



Torrington Board of Education

SUSAN LUBOMSKI
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

LYNDA T. REITMAN
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT

School Improvement and Community Relations Committee Regular Meeting Wednesday, September 2, 2015 355 Migeon Avenue

MINUTES

Members Present: John Kissko, Committee Chair; Bill Knight; Jessica Richardson

Also Present: Board of Education: Jeremy Hinman (6:45 p.m.), Ellen Hoehne, Jim Lamoin

Administration: Susan M. Lubomski, Assistant Superintendent; Lynda T. Reitman, Interim Superintendent

1. Mr. Kissko called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
2. Roll Call was taken.
3. Ms. Richardson moved to approve the agenda with the amendment of item 6, changing "Board Goals 2015-2016" to "Board Goals 2016-2017." The motion was seconded by Mr. Knight. All in favor.
4. Ms. Richardson moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of August 5, 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Knight. All in favor.
5. Community Relations and Marketing TPS: Mr. Kissko passed out a written report of his meeting with Economic Development Director Erin Wilson and Mayor Carbone regarding Torrington Public Schools participation in the upcoming marketing campaign by the city. Both the Mayor and Ms. Wilson were enthusiastic about the School Improvement Committee's desire to participate. Mr. Kissko also reported on the city's marketing Steering Committee meeting of August 25. The Causeway Agency, which the city has hired for marketing consultation, liked the idea of the school system engaging with the town. The city's plan will be rolled out on October 17.

Members brainstormed ways in which TPS might participate in the roll-out. It was agreed that something outdoors on the grounds of Vogel-Wetmore School would be ideal due to the school's proximity to City Hall, and ideas included performances by the high school band and the Forbes Flyers performing. Mr. Kissko agreed to bring up the committee's ideas to the Mayor and Ms. Wilson, and Ms. Reitman agreed to speak with Wayne Splettstoesz, Director of Instrumental Music at Torrington High School.

Ms. Richardson asked if there were any plans by the city to include activities for children. Mr. Kissko agreed to ask the Mayor if there were such plans and if such plans would be consistent with the overall roll-out plan.

Members discussed the involvement of the Young Entrepreneurs, and Mr. Kissko agreed to speak with JoAnn Ryan of the Northwest Connecticut Chamber of Commerce.

6. Board of Education Goals for 2016-2017: Mr. Kissko passed out a document with the goals suggestions of the last committee meeting, and members agreed on a list to send to the full Board.

Members discussed finding ways to educate parents on the methods of Common Core curriculum in order for parents to better understand how to help their children in their studies. A series of meetings/events for each school and each grade or the possibility of piggy-backing on already scheduled events was discussed. Ms. Reitman suggested a handout to be given to parents at the upcoming Welcome Night at each school; the handout would ask the parent if he or she is interested in attending a meeting regarding Common Core and if he or she has any questions about Common Core.

7. Agenda item 7.b. – Online summer offerings credit recovery, etc. – was tabled in the interest of time.
8. Mr. Kissko shared a letter from a student who suggests that the music wing of THS be named in honor the current music director's late father, who passed away recently. Members agreed that such a decision would require Board of Education policy and that, at the moment, no such policy exists.

Mr. Knight moved that the student's suggestion letter be sent to the Policy Committee. Ms. Richardson seconded the motion. All in favor.

9. Comments for the Good of the Order: Ms. Richardson suggested considering some sort of suggestion box in each of the schools so that parents and students could offer their ideas for school improvement.
10. Topics for Future Meetings: Selection process for Distinguished Alumnus Award, NEASC update, P.E. deference to academic courses, online summer offerings
11. Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Knight and seconded by Ms. Richardson. All in favor.
12. Meeting adjourned 7:02 p.m.