22, 2012 and September 5, 2012
- 12.3 Budget Committee Meeting-September 12, 2012
- 12.4 Personnel Committee Meeting-September 12, 2012

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:20pm Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.