



**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING – PUBLIC HEARING
Wednesday, April 8, 2015
Torrington High School, 50 Major Besse Drive**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:12 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Hinman, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Knight, Mr. Lamoin, Mr. Nargi, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Traub (6:25), Mayor Carbone, Ms. Aird, Mr. Bascetta, Ms. Kloczko, Ms. Lubomski, Mr. Potter

Absent: No absences

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A parent spoke to urge the Board to reinstate funding for a Latin teacher at Torrington High School. Two teachers from Torrington Elementary School spoke to urge the Board to reinstate the cut position of Assistant Principal at Torrington.

DISCUSSION: PROPOSED BUDGET

Mr. Nargi suggested members consider the public request to reinstate the Vice Principal position. Ms. Cappabianca stated that she would support reinstatement if the position were to be split between Torrington and Vogel-Wetmore elementary schools. After debate, members agree to reinstate the funds for the position into the proposed budget.

Mr. Hinman suggested members consider the public request to reinstate the funds to hire a Latin teacher at THS. After much discussion, it was agreed that the funds would be reinstated into the proposed budget.

Ms. Richardson questioned the rationale for cutting four TMS teachers at the previous meeting. Ms. Cappabianca urged consideration of cutting Pre-Kindergarten positions in an amount enough to pay for the TMS teacher positions. After discussion, members decided that Special Education Pre-K staff payment funds would be moved in the budget and paid for by Medicare funds and that the four TMS teachers would be reinstated using the freed-up funds.

Further cuts were considered including stipends, instructional supplies for elementary math, professional development, and technology items.

At 8:50 p.m. Ms. Hoehne moved that the meeting be extended for 60 minutes. Ms. Cappabianca seconded the motion. Vote: Y-5 (including the Chair), N-4 (Kissko, Knight, Hinman, Thibault).

Further cuts in staff were considered.

Mr. Hinman moved that the Board accept the budget (at \$74,520,848, 5% increase – including the operations piece at \$71,513,830, 3.1% increase) and forward it to the city Board of Finance. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. Vote: Y-7, N-1 (Nargi), with the Chair abstaining.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:41 p.m. Mr. Knight made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. All in favor.