



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, May 12, 2016
THS Little Theater- 50 Major Besse Drive**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m.

ROLL CALL:

Present: Fiona Cappabianca, Chair; Ellen Hoehne; Bill Knight; Jim Lamoin; Armand Maniccia; Jessica Richardson; Daniel Thibault; Kenneth P. Traub; Peter Vergaro

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

Absent: Joanne Brogis and Mayor Carbone

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

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

Ms. Jarvis spoke on solar energy and waste in regards to the School District.

Ms. Ambelton spoke regarding community and parent involvement for supplies and help in schools.

Ms. Elliott spoke regarding alternative solutions to the budget problems.

Mr. Lamoin made a motion to extend the public participation for ten minutes. Ms. Richardson seconded the motion. The motion passed with two opposed, Mr. Knight and Mr. Vergaro.

A student from THS inquired as to what goes into the budget process.

Ms. Mogab spoke regarding accountability with how we got to where we are in the budget.

Mr. Traub addressed the concerns of the speakers of the public participation session.

Ms. Reitman further discussed the questions raised during public comment.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED BUDGET

Ms. Reitman stated we have three (3) behaviorists in the school district. Would be very leery to say we could share one behaviorists between three programs.

Mr. Domanico stated that they called the office that oversees the bonding. State has a different definition of “re-purposing”. As long as BOE maintains control of the building and utilizes the building, it is still considered educational use.

Ms. Lubomski spoke regarding Special Education Pre-K and Regular Education Pre-K funding, cost to district, classrooms/staff needed and number of students.

Mr. Maniccia questioned why there is an extra charge for bussing homeless students. The Chair responded that if a shelter is full they may have to be bussed to Waterbury, for example.

Mr. Traub addressed budget accountability and how it became what it is.

Mr. Domanico discussed insurance funding.

Mr. Lamoin questioned what percentage of DCF spending we get back from the State. Mr. Domanico stated it is supposed to be reimbursed anything after \$15,000 however excess cost is a capped number. The State is cutting excess cost by \$8,000 next year. It is a program the State has been underfunding for years.

Ms. Hoehne stated the TEA did an informal ask and the consensus was no (wage freeze step/cutting teachers’ school year).

Mr. Domanico discussed the fact that volunteers that come in and read to the children are not covered by our insurance because there is no one from the Board that oversees that program.

The Chair did a straw poll to see which Board members would be willing to consider closing a school. Mr. Thibault stated that there is not enough time. Mr. Vergaro said doesn’t want to close a school unless we change the model. Mr. Traub voted yes. Mr. Knight is willing to consider it. Mr. Lamoin would only close a school as very last resort. Mr. Maniccia stated he would if it was the last option. Ms. Richardson stated that we can’t just say no because we have talked about every other option. Ms. Hoehne stated she would as a last resort if they have to.

Do we want to request to fund the insurance at 105%? All in favor of considering this option, Mr. Vergaro opposed.

Fund Pre-K Coordinator through IDEA- All in favor.

Eliminate Pre-K Social Worker- All in favor

Moving to Literacy/Numeracy model plan E. All in favor

Fund Literacy/Numeracy tutors through Title 1. All in favor

Eliminate Paraprofessional at each Elementary School. All in favor, Mr. Thibault and Mr. Knight opposed.

Early retirement if 20 employees elected. Must get approved by the full Board first.

Literacy and Numeracy Plan F- Mr.Knight, Mr.Traub, Mr Lamoin, Mr. Maniccia, Ms.Richardson and Ms.Hoehne were in support. Mr. Knight and Mr. Vergaro were opposed.

The Chair discussed the order that they would present their plan to the Board of Finance.

EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES CONTRACT

Mr. Traub made a motion to move into Executive Session to discuss the Director of Student Services Contract. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor. The Chair called the Board into Executive Session at 8:23 p.m. inviting in Mr. Campolieta.

The Chair called the Board back into General Session at 8:34 p.m.

POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES CONTRACT

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the contract for the Director of Student Services. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. All in favor.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Traub made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Knight seconded the motion. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.