



**TORRINGTON BOARD OF EDUCATION
REGULAR MEETING
Wednesday, February 18, 2015
Torrington High School
Major Besse Drive**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 6:04 pm.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:

Present: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Hinman, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Knight, Mr. Lamoin, Mr. Nargi, Ms. Richardson, Mr. Thibault, Mr. Traub, Mayor Carbone, Ms. Aird, Mr. Bascetta, Mr. Campolieta, Ms. Kloczko, Ms. Lubomski, Mr. Potter

Absent: No absences.

SCHOOL/COMMUNITY SESSION

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

There were two (2) speakers.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Cappabianca made a motion to amend and approve the agenda by adding item 4.H: Facility use. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

INFORMATION SHARING SESSION

A. Student's Report

Emreen Bharara reported.

B. Recognition

Cody Kulesza (THS), Regional Gold Key in Ceramics, 2015 Scholastic Art & Writing Awards; Samantha Michaud (THS), CT Scholastic Art Awards Honorable Mention for sculpture; Ms. Cynthia Amoroso, Teacher

C. Superintendent's Report

1. All-Star Transportation – Bus Conduct Report

Mrs. Kloczko reported concerning the relationship with the transportation company and student conduct.

2. CREC magnet schools – letter to Glen Peterson, Director for DSCE School Choice Program

Mrs. Kloczko reported on her communication regarding magnet schools.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked if Mrs. Kloczko had gotten a response yet.

Mr. Nargi asked how many students were attending magnet schools. He asked the cost per student and the parent's motivation behind sending their kids to magnet schools. He spoke about the Board knowing the needs of the district.

School themes were discussed.

D. Early Childhood Education Grant selection summary

Mrs. Kloczko and Mr. Traub reported.

Mrs. Cappabianca asked about the number of slots for Torrington.

Ms. Richardson asked if this was a change from the original plan.

Mr. Knight asked about programs for children for special needs.

Mayor Carbone asked for clarification regarding the process and judgment of the bids. She cautioned against accepting a grant for less than a five (5) year term; she expressed concerns about the funding "drying up."

Mr. Traub spoke about costs associated with students if this grant is not accepted. He also spoke about evaluating the program.

Mr. Kissko asked for clarification about pre-school quality.

Mr. Nargi spoke about how this grant was presented to the Board of Education. He asked about the number of slots for students.

Liability for the funds was discussed.

Mrs. Cappabianca spoke about budgeting for the number of students already in Torrington District. She also spoke about mandatory pre-school.

Mr. Kissko asked about penalties from the state.

Ms. Richardson spoke about having time to research this issue and not having information made available to all Board members.

E. Out-of-District tuition and transportation

Ms. Aird reported.

Ms. Cappabianca asked about the “A” cost.

Mr. Nargi asked about specific routes. He asked about costs and the evaluation of the students attending alternate schools. He asked about rewards from government for the way the Torrington District takes care of special needs students.

Mayor Carbone asked about pre-paying seats in alternate schools and costs.

F. January Staffing Report

Mr. Thibault reported.

G. BOE new and special committee meetings for budget schedule

Mr. Traub reported.

Meeting dates were clarified.

H. Facility use

Mr. Traub reported.

The readiness of the new fields were discussed.

Ms. Cappabianca asked about vendors and the building start date.

Mayor Carbone asked if the Varsity Alumni group had permission to use the fields.

Event scheduling was discussed.

The throwing areas were discussed.

An audience member, Mr. Longobucco, informed the Board the new fields were finished and ready to go and he did not know why they were told otherwise.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Non-bargaining Unit Contracts

At 8:08 Mr. Hinman made a motion to go into executive session. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

At 8:35 Mr. Traub declared the meeting back in open session.

Ms. Cappabianca made a motion to extend the meeting thirty (30) minutes. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote passed with four (4) opposed, Mr. Hinman, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Knight, and Mr. Thibault.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of Financial Statement

Ms. Cappabianca made a motion to approve the financial statement. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

B. Approval of Budget Transfers

Ms. Cappabianca made a motion to approve the budget transfers. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

Mr. Nargi asked where the savings came from.

C. Selection approval of Early Childhood Education Grant

Ms. Cappabianca made a motion to approve Torrington Public Schools as the site for forty-two (42) new slots from the Early Childhood Education Grant. Mr. Lamoin seconded the motion. The vote passed with two (2) opposed, Mr. Kissko and Mr. Knight and two (2) abstained, Mr. Nargi and Ms. Richardson.

Mr. Nargi said the issue is too confusing it was presented badly.

Mr. Thibault said once the funding stops the program goes away.

D. Approval of Non-bargaining Unit contract 2014-2015

No action taken.

E. Approval of Non-bargaining Unit contract 2015-2016

No action taken.

F. Approval of new budget meeting schedule

Ms. Cappabianca made a motion to approve the budget meeting schedule. Ms. Hoehne seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

G. Approval to amend the approval of ADA Compliance Exterior Phase I Project (September 17, 2014) to include "Torrington High School"

Mr. Thibault made a motion to approve the amendment of ADA Compliance Exterior Phase I Project from September 17, 2014 to include “Torrington High School.” Mr. Kissko seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.

H. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of January 17, 2015 Regular Board of Education Meeting minutes
2. Approval of January 28, 2015 Special Board of Education Meeting minutes
3. Approval of Subcommittee minutes
 - a. Policy Committee Meeting – January 7, 2015
 - b. Personnel Committee Meeting – January 14, 2015
 - c. Budget Committee Meeting – January 14, 2015
4. Appointments and Resignations
5. Notices for Homeschooling (none this month)

Mr. Nargi made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda with the amendment of removing 6.H. and 3.c., Budget Committee Meeting January 14, 2015 minutes approval (due to no quorum at the March 11, 2015 committee meeting to approve and send minutes to the full Board) and removing “Daniel Burk” line item from the Consent Agenda. Mr. Kissko seconded the motion. The vote passed with three (3) abstentions, Mr. Hinman, Ms. Richardson, and Mr. Thibault.

COMMENTS FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Mr. Kissko asked about an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Hinman spoke about an article in the newspaper about Connecticut having high graduation rates.

Mrs. Hoehne spoke about East School.

Ms. Richardson spoke about an event she attended and having enough information to make an informed judgment.

Mr. Nargi spoke about expanding the facilities or a joint venture for a swimming pool for the students.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

- A. Budget Committee – Ms. Cappabianca reported.
- B. Grievance Committee – Mr. Lamoin reported.
- C. Personnel Committee – Mr. Thibault reported.
- D. Policy Committee – Ms. Hoehne reported.
- E. School Improvement Committee – Mr. Kissko reported.
- F. THS Oversight Panel – Mr. Kissko reported.
- G. Turf Field Committee – Mr. Nargi reported.
- H. Education Connection – Mr. Kissko reported.

ITEMS FOR UPCOMING AGENDA

- A. Financial Statement
- B. Committee Reports
- C. Budget

FUTURE MEETINGS

- A. School Improvement and Community Relations Committee, 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday March 4, 2015 (Migeon)
- B. Policy Committee, 7:00 p.m. Wednesday March 4, 2015 (Migeon)
- C. Personnel Committee, to be rescheduled.
- D. Budget Committee, 7:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 11, 2015 (Migeon)
- E. Regular Board of Education Meeting, - 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, March 18, 2015
(THS)

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hinman made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m. Mr. Thibault seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous.