



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
Wednesday, March 16, 2016  
355 Migeon Avenue**

**CALL TO ORDER:** The meeting was called to order at 6:23 pm.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**Roll Call:**

**Present:** Fiona Cappabianca, Chair; Ellen G. Hoehne; Bill Knight; Jim Lamoin; Andrew Nargi; Jessica Richardson; Daniel Thibault; Kenneth P. Traub; Peter Vergaro

Administration: David Bascetta, Director of Facilities; Joseph L. Campolieta, Director of Human Services; Jerry Domanico, Director of Business Services; Susan M. Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent; Lynda T. Reitman, Interim Superintendent

**Absent:** Mayor Carbone

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Traub seconded the motion. Ms. Hoehne made a motion to include (3) field trips on the agenda under Sharing Items and Action Items. Mr. Traub stated he would like to remove vendor contracts from the agenda until Monday night, Chair stated will removed 7(b) IT. All in favor. The chair made a motion to switch agenda items A (Review of Meeting Protocol) and B (Recognition of TMS Music Program). Mr. Thibault seconded. All in favor.

**Recognition of TMS Music Program**

Ms. Reitman reported we are recognized as a fantastic music program throughout the state. The students here tonight are the best of the best in the music program. She presented each of them with a certificate of achievement.

**SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION**

The Chair outlined the purpose and rules of the School/Community Session.

There were two (2) speakers. A special education teacher from the high school spoke on inconsistency in the district. Spoke on the high turnover of those at the top and how the teaching and support staff have been consistent. Discussed the budget.

A parent of a child at East School discussed the closing of East School.

## **INFORMATION SHARING SESSION**

### **A. Superintendent's Report**

#### **1. Next Generation Accountability Report**

Ms. Lubomski discussed each accountability index section. In reading and in math, this was difficult statewide. This is the first year where we have a school designated as a focus school (THS) We submit a specific plan, they monitor the plan and then we go from there.

60 days to come up with a plan how we are going to address the low math scores at the high school. We have to take it seriously because the state takes it seriously.

#### **2. Field Trip- Museum of Modern Art update**

Ms. Reitman updated the Board about the field trip to the Museum of Modern Art discussed at last month's meeting. They have received donations to cover the cost of substitutes so there is now no cost to the Board.

The first field trip is the Junior ROTC trip to the 9/11 Memorial Museum.

The second field trip is the Junior ROTC multi-day trip to Vermont. No substitutes would be needed as it is a weekend trip.

Mr. Nargi asked if we can get these field trips on the website so the public can see these great trips.

The third field trip is a trip to the Hartford CMHA all-state festival. There would be in-house coverage for substitutes.

### **B. Review of Meeting Protocols**

The Chair discussed the procedures for discussion at meetings. When an item is ready for discussion that is not a motionable item, people will be called out by names so meetings move along and are more efficient. Refrain from cross-talk and use a courteous tone when addressing the Board and Administration.

### **C. Student Report**

No student to report

### **D. District Calendar**

Ms. Reitman discussed the 2016-2017 and 2017-2018 district calendars.

Mr. Vergaro would like the Board to consider having full days of professional development instead of half days.

Mr. Traub stated it became a desire of the Board to lump spring vacation with Easter, once the building got shut down, leave it down however in the 2017-2018 it is not done that way.

#### **E. Update on Director of Student Services.**

Mr. Traub reported Personnel Committee moved to the Budget Committee to move the pay scale amount for the Director of Student Services.

Mr. Thibault stated the pay scale on the low end is \$137,000

Ms. Reitman stated we do need to get qualified staff into this position. It effects the 2016-2017 Budget, we need to move forward before the budget goes to the full Board for approval.

The Chair stated her concern with what that bottom line would be for the Superintendent's salary. You can't have someone working under someone making more money than them.

Ms. Reitman discussed the endorsements and qualifications they are looking for in a Director of Student Services.

#### **F. New Field Trip**

World language field trip to Ellis Island looking at Immigration.

#### **G. Employment Checks Policy 4006**

Ms. Hoehne discussed the new policy from Shipman. Fingerprints took too long to come back, employee or teacher would already be in the classroom. In researching other districts, that's just the way it is.

Mr. Traub stated that the title leads him to believe the policy is in regards to paychecks. He suggested maybe the policy read "Employment Background Checks" or "Pre-employment Checks".

#### **H. New Course Adoption Policy 5032**

Ms. Richardson discussed the policy; changed the time of the year new courses can be adopted and set forth.

#### **I. Update on Interim Superintendent**

The Chair stated that they wrote to the state and requested a one year extension for the Interim Superintendent. It was denied and is currently under review.

Mr. Nargi stated he opposed the appealing of the process. The Board put the district into this position due to the Board not following up on what it decided to do when they hired the Interim Superintendent back in August.

Mr. Traub, Mr. Thibault and Mr. Vergaro wanted to know if we had a parachute plan in place.

The Chair stated they could bring in a retired superintendent from Massachusetts who is dual certified. However, she stands behind the decision to keep the current superintendent in place.

If the appeal is denied, we will have to discuss if we want a part-time Superintendent or bring in a Superintendent from another state.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION- ADMINISTRATORS' CONTRACT 2016-2019**

At 7:46 p.m., Mr. Traub made a motion to move into executive session to discuss Administrators' contract 2016-2019 inviting in Mr. Campolietta. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

The Chair called the Board in open session at 8:03 p.m.

## **DISCUSSION OF UPCOMING VENDOR CONTRACTS**

### **A. Copiers**

Mr. Domanico stated current contract expires this June. Current Vendor ACT group, is putting together a proposal. Also, has three additional companies putting bids together as well. Evaluate copiers and the footprint that we have. Want to expand number of copiers. Goal is to get more copiers, more functionality of copiers at the same price we have right now.

Mr. Thibault stated would like to see an Ad Hoc committee deal with this.

### **B. IT- Removed**

### **C. Website**

Ms. Reitman stated nothing has changed since she last spoke about it. Will be going out to various people in the district who are working on the website. Will be working on this as a district initiative so we can identify what our needs and wants are.

Mr. Domanico stated they have use of the website until June 30. Finals site usually does 5 year contract but they would be willing to do a one year extension.

Mr. Thibault suggested that administration find a unified way for everyone to update the website.

Mr. Domanico stated we first need to decide what we want our website to do then we can go out and say these are the services we want, this is what we are looking for, give us the proposals.

#### **D. Food Service**

Mr. Domanico reported that normally food service contracts are renewed in a 5 year cycle. We are in our fifth year. His recommendation would be to continue contract one more year and then the RFP would go out to contract next year.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

Traub made a motion to amend agenda to change 8(b) to B(1) approval of Business Manager investigating one year extension of food services and bringing it back and B(2) approval to sign one month extension of website. Mr. Lamoin seconded. All in favor.

##### **A. Monthly financials**

Mr. Traub made a motion to approve the monthly financials. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. The vote passed with one opposed, Mr. Nargi.

Mr. Traub made a motion to extend the meeting by 20 minutes. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. The vote passed with three opposed, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Nargi, and Mr. Knight.

##### **B. Food Services contract**

Mr. Vergaro made a motion to allow the Business Manager to investigate one year extension of food services and to bring it back to the full Board. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve signing a one month extension for the website. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

##### **C. Approval of District Calendar**

Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the district calendar. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. The vote passed with one opposed, Mr. Vergaro.

##### **D. Approval of Field Trip**

Mr. Traub made a motion to approve the Junior ROTC field trip to New York. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the Junior ROTC field trip to Vermont. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the field trip to Hartford for the CMHA festival. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. All in favor.

Mr. Knight made a motion to approve the World Language field trip to Ellis Island. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

**E. Approval of Employment Checks Policy 4006**

Ms. Hoehe made a motion to approve the Employment Checks Policy (4006). Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.

**F. Approval of New Course Adoption Policy 5032**

Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve the New Course Adoption Policy (5032). Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

**G. Approval of Director of Special Education salary**

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the Director of Special Education salary. Mr. Vergaro seconded the motion. All in favor.

**H. Consent Agenda**

Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor.

**COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER**

Mr. Vergaro stated he hopes the IT contract is put back on the agenda.

Mr. Traub commented on the recently published articles, he stated if the public has a question they should ask a Board member.

Ms. Hoehne stated East School was recently recognized for its chorus and dance team; performed at St. Jude's telethon March 1<sup>st</sup> and raised \$2,000. March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm there is a Math Family Fun night.

Mr. Lamoin stated School Governance met last Monday. There will be a special meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month. He spent whole day at the high school last Monday, kids were very respectful, sat in classes and met with teachers, was very fruitful.

Mr. Nargi discussed the lack of transparency of the Board.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

- A. Budget Committee – Mr. Traub reported working very hard on Mitigation Plan. Will be meeting Monday to get the Superintendent's official proposal to the Committee to comment on and get to the full Board.
- B. Grievance Committee – Mr. Lamoin reported had one grievance last week and has two more coming up.
- C. Personnel Committee – Mr. Thibault reported received January fill rate for substitute teachers was above 90% at most schools, paraprofessional fill rate at average 77%.

- D. Policy Committee – Ms. Hoehne reported working on all policies Mr. Traub throws their way
- E. School Improvement Committee – Ms. Richardson reported that they met and selected a Distinguished Alumnus last month. Candidates not chosen will stay in the pool for 3 years.
- F. Education Connection- Dr. Brogis was absent.
- G. Turf Field Committee – No report

#### **ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA**

- A. 2016-2017 Budget
- B. Superintendent Search

#### **FUTURE MEETINGS**

***Monday, March 21, 2016 (at Migeon Ave.)***

6:00 p.m. –Special Meeting of the Budget Committee

***Tuesday, March 22, 2016 (at THS)***

6:00 p.m. –Special Meeting of the Board of Education

***Thursday, March 24, 2016 (at THS)***

6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing- Elementary, Curriculum, Tech

***Monday, March 28, 2016 (at THS)***

6:00 p.m. – Public Hearing- Secondary, Special Education, Capital

***Wednesday, March 30, 2016 (at THS)***

6:00 p.m. – Special Meeting of the Board of Education

***Monday, April 4, 2016 (at THS)***

6:00 p.m. – Special Meeting of the Board of Education

***Wednesday, April 6, 2016 (at THS)***

6:00 p.m. – Special Meeting of the Board of Education

***Wednesday, April 13, 2016 (at Migeon Ave.)***

6:00 p.m. – Personnel Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m. – Budget Committee Meeting

Mr. Traub stated that since the agenda was created, the dates and locations of these meetings have changed.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Knight made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Traub seconded the motion. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.