

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, February 20, 2013
7:00 pm**

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:03pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call

Present: Mr. Brady, Mrs. Cappabianca, Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Merola, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Rovero, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Traub, Mrs. Batchelder, Mrs. Domanico, Mr. Joslyn, Mrs. Kloczko, Rachel Kelly, Shelia (sub for Austin Kelson)

Absent: Mr. Cavagnero, Mayor Bingham, Austin Kelson, Kevin Finn

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Public Participation

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

There were three (3) speakers; Mr. William Battle, Mrs. Mary Svetz-Juliano, and Mr. Eucalitto regarding the common core, TEA response and cutting extra curricular activities.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Kissko seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION SHARING AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4A Student Representatives—School News

Rachel Kelly and Shelia presented.

4B Superintendent Report

1. Storm Nemo's Impact and Loss of School Days

Mrs. Kloczko spoke about loss of school days and snow removal.

4C TMS Behavioral Health Program-Center for Youth and Families

Mrs. Kloczko introduced the people from the Behavioral Health Program. They gave a presentation regarding their current services and accessibility in the wake of the Newtown shooting tragedy.

Mr. Nargi asked how they quantify and qualify the statement that we have good health care in Connecticut. He also asked which elected official that represents the citizens oversees DCF. He then asked about the 'it takes a village concept' regarding privacy concerns with the flow of information back to teachers after they have made a referral.

Mr. Merola asked if they felt they had enough resources.

4D CMT and CAPT Preliminary Information

Mrs. Domanico presented.

4E Professional Development Update-February 19, 2013

Mrs. Domanico presented.

Mr. Nargi asked if it was possible for the teachers to evaluate the professional development days. He then asked if, based on the results of the evaluations, if it would be feasible to eliminate a few of the professional development days. He stated that if these days are mandated by the state then the state should pay for them. He also asked about the cultural shift of student learning saying, when did society shift from the teacher teaching and the student failing, to the teacher failing the student if the student is failing.

Mrs. Kloczko spoke about state and federal mandates and accountability of teachers.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked about the school nurses' professional development.

Mr. Brady spoke about teacher accountability and teachers having the biggest impact to student learning.

Mr. Kissko said if the teachers are going to be held responsible for the students' success the students should also carry responsibility as well. He then asked why

some teachers don't "buy in" to the common core standards. He also asked if teachers thought the common core standards are lower than the standards they had previously adhered to. Mr. Kissko said he thought most teachers would go out on their own to keep up with what was important and necessary.

Mrs. Domanico spoke about teachers and the common core standards.

Mrs. Svetz-Juliano, was asked about teacher angst and expectations of the common core standards.

Mr. Traub said that in many professions there is extensive training involved. In the private market the professionals have to take time off work to extend their knowledge and training. In a public profession, such as teaching, the training is on-going throughout their careers.

4F Power School Services

Pearson's Hosted Solution for Power School Services was presented to the Board.

Mr. Traub asked if this service would allow for future expansion. He then asked about speed and sign on issues. He also asked about cost.

Mr. Nargi asked about cost.

Mr. Thibault spoke about issues and concerns regarding in-house and out-of-house hosting and costs. He also gave his recommendation to the Board on how to proceed.

Mr. Kissko spoke about an article regarding breaches of security.

One of the presenters spoke about teachers not knowing how to input information, such as attendance, to PowerSchool. She said training staff is a big issue and the IT department has gone above and beyond to try to teach teachers how to use PowerSchool.

Mr. Thibault asked one of the presenters to attend the next Personnel Committee meeting to show them how to use the PowerSchool program.

Mr. Kissko expressed interest in a group meeting to learn the program.

Mr. Nargi wanted to make sure the teachers would have an opportunity to learn the program.

Mr. Traub stated the general consensus of the Board is to get more information regarding an in-house hosting system. He asked the IT department to put together a proposal for an in-house hosting system.

4G Teacher Sick Days-Data-Kelly Services

Mr. Joslyn presented.

Mr. Nargi asked about the format. He also asked about taping professional development days.

Mr. Traub asked about the average daily absences.

Mr. Brady asked about how the information is gained or hours are made up from a missed professional development day.

Mr. Rovero asked about documentation of doctor appointments or illnesses.

Mr. Kissko asked if a teacher misses essential training or information can he/she then say "I didn't get the training, I'm not responsible; it's the school system's fault."

Mr. Merola asked about some kind of mandate to make up missed days.

4H Overview of Teacher Evaluation Plan

Mrs. Domanico presented.

ACTION ITEMS

5A CNA (Certified Nurse's Assistant) Course Approval

Mr. Merola made a motion to approve the CNA course. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi.

5B Special Request Field Trip-Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the special request field trip to Philadelphia. Mr. Merola seconded the motion. The vote passed with three (3) opposed.

Mrs. Cappabianca had a procedural question about the policy of not approving individual field trips.

Mr. Joslyn spoke about the policy.

Mr. Thibault asked about parent response. He had concerns families may be upset at not being home for Thanksgiving.

5C Financial Statement

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the financial statement. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Nargi had a question about year-to-date transactions and budgeted year-to-date transactions. He also asked about tutors.

5D Consent Agenda

1. Approval of January 23, 2013, Board of Education Meeting Minutes

2. Approval of Sub Committee Minutes

3. Appointments and Resignations

4. Notices for Homeschooling

- a. M.A., grade 6, Eff. 2012-2013

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

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Nargi said he would like a discussion item to be added to next month's agenda regarding the superintendent's philosophy on discipline and how to deal with problematic students.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 7.1** Personnel Committee: Mr. Thibault updated the Board.
- 7.2** Policy Committee: Mrs. Hoehne updated the Board.
- 7.3** Grievance Committee: No Report
- 7.4** School Improvement Committee: No Report
- 7.5** Budget Committee: No Report
- 7.6** Education Connection: Mr. Kissko updated the Board.
- 7.7** THS Oversight Panel: Mr. Kissko updated the Board.

- 7.8 Wellness Project: Mr. Merola updated the Board.
- 7.9 Juvenile Court Update: Mr. Nargi updated the Board.

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ITEMS FOR UPCOMMING AGENDA

- 8.1 Financial Statement
- 8.2 Committee Reports
- 8.3 School Projects for Referendum
- 8.4 Forbes School Solar Project
- 8.5 Technology RFP

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 9.1 Special Budget Committee Meeting: February 27, 2013
- 9.2 Budget Committee Meeting: March 6, 2013
- 9.3 Personnel Committee Meeting: March 13, 2013
- 9.4 Regular BOE Meeting: March 13, 2013
- 9.5 Policy Committee Meeting: No March Meeting
- 9.6 School Improvement Committee Meeting: No March Meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Thibault made a motion to adjourn at 10:14pm. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.