

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Wednesday October 17, 2012**  
**7:00 pm**

**Torrington High School**  
**Major Besse Drive**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call**

Present: Mrs. Cappabianca, Mr. Cavagnero (arrived at 7:10pm), 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, Sorceres Rivera-Tamarez

Absent: Mr. Brady, Mayor Bingham

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to amend the agenda by moving items 6a and 6b prior to the Executive Session and adding item 7f. Mr. Merola seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

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

**ITEM 6A/STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES**

Austin Kelson, Kevin Finn, and Sorceres Rivera-Tamarez presented.

**ITEM 6B/SUPERINTENDENT REPORT**

1. Recognition of Commended Students in the 2013 National Merit Scholarship Program  
Mrs. Kloczko recognized the commended students in front of the Board.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 7:18 p.m. Mr. Traub made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss THS student conduct and TEA mediation. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

At 8:04 p.m. the Board came out of Executive Session. *[There was no mention on the tape or in the notes of who made the motion or seconded the motion to exit Executive Session.]*

Mrs. Kloczko read aloud a statement regarding an incident at THS on Tuesday September 25, 2012 in the boys' varsity football locker room.

## **SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

### Public Participation

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

There was one (1) speaker, Mr. Bruno Mataemzzo (sp?) regarding items three (3) and eight (8).

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from the Special Board of Education meeting on September 14, 2012. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. Mr. Kissko, Mrs. Hoehne, Mrs. Cappabianca and Mr. Traub voted to approve the minutes. Mr. Rovero, Mr. Merola, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Thibault, and Mr. Cavagnero abstained. [*It was not mentioned on the tape or in the notes whether or not the motion passed, presumably the motion passed.*]

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from September 19, 2012. Mrs. Cappabianca seconded the motion. All Board members voted to approve the minutes with the exception of Mr. Merola and Mr. Rovero who abstained. [*Mr. Traub did not specify that the motion passed; presumably the motion passed.*]

## **INFORMATION SHARING SESSION/DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### 6B Superintendent Report

Mrs. Kloczko presented the Board with the accomplishments of the Torrington High School Marching Band.

### 6C Special Education

Dr. Beth Robin, the Director of Special Education, presented.

Mr. Nargi had a question about the total number of special education students. He also asked if the students involved with DCF or the court are involved with these agencies because of something they did on school grounds. Mr. Nargi asked if students who are continually in trouble are classified under special education. He then asked if there is any documentation anywhere, not just for Torrington, that shows the success of special education students in their adult life.

Mrs. Cappabianca wanted to know if Dr. Robin would be able to come back next month and give her presentation again after the Board members have had a chance to go over all the information. She also asked about the number of identified students per building.

Mr. Merola had a question regarding children attending out of district schools (for example Wamogo) and how their cases are handled.

Mrs. Kloczko asked about the time frame from pre-referral to eligibility.

Mr. Kissko commented on the number of students involved with special education.

Mr. Traub asked if the Board could hear from Dr. Robin's staff.

Mr. Cavagnero asked about the average number of PPT's.

#### 6D Summary of Staffing

Mr. Joslyn presented.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked about special education resources, are they teachers?

Mr. Nargi asked about teachers being the majority of paid staff in a building.

#### 6E Parent/Guardian Survey

Mrs. Kloczko presented the Board with the Parent/Guardian Survey.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked about distribution of the surveys. She also asked if the parents signed the surveys or if they were filled out anonymously.

Mr. Nargi asked about the number of respondents. He also suggested offering the survey to parents more than once a year.

Mr. Cavagnero stated that the number of parents responding to the survey is more likely to have a favorable attitude towards the school district because they are the same parents going to the teacher conferences and want to be involved with their child's education.

#### 6F 2013-2014 Calendar

Mr. Traub explained that the Board needs to vote on approving this temporary calendar for software purposes to set the schedule at THS. He said the calendar would most likely end up changing.

Mr. Nargi asked if this calendar could be presented to the TEA chairwoman to run by the faculty for a formal recommendation.

Mrs. Cappabianca stated she felt it is premature to be voting on a calendar at this time.

Mr. Joslyn said that TBOE policy dictates that a calendar has to be presented to the PTO and staff two (2) years in advance for input.

Mrs. Domanico explained that they have to start somewhere with the software for building the school schedule. The Board is being given the courtesy to acknowledge that this date will be entered as the working date to begin school.

Mrs. Hoehne asked if all the administration needs is a start date for that calendar year.

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the 2013-2014 calendar as a placeholder. Mr. Nargi seconded the motion. The vote passed with three (3) opposed. [*The names of the opposing Board members were not mentioned on the tape or in the notes.*]

#### 6G Board of Education Goals

Mr. Traub stated that he has only received four (4) lists of the BOE goals for this year. He asked each board member for a list of five (5) goals to be handed in before next month's meeting or the leadership will have to pick the five (5) BOE goals from the lists he has.

Mr. Nargi stated that he would like to create a goal to have more dialogue and data to measure how the district is improving or not improving and tie that to the evaluation of the superintendent.

Mr. Cavagnero made a motion to have every Board member submit five (5) goals to the chairman within a week. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion stating that some Board members have already done so. Mr. Cavagnero stated that the goals have to be actionable, not something vague. The vote was unanimous.

#### 6H State Assessment Testing Protocol

Mr. Traub read a letter to the Board from the Executive Director of the Connecticut Association of Public School Superintendents. He went on to explain that they have no evidence that the test scores from Torrington are not legitimate. There will not be any type of investigation relating to test scores.

#### 6I Committees and Work Groups

Mr. Traub asked the Board members for any thoughts or concerns regarding the subject of work groups brought up at the last meeting.

Mr. Kissko said he thought that the Policy committee was looking into this matter at their next meeting, as they should.

Mr. Cavagnero stated that every Board member has to think about future Boards when making changes to the way things are run. Implementing this idea concentrates power to the executives. He suggested having two (2) full Board meetings a month. One (1) for discussion and analysis and a second for action and decision making.

Mr. Thibault said he was open to looking into changes but he does not want to see the sub-committees decimated.

Mr. Nargi stated that he is opposed to sub-committees. He likes the idea of work groups because they will allow members to think on their own and articulate ideas to the full Board.

Mrs. Cappabianca suggested moving this subject to policy.

6J Local 1579, Council 4, MOU

Mr. Joslyn informed the Board about discussions taking place in the Personnel Committee regarding certain staff. Family Resource Professionals cannot be scheduled during a holiday week without being paid for that holiday. Some principals have decided not to schedule these people during holiday weeks at all, causing secretaries to lose time.

He said one (1) solution would be to add days to their schedule at the cost of approximately \$17,000. The other option would be to restore full time to these staff members and that would cost more money. The biggest concern they have now is how to implement the changes to the schedule with one quarter of the year gone.

Mr. Thibault stated that at the November BOE meeting they will have all seven (7) MOU's for each of the FRP's for the Board to make a final decision.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

7A Financial Statement

Mrs. Batchelder presented the Board with the Financial Statement. One Board member [*unidentified*] had a question about special education summer school. Mr. Nargi had questions regarding textbooks.

Mr. Merola made a motion to approve the financial statement. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

7B United Nations Field Trip

Mrs. Domanico presented the United Nations field trip request to the Board.

Mrs. Cappabianca had questions regarding the cost to the district, the number of students going on this trip and sub coverage for the teacher chaperoning this field trip.

Mr. Rovero had concerns regarding the date of the field trip.

Mr. Kissko and Mr. Traub had questions relating to transportation and policy and also release forms.

Mr. Cavagnero had questions about the teacher chaperoning this trip and how the two (2) students attending this trip were selected.

Mr. Thibault questioned why only two (2) students were going on this field trip.

Mr. Nargi made a motion to approve the United Nations field trip. Mr. Merola seconded the motion. The vote did not pass with eight (8) Board members opposed. [*unidentified*]

#### 7C New Course Approval

Mrs. Domanico presented the Board with the New Course Proposals.

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the new courses. Mr. Merola seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed; Mrs. Cappabianca.

Mrs. Hoehne had questions regarding the cost to the district.

Mrs. Cappabianca had questions about liability and availability to students.

Mr. Thibault asked about funding when the grant runs out.

Mr. Cavagnero asked about student interest in these programs and having students film the BOE meetings.

Mr. Nargi spoke about community relationships and had questions about how students were already enrolled in the programs.

Mr. Kissko had questions regarding the hours of the programs being outside school hours and if the Board would see any curriculum for these programs.

At this time Mr. Merola made a motion to extend the meeting past 10:00 p.m. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed; Mr. Kissko.

#### 7D Consent Agenda

Resignations/Appointments

Melissa Viscariello, Head Cheerleading Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2012  
Elizabeth Brewer, Dance Team Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2012  
James Burns, Football Assistant Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2012  
Joseph Deptula, Football Assistant Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2012  
Mark Mangelinkx, Football Assistant Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2012  
Nicholas Teodosio, Football Assistant Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2012  
Daniel Dunaj, Football Head Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2012  
Michael Michaud, Girls' Diving Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2012  
Arthur Richardson, Girls' Soccer Assistant Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2012  
Jessica Hurd, Girls' Swimming Assistant Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2012  
Katie Block, Girls' Swimming Head Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2012  
Maryann Musselman, Girls' Volleyball Assistant Coach, HS, Appt. Eff. Fall 2012  
Debra Carroll, Classbook Advisor (Stipend), MS, Appt. Eff. 2012-2013  
Kathleen Dean, Grade 1 Teacher, TF, Completion of LOA not renewed (term.) 6/30/12  
Cynthia Moniz, Math Teacher, L/T Sub., HS, Hire, 9/27/12-12/21/12  
Steven Pienczykowski, Sys.Mgr./Tech.Spec.DW(mi),Assign.Change,new contract 7/1/12

#### Notices for Homeschooling

M.M., Grade 7, Eff. 2012-2013  
K.M., Grade 6, Eff. 2012-2013  
E.R., Grade 7, Eff. 2012-2013  
C.G., Grade 10, Eff. 2012-2013

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

7E Local 1579, Council 4, MOU

This item was removed to continue to the November 14, 2012 BOE meeting.

7F ADA Compliance

Mr. Traub spoke to the Board regarding the ADA Compliance.

Mr. Nargi had questions regarding the cost in future years, eligibility for reimbursement and monetary penalties for non-compliance.

Mr. Cavagnero asked about new codes and wheelchair accessibility.

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the ADA Compliance. Mr. Kissko seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed; Mr. Nargi.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:15 p.m. a Board member made a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss member conduct. The motion was seconded by another Board member. [*The Board members involved in the vote were not identified on the tape or in the notes.*] The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi.

At 11:14 p.m. the Board exited out of Executive Session.  
[*The vote to come out of Executive Session was not recorded on the tape or in the notes.*]

## **COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. Nargi wanted more information regarding a speaker talking about school climate to the faculty.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS/MINUTES**

- 10.1 Personnel Committee: September 12, 2012
- 10.2 Budget Committee: September 12, 2012
- 10.3 Grievance Committee: September 14, 2012
- 10.4 Policy Committee: No Report
- 10.5 School Improvement Committee: No Report
- 10.6 Education Connection Update

## **ITEMS FOR UPCOMMING AGENDA**

- 11.1 Financial Statement
- 11.2 Committee Reports
- 11.3 THS Advanced Placement Courses
- 11.4 Next Steps for Small Learning Communities at THS
- 11.5 Over Sight Panel for THS
- 11.6 Special Ed: Questions and Answers
- 11.7 Seven (7) MOU's (action item)

11.8 New Courses: Curriculum

**FUTURE MEETINGS**

12.1 Personnel Committee Meeting: November 7, 2012

12.2 Budget Committee Meeting: November 7, 2012

12.3 Regular BOE Meeting: November 14, 2012

12.4 School Improvement Committee Meeting: November 28, 2012

12.5 Policy Committee: November 28, 2012

**ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Rovero made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 pm. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.