

**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, September 17, 2014
Torrington High School
Major Besse Drive**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm.

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Cappabianca, Mayor Carbone, Mr. Hinman, Mrs. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Nargi (arrived at 6:05), Mr. Raider, Mr. Rovero, Mr. Traub, Mr. Campolieta, Mrs. Kloczko, Mr. Potter

Absent: Mr. Thibault

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

Mr. Traub outlined the purpose and rules of the School/Community Session.

There were three (3) speakers; Mr. Cavagnero, Mr. Battle, and Mrs. Svetz-Juliano

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to amend and approve the agenda by removing item 4A and adding the August 6th meeting minutes to item 6.E.6. Mr. Hinman seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Traub read aloud a legal statement regarding a Grievance hearing.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

A. Probus Club Recognition of Teacher of the Year; Dawn Pollutro

This item was removed from the Agenda.

B. Superintendent's Report

1. Convocation

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

2. Opening Day Statistics

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

Mr. Nargi asked about the differences in class size for 8th (eighth) grade and 9th (ninth) grade. He asked for more information regarding the students not continuing on to Torrington High School.

3. Participation in AP Courses

Mrs. Kloczko reported.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked if there was any way to track where graduating students are being accepted and/or where they are attending college.

Mr. Raider asked about a selection process.

Mr. Nargi asked about the gathering of data for graduating students.

Programs offered at Torrington High School were discussed.

C. ADA Compliance Exterior Phase I Project

The Board heard a presentation on the Project.

1. Establish a Building Committee for the Project
2. Authorizing the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the proposed Project
3. Authorizing the filing of the grant applications
4. Authorizing funding for the Project

D. Board of Education Hiring and Termination Procedures

Mr. Traub read aloud the procedures.

Mrs. Cappabianca suggested having a parent on the Interview Committee.

Mr. Raider suggested having a student on the Interview Committee for instructional leaders.

Mr. Rovero expressed concerns over confidentiality issues of having a student on an interview committee.

Mr. Kissko had questions regarding current procedures.

Mr. Nargi spoke about removing positions from the Consent Agenda. He read a statement from the Policy book regarding termination of staff.

E. Introduction of Leadership Teams for TPS

Mrs. Kloczko presented.

F. Discussion Regarding the Appointment of Administrators

Mrs. Kloczko spoke about the Assistant Superintendent position.

Mr. Rovero asked what changed so that an Assistant Superintendent is now needed. He asked about budgetary impact of this position and where specific costs came from. He asked about elimination of positions and if they still exist or not.

Mr. Raider asked about the need for an Assistant Superintendent. He also spoke about the way the need was presented to him.

Mr. Hinman asked about negative impact on the budget now and in the future. He spoke about trust in a superintendent. He voiced concerns of the Board becoming an HR department.

Mr. Kissko spoke about questions from the taxpayers. He asked where specific money in the budget was spent.

Mrs. Cappabianca said the Board needs to decide in which direction they want to go. She spoke about the changes over the past five (5) years.

Mr. Nargi spoke about procedures and why this position should be brought back.

Mrs. Hoehne spoke about her confidence in the Superintendent's ability to hire candidates.

Mayor Carbone spoke about problems the Superintendent identified. She spoke about procedures and the need for the position of Assistant Superintendent. She spoke about Board of Education goals and how they pertain to the Superintendent. She also spoke about costs associated with this position. She asked about stipends being met and/or used to cover costs of the Assistant Superintendent position.

Mr. Traub clarified some statements.

G. Purpose and Function of Board of Education Sub Committees

Mr. Traub explained why this is a discussion item.

Mr. Raider spoke about procedures of subcommittees presenting ideas to the Board. He asked why central office secretaries are taking minutes and transcribing meetings for the sub committees.

Mr. Hinman spoke about ad hoc committees and having an official fourth (4th) alternate member.

Mrs. Cappabianca spoke about an Expulsion Committee.

Mr. Nargi spoke about eliminating sub committees and moving to two (2) Board meetings a month.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Financial Statement

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

Mrs. Cappabianca made a motion to add item 5B and remove the Assistant Superintendent position from the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

B. ADA Compliance Exterior Phase I Project

1. Request to the City Council to establish a Building Committee for the project naming Mr. David Bascetta, Director of Facilities for Torrington Public Schools as the Building Committee.

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

2. Approval of the preparation of schematic drawings, and outline specifications

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the schematic drawings and education specifications. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

3. Authorize the filing of the grant application

Mr. Rovero made a motion to authorize the filing of the grant application. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

4. Authorize funding for the project

Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to authorize funding for the project. Mr. Rovero seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

5. Approval of Educational Specifications

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

C. Approval of Board of Education Hiring and Termination Procedures

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the procedures as amended with adding the term “parent” for the interview committee and changing the term “will” to “may”. Mr. Nargi seconded the motion. The vote passed with one opposed, Mr. Hinman.

Mrs. Cappabianca said not having a parent on the interview committee would “set them up for a lot of trouble” She said they can’t shout parent involvement then keep them in the dark when it comes to hiring a principal to run their child’s school.

Mr. Nargi would like to eliminate the parent from the interview committee. He asked if the vote on the table included the parent in the interview process but not the termination process.

Mr. Hinman and Mr. Kissko both spoke about being elected officials from the parents of the community.

Mr. Raider spoke about the merits of having a parent on an interview committee.

Mr. Kissko spoke about having a taxpayer and not a parent on the interview committee. He asked how you would choose which parent to be part of the interview committee.

Mr. Hinman asked Mayor Carbone if taxpayers or community members show up for interviews for city positions.

D. Action regarding the Appointment of Administrators

Mrs. Kloczko nominated her recommendation for the position of Assistant Superintendent.

Mr. Rovero made a motion to approve the appointment of administrators, specifically the recommendation of the Superintendent for the position of Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Nargi.

Mr. Raider spoke about the credentials for the recommended candidate.

Mr. Nargi asked when this position was posted. He spoke about the process it took to fill this position.

Mr. Kissko spoke about the candidate for the position of Assistant Superintendent.

Mrs. Hoehne asked how many applicants there were for this position.

E. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of August 20, 2014 Regular Board of Education Meeting
2. Approval of August 27, 2014 Regular Board of Education Meeting
3. Approval of Sub Committee Minutes
 - a. Policy Committee Meeting – August 12, 2014
 - b. Personnel Committee Meeting – August 12, 2014
 - c. Budget Committee – August 13, 2014
 - d. School Improvement Committee – No meeting in August
 - e. Grievance Committee – No Report
4. Appointments and Resignations
5. Notices for Homeschooling
 - a. A.P., grade 9, Eff. 2014-2015
 - b. M.P., grade 7, Eff. 2014-2015
 - c. V.M., grade 1, Eff. 2014-2015

Mrs. Cappabianca 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. Nargi spoke about the culture of the district and how the students and district are perceived.

Mr. Raider spoke about attending a science class at TMS. He spoke about the costs of classroom activities and teachers paying for them out of pocket.

Mr. Rovero spoke about the Administrators Union members involved in the reorganization and the fact that the only vacancies are due to retirement.

Mrs. Hoehne spoke about attending Parent Night at the middle school and liaison's to the schools.

Mr. Rovero made a motion to extend the meeting twenty (20) minutes. Mrs. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote passed with one (1) opposed, Mr. Kissko.

Mr. Hinman spoke about political affiliations not interfering with the decisions of the Board members and the culture of the school district.

Mr. Kissko spoke about this year being an election season and getting people to listen to them. He spoke about how polite the students are in his experience.

Mayor Carbone congratulated the new Assistant Superintendent. She asked for clarification on contract enrichments. She congratulated the Superintendent on the transition to all day Kindergarten.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Budget Committee – Mr. Rovero reported.
2. Grievance Committee – No report.
3. Personnel Committee – No report.
4. Policy Committee – Mrs. Hoehne reported.
5. School Improvement Committee – No report.
6. THS Oversight Panel – Mr. Kissko reported.
7. Turf Field Committee – Mr. Nargi reported.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

- A. Financial Statement
- B. Committee Reports
- C. Discussion on online elective programs
- D. Update on the TAG program

FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Policy Committee – 5:00 Wednesday, October 8, 2014 (Migeon Ave.)
2. No School Improvement Committee Meeting
3. Budget Committee Meeting – 7:00 Wednesday, October 8, 2014 (Migeon Ave)
4. Personnel Committee Meeting – 6:00 Wednesday October 8, 2014 (Migeon Ave)

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:07 pm Mrs. Hoehne made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Nargi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Attest,

Ellen Hoehne
Secretary, Board of Education