

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on June 21, 2021.



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

School Improvement Committee Meeting Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 6:00 P.M. Migeon Avenue School

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:08 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Mr. Kissko, Ms. Todor, Ms. Richardson, Ms. DePretis, Ms. Gelormino (Teacher Representative)
Also Present: Ms. Cappabianca, Ms. Hoehne, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Deacon, Ms. Klimaszewski, Ms. Herold, Ms. Buchanan, Ms. Creedon, Ms. Ledversis, Ms. Mazzatto, Ms. Schulte
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. DePretis made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Ms. Richardson. All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Regular Committee Minutes - April 7, 2021 – Ms. DePretis made a motion to amend the minutes changing the word “inequity to equity,” second by Ms. Richardson. All in favor.
 - b. Special Committee Minutes - May 3, 2021 – Ms. Richardson made a motion to amend the minutes changing the word “agenda to minutes,” second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.
5. Public Participation: None
6. Discussion and Next Steps:
 - a. School Improvement Plans: Forbes and Southwest Schools: Ms. Creedon and Dr. Buchanan presented a PowerPoint. Forbes and Southwest same priority goals: **Priority Goal #1** – Guarantee instruction that is student-centered, rigorous, meaningful, and responsive to all students’ needs and fosters the development of critical thinking, argumentation, collaboration, and transference through a blended learning approach.
Priority Goal #2 – Foster family engagement via ongoing communication and supports.
Priority Goal #3 – Identify, monitor, and provide support, intervention, and guidance to students with chronic absenteeism or at risk of chronic absenteeism.

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They shared the methods and tools they use to achieve these priority goals. All these goals intertwine to keep kids educated, safe and happy.

- b. Systemwide Focus Areas: Ms. Lubomski stated that the Forbes/Southwest presentations of the school improvement plans were a perfect summary of our district-wide focus areas: (Attendance, Student Engagement, Targeting Student Needs)
- c. Delegated SIC Board Goals
 1. (shared with full Board) Monitor the implementation of the district strategic plan and its integration into the city strategic plan once that plan is developed.
 2. Monitor and support the Middle School/High School Building Committee and allocate resources to the development and implementation of the “Pathways” approach to the secondary curriculum.
-Ongoing conversations with community partners continue
 3. Oversee and support whatever is necessary to deal with the educational impact of the effects of prolonged distance learning.
- d. Civic Virtue in the Curriculum: Dr. Deacon presented the Civic Virtue in the Social Studies Standards PowerPoint. All four disciplines should be found in all social studies courses: Civics, economics, geography, and history. He reviewed the C3 standards written for civics for each grade level. Ex: In 3rd grade they identify core civic virtues and democratic principles that guide government, society, and communities and in high school they apply civic virtues and democratic principles when working with others.
- e. Continued CABE Membership: The board reviewed what their CABE membership offers. Ms. Lubomski stated that the meetings with other Superintendents have been helpful. Ms. Fergusson shared that the CABE policy manual will address things in depth and that has been helpful. Mr. Kissko expressed that CABE has not been strong advocate for what will be beneficial to Board of Education. Ms. Lubomski replied that they try to be neutral, present the information and allow the board to have discretion. Ms. Richardson asked “What would we do if we did not have CABE? I think they are very biased politically. Do we get \$14,000 worth of resources?” The answer was that they do provide good networking opportunities.
- f. Website, Altice, Social Media Updates – Ms. Herold shared the highlights of our social media presence.
- g. TAG Update – Ms. Klimaszewski shared that more referrals have been received.
- h. Alliance Update – Ms. Lubomski announced that we are in good standing. We are working through our budget to make sure we use every single penny.
- i. Barriers to Student Success – Ms. Fergusson presented information generated by the Grading Committee on improving student outcomes. The presentation focused on the impact of the pandemic, barriers to student success, and plans to address unfinished learning. Some examples of barriers to student success are no standard template for Google classroom pages, attendance issues, lack of clarity, implicit bias, grading behaviors vs. demonstration of mastery, and inconsistencies in grading practices. Building In-School Supports are critical to student success: WINN Blocks K-8, Learning Lab 6-8, Academic Resource

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Center 9-12, STAR Study Hall 9 (proposed,) and common planning time for teachers

7. Topics for Future Meetings
 - a. Social Promotion
 - b. Homogeneous vs. Heterogeneous Grouping
 - c. Barriers to Student Success
8. Comments for the Good of the Order: (Paraphrased)

Laura – “Nice job on the school presentation.”

Sue D., Cathy, Ellen – “Great presentation on the schools.”

Sue L. – “This is a phenomenal district – it is the whole package.”

Sue F. – “Thank you to Maureen, Andrew and Ally for being my partners in crime.”
9. Adjournment: Ms. Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:46 P.M.
Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 2, Migeon Avenue and Zoom