



Torrington Board of Education

SUSAN LUBOMSKI
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

CHERYL F. KLOCZKO
SUPERINTENDENT

School Improvement and Community Relations Committee

Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 7:00 P. M.

355 Migeon Avenue

MINUTES

Members Present: Mr. Kissko, Committee Chair; Mr. Knight; Ms. Richardson
Also Present: Mr. Traub, Board Chair; Mr. Hinman; Ms. Hoehne; Mr. Lamoin; Ms. Cappabianca; Ms. Kloczko; Ms. Lubomski; Mr. Kavanaugh, Board of Education Clerk

1. Mr. Kissko called the meeting to order at 9:15 p.m.
2. Roll call was taken.
3. Approval of Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms. Richardson, seconded by Mr. Knight. Motion carried, all in favor.
4. Duties and Responsibilities of The School Improvement and Community Relations Committee: Members reviewed the duties and responsibilities of the committee as stated in the By Laws of the Board of Education. Mr. Kissko shared with the committee the reasons this committee has been on hiatus for the past several months. Mr. Kissko suggested that the mission of the committee had become confused, and he shared minutes from the most recently held meetings to demonstrate his point.
5. Mr. Kissko and Policy Committee Chair Ellen Hoehne agreed to switch start times for their respective committee meetings scheduled for March 4, 2015. The School Improvement and Community Relations Committee meeting for that date will now begin at 6:00 p.m. and the Policy Committee meeting at 7:00 p.m.
6. Public/Staff Participation: No one from outside the committee had any comments.
7. Information Sharing and Discussions:
 - a. Board Goals: The committee reviewed the Torrington Board of Education Goals for 2014-15 and the same for 2015-16.
 - b. NEASC: The committee reviewed the NEASC Self Study Report Meeting Notes provided by Director of Secondary Education Eric Baim. Mr. Kissko pointed out that NEASC visits schools for evaluation of accreditation every ten years and THS is due for a visit in 2017, and he urged the committee to stay on top of developments to assure THS receives all it needs to stay accredited. Superintendent Kloczko suggested keeping in mind that though we know the visit will take place in 2017, we cannot know at this point if the visit will take place in the spring or fall of 2017. Mr. Kissko pointed out that committees are being formed at THS to

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prepare for the visit and urged anyone from the committee who might wish to volunteer for one of these committees to do so.

- c. Distinguished Alumnus Award: The committee discussed obtaining nominations for the Distinguished Alumnus Award. Committee members agreed criteria is needed to determine nominees, and discussion was had. Mr. Kissko agreed to contact the Waterbury Republican-American newspaper to have requests for nominees published. It was agreed that any nominations should be forwarded to the superintendent's office.
 - d. Community Relations and "Marketing" TPS: Mr. Kissko suggested holding off on full discussion of this topic due to the lateness of the hour, but pointed out the importance of marketing as Hartford and New Haven schools are already doing so.
8. Comments for the Good of the Order: None.
 9. Topics for Future Meetings:
 - a. Mr. Hinman suggested the committee look into changing the school colors and mascot to lend a more modern look that would be more attractive to today's students.
 - b. Ms. Cappabianca suggested looking into the issue of students who are not assigned to buses but have a difficult walk to school in the winter. Mr. Knight expressed that the topic seems more an issue for the Policy Committee. It was decided that Walkers and Snow would be added to the next School Improvement and Community Relations Committee meeting.
 - c. Mr. Traub suggested adding the topic of physical education requirements being satisfied by individual students' participation in athletics and/or other physical school-sponsored activities such as dance or yoga. Ms. Richardson suggested this topic might be introduced by someone during the Public/Staff Participation portion of a committee meeting.
 10. Motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Richardson and seconded by Mr. Knight. Motion carried, all in favor.
 11. Meeting adjourned 9:40 p.m.