

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, March 13, 2013
7:00 pm**

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

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:02pm.

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, Austin Kelson, Kevin Finn, Rachael Kelly

Absent: Mr. Cavagnero, Mayor Bingham

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Public Participation

Mr. Traub read aloud the purpose of the School/Community Session. Then he related all emergency exit information. Mr. Traub then explained that the Board would not be discussing the budget at this meeting; they would only be receiving the budget. He told the speakers when the public discussions regarding the budget would take place.

Keri Hoehne, Mary Lee Quinn, Tom Offerdahl, Sandy Mangan, Penny Fisher, Kevin Hayes, Maureen O'Neill-Davis, Mindy Skutt, Marianne Killackey, Pam Bramble, and Bob Killackey were all present to speak about the budget. Due to the preset time limit for this section of the agenda the first four (4) people were able to speak before the time ran out.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to amend the agenda by removing item 4.H. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

INFORMATION SHARING AND DISCUSSION ITEMS

4A Student Representatives—School News

Austin Kelson, Kevin Finn, and Rachael Kelly presented.

4B Superintendent Report

1. Proposed Budget 2013-2014

Mrs. Kloczko presented.

2. Best Practices in School Mental Health

Mrs. Kloczko presented.

Mr. Merola commented on a school based health system.

3. Letter of Agreement Between TPS and Ed Connection-School Age Programs

Mrs. Kloczko presented the Board with the Agreement Letter.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked about costs.

4. Essay Contest for TAG Students-Secretary of the State 2013

Mrs. Kloczko presented the essays to the Board.

4C Draft of TEVAL Plan

Mr. Rovero made a motion to receive the TEVAL Plan. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

4D Healthy Food Certification

Mrs. Kloczko presented.

Mrs. Cappabianca had a question regarding snacks and food based fundraisers.

Mrs. Batchelder explained that the regulations the district is already abiding by are almost the same as what the Certification requires. The only place that will be impacted by the certification will be the fundraisers, but there are other alternatives for fundraisers.

Mr. Kissko asked where the ten (10) cents per meal comes from. Mrs. Kloczko said it will be paid by the state.

Mr. Merola explained that he believes the fundraising groups are capable of thinking out of the box and can raise money without having to resort to unhealthy foods. He also stated that Torrington is a little behind because most of Connecticut's school districts are participating in this Certification.

Mr. Traub asked how the Certification would impact spectators at sporting events. Mrs. Kloczko said the regulations of the Certification only apply during the school day.

Mrs. Cappabianca said she feels strongly that the Board should focus on education and not telling parents what their kids can and cannot eat. She said she would not be in support of this because the middle school makes most of its fundraising money from the pie fundraiser and with this Certification kids would not be able to have cupcakes or whatever else they choose for birthdays or any type of parties held during the school day. She said she is unwilling to take those experiences away from the kids.

Mr. Thibault asked if the supply of food during the day is already in compliance with the regulations of this Certification. He also asked if this Certification would oversee what people's options are going to be and if this would become a mandate.

Mrs. Kloczko said she believed this Certification would become a mandate eventually.

Mr. Traub said the Board did not have to vote tonight; this is only a first read.

Mr. Traub and Mrs. Kloczko asked if the two (2) school principals present would like to comment.

Mr. Traub asked each Board member if they needed more information on this subject.

4E Power School-In House Cost vs. Hosting

The Board heard a presentation regarding Power School-In House Cost vs. Hosting.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked if this was a Board decision or an administration decision. She also stated that she is not well enough informed to make a decision on the subject.

Mr. Nargi asked if it was a Board decision in regard to the costs.

Mr. Traub said the costs come out of the technology department budget.

Mr. Nargi stated that he would be in favor of option number two (2).

Mr. Thibault said he does not agree with the recommendation of going with the most inexpensive option for a period of three (3) years, then reviewing that option when they will have a bigger budget deficit at the end of the three (3) year term. He then said he would go along with whatever recommendation the Board decides.

4F Technology RFP

Mrs. Batchelder presented.

Mr. Traub explained that the RFP encompasses the school and town.

4G February Enrollment Report

Mrs. Kloczko presented.

ACTION ITEMS

5A Enrollment Report

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the Enrollment Report. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

5B Financial Statement

Mr. Rovero made a motion to accept the Financial Statement. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Nargi wanted to know how many retirees are paying into the health/life insurance and where that revenue is shown. He also had concerns regarding savings and costs.

Mr. Traub explained that the school district's and the city's insurance plans are tied together and the Board cannot obtain an insurance RFP without the consent of the city due to the cost.

5C Consent Agenda

1. Approval of February 20, 2013 , Board of Education Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of Sub Committee Minutes
 - a. Budget Committee — February 12, 2013

- b. Special Budget Committee — February 20, 2013
- c. Personnel Committee — No Report
- d. Policy Committee — No report
- e. School Improvement Committee — No Report

3. Appointment and Resignations

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

Mr. Nargi read aloud a statement from the literature received from the attorney's office regarding the Consent Agenda. He stated his interpretation of this literature would allow a Board member to request that an individual line item be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion during a regular Board meeting. This being said, Mr. Nargi requested that two (2) line items/positions be removed from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

Mr. Traub said he would get an interpretation from the attorneys regarding this specific issue. He then said he would remove these two (2) items from the Consent Agenda but the Board could only discuss the positions, not the people, unless they were notified and invited to attend the next month's meeting to go into Executive Session.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked if Mr. Nargi wanted discussion on these two (2) positions or the people to fill them.

Mr. Nargi stated that discussions regarding individuals would be a whole other process.

Mr. Merola and Mr. Kissko both thought the Board should table the vote until a later date.

Mr. Nargi asked what the impact would be for the administration and the individuals on the Consent Agenda if the Board tabled the vote until next month's meeting. He then stated that he felt it was best to remove his request for now until the Board understands the full meaning of the law behind this issue.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Nargi read aloud Connecticut General Statute Section 10-145a. He then asked the Chairman if the district had, within the last academic year, employed any teacher who was not certified.

Mrs. Cappabianca stated that she would like the Board to form a committee to review all the mandates and issues that impact the school district and get that information out to the public.

Mr. Merola said he would like to state his opposition to the three (3) new SRO positions. He also said that there are elected officials outside of the Board of Education that do make decisions for the district who are continually absent from the meetings.

Mr. Kissko said History Day was great. He then said it was requested of him to report that the THS girls locker room was clean and “passed inspection” due to the need to travel through it to go from the second floor lobby to the entrance lobby. He also said this would be his Oversight panel report.

Mr. Traub said he would like to discuss two (2) bills that have come across his desk. These bills have not been voted on yet. Bill 6505 pertains to the amount of money the school can charge for sports. This bill will impact pay to play. It states that the school cannot charge more than \$50 per sport or \$225 per family. Bill HB1097 is supported by one of Torrington’s legislators. This bill removes the right to evaluate staff from the Board of Education and the Superintendent. It states that teacher evaluations will be done by a group of their peers. Mr. Traub said this bill takes the responsibility of evaluations away from the Board. He then said the second half of this bill states that every district must implement these new evaluation processes by 2014. He said the Board will end up paying for these new processes because the bill states that the people in the evaluation groups must not carry a heavier workload and their daily work would have to be supplemented by a new hire from the Board.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- 7.1 Personnel Committee: Mr. Thibault reported.
- 7.2 Policy Committee: Mrs. Hoehne reported.
- 7.3 Grievance Committee: Mrs. Cappabianca reported.
- 7.4 School Improvement Committee: No Report.
- 7.5 Budget Committee: Mr. Rovero reported.
- 7.6 Education Connection: Mr. Kissko reported.
- 7.7 THS Oversight Panel: Mr. Kissko reported.
- 7.8 Wellness Project: Mr. Merola reported.
- 7.9 Juvenile Court Update: No Report.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMMING AGENDA

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

FUTURE MEETINGS

- 9.1 Public Budget Hearing – Elementary and Special Education – March 18, 2013
- 9.2 Public Budget Hearing – Secondary and Maintenance—March 19, 2013
- 9.3 Special BOE Meeting – March 27, 2013
- 9.4 Policy Committee Meeting – April 3, 2013
- 9.5 School Improvement Committee Meeting – April 3, 2013
- 9.6 Budget Committee Meeting – April 10, 2013
- 9.7 Personnel Committee Meeting – April 10, 2013
- 9.8 Regular BOE Meeting – April 24, 2013

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Merola made a motion to adjourn at 9:25pm. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.