



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, May 26, 2021, 6:00 P.M.
Torrington School
800 Charles Street, Torrington, CT 06790**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:02 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Corey, Ms. DePretis, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Fappiano, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Todor, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Arum, Mr. Barlow, Ms. Klimaszewski, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Herold
3. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Kissko made a motion to amend the agenda adding executive session #7 out of state field trip, action item on out of state field trips and reopening plan 2021-2022 school year, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.
4. School/Community Service/Public Participation:
Jason Lafreniere – Mr. Lafreniere spoke about the Washington D.C. trip. He expressed he would like the trip to continue to be held in May 2022 and does not want to go during school time. He has personal plans during school and summer vacations.
Angelo Calabrese: Mr. Calabrese also spoke about the Washington D.C. trip and his support for the trip to be held in May 2022.
5. Recognitions: Ms. Lubomski and the Board Chair recognized the unified sports middle school program and essay contest winner student as well as the Litchfield County Superintendent Award winners from each school.
6. Out of State Field Trips: The board discussed the Washington D.C. trip specifically. The concern being the students' loss of school time for many days with only half of the students attending the trip. The board was told that the staff does not want to take their own time during April vacation and volunteer to go and that the cost increases during April vacation. The board discussed the concerns about the students who were not attending the trip. The board received more information from Mr. Lafreniere on their questions and concerns about the date of the trip. The board and the administration do not question the validity of the trip. They are in strong agreement that Washington D.C. trip is extremely valuable to our students. The board decided to vote tonight.
JROTC overnight field trip was also discussed.
7. Executive Session Regarding New Contracts:
Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to go into executive session regarding new contracts inviting in Ms. Lubomski and Ms. Schulte, second by Ms. Fappiano. All in favor.
The board entered executive session at 7:06 P.M.
The board returned to open session at 7:18P.M.
8. Executive Session Regarding Contract Proposal:
Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to go into executive session regarding contract proposal inviting in Ms. Lubomski, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.

The board entered executive session at 7:18 P.M.

The board returned to open session at 7:37 P.M.

9. Executive Session Regarding TPSAA MOU

Ms. DePretis made a motion to go into executive session regarding TPSAA MOU inviting in Ms. Lubomski and Ms. Schulte, second by Ms. Fappiano. All in favor.

The board entered executive session at 7:37 P.M.

The board returned to open session at 7:46 P.M.

10. Information Sharing Session:

- A. Superintendent's Report: Ms. Lubomski reiterated the protocol for excessive heat days, since there are no air conditioners at Forbes and THS. An early release occurs and the announcement goes out the day before or early in the morning.

We are returning to some sense of normalcy. We have end of the year celebrations going on in our schools – outdoors and indoors. Mr. Shiek's woodworking class gifted the Board the pens they made.

1. Office of Teaching and Learning Update: The major focus of the professional development this year will be the acceleration of our students learning. Ms. Lubomski shared information on summer learning, summer reading site, and google classroom template.
- Grades K-5, districtwide, will be housed at Vogel Wetmore this summer and will focus on skill acquisition.
 - There will be a theme based model (Summer Olympics.)
 - Partnering with EdAdvance to offer free extended day options to families in need of childcare.
 - Students in grades 9-12 will be offered credit recovery opportunities.
 - Our Library Media Specialists are working to populate a Summer Learning site that will house all the recommended reading materials for students from Kindergarten through Grade 12.
 - Spring district testing in underway.
 - Technology is working on fully transitioning to Google over the summer.

Ms. Richardson asked a question about the summer programming. Will this summer program will allow students to pass or if the student is not meeting the needs, will s/he be held back? Ms. Fergusson replied that it is important to engage the student in the learning and monitor student progress. If they

student does not avail himself of any opportunities, he will be placed in an alternative track. Mr. Eucalitto wants to discuss students passing requirements and students failing in the School Improvement Committee.

2.Special Education Update: Ms. Klimaszewski gave the board a report. As of April 1, 2021 our CT SDE Annual Performance Report Prevalence Rate is 15.62% There are 7 students with IEPs currently being homeschooled due to COVID. Four students have returned. The CT SDE Rate APR Students Outplace K-12 as of May 1, 2021 is 10.99%. There are 45 students that have exited from special education this year. Ms. Klimaszewski commended her staff for being creative and making up any lost speech hours, as needed.

Ms. DePretis asked about the Reflection program and if that data can be shared with the board? Ms. Klimaszewski stated that we would have to be careful to share that data because the numbers are small and there would be a possibility of identifying the child. Ms. Cappabianca stated that we can do an overview of the program at a future meeting.

- B. BOE Budget 2021-2022: Waiting on the City to make their decision.
- C. American Rescue Plan Act Update: Ms. Lubomski shared the details with the board. No less than 90% of the funds must be allocated to local education agencies. LEAs must reserve at least 20% of their allocation to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and ensure those interventions: respond to students' social, emotional, and academic needs and address disproportionate impact on under-represented subgroups. At the minimum, the plan must include some of the following: How funds will be used to implement prevention and mitigation strategies consistent with CDC guidelines, how LEA will utilize 20% reserve for learning loss, how the LEA will spend the remaining funds in accordance with section 2001(e)(2) of the American Relief Plan Act of 2021. Access must be focused on our prek-12 populations most disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- D. Monthly Financials: We have a surplus.
- E. COVID-19 Expenses: We received our final payment.

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

- F. COVID Update: We have been able to have students and staff in the building as long as they were masked. The Executive Order regarding the mask mandate is in effect until July 20th.
- G. Policy #6100 Administrative Regulations Regarding Health Assessments/Screenings and Oral Health Assessments – The current policies were outdated. Our nurses were following the current policies, but we needed to update them in writing. The policies presented are Shipman’s model policies.
- H. Policy #6101 Administrative Regulations Regarding Immunizations - The current policies were outdated. Our nurses were following the current policies, but we needed to update them in writing. The policies presented are Shipman’s model policies.

8:57 P.M. - Mr. Corey entertained a motion to extend the meeting to 9:10 P.M., second by Mr. Maniccia. Mr. Kissko opposed. Everyone else in favor. Meeting was extended to 9:10 P.M.

- I. Policy #1028 Role and Responsibility of Committees – Ms. Hoehne summarized the discussions that were held in Policy committee regarding this policy. She stated that 3 out of 4 members decided that this is a procedure not a policy and they do not want to have this policy included. Ms. Hoehne would like to not have this policy included. Mr. Kissko does not want to remove the policy. Ms. Richardson does not want to remove this policy and wants to move it to next month. This policy was moved to the next meeting.
- J. Special Education Transportation - The Budget committee choose EdAdvance.
- K. Architect Contract – The chosen contract was SLAM. The next step is to bring it to City Council.
- L. HVAC Contract – West State Mechanical, Inc. is recommended to the board even though they are not the lower bidder, but the committee decided they are the best option.

11. Committee Reports:

Due to timing, the liaison reports were e-mailed to the board clerk. The liaison reports can be found at the end of the minutes on [page 8](#).

12. Action Items:

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

- A. Possible Action Regarding New Contract – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the new Director of Finance and Operation, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.
- B. Possible Action Regarding Contract Proposal – Ms. DePretis made a motion to authorize the Board Chair and the Superintendent to negotiate the contract with the current business manager, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
- C. Possible Action Regarding TPSAA MOU – Mr. Corey made a motion to approve the TPSAA MOU, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
- D. ~~BOE Budget 2021-2022~~ – Removed.
- E. Monthly Financials – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the monthly financials, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.
- F. Policy #6100 Administrative Regulations Regarding Health Assessments/Screenings and Oral Health Assessments – Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve Policy #6100 as presented, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
- G. Policy #6101 Administrative Regulations Regarding Immunizations – Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve Policy #6101 as presented, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
- H. Policy #1028 Role and Responsibility of Committees – Ms. Hoehne made a motion to eliminate Policy #1028, second by Mr. Corey.

Discussion – Ms. Richardson believes that the intent of this policy is very clear, and we need to have it. She wants to rework this policy so that maintains its intent. The committee discussed this being built into procedure and she believes that it should be brought into procedure, but she wants to see the procedure first before we remove the policy. Mr. Kissko emphasized Ms. Richardson’s point that the intent of this policy is to establish diverse committee representation. Ms. Cappabianca stated that if there is a policy, it needs to be very clear. Ms. Todor stated that our attorneys stated that other districts do not have this policy and they did not recommend we keep this policy. In fact, the attorneys would not provide a model policy on this issue.

The board voted on Ms. Hoehne’s motion.

In favor – Mr. Corey, Ms. Todor, Ms. Hoehne

Opposed – Mr. Kissko, Ms. Richardson, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Fappiano, Ms. DePretis

Motion does not pass.

9:07 P.M. - Mr. Maniccia made a motion to extend the meeting to 9:30 P.M., second by Mr. Eucalitto. Mr. Kissko

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opposed. Everyone else in favor. Meeting extended to 9:30 P.M.

- I. Approval of Special Education Transportation – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the Special Education transportation as presented, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
 - J. Approval of Architect Contract – SLAM – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the SLAM’s contract, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - K. Approval of HVAC Contract – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the HVAC contract, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - L. BOE Regular Meeting Minutes May 3, 2021 – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.
 - M. BOE and BOF Joint Meeting Minutes April 28, 2021 – Ms. Fappiano made a motion to approve the minutes as amended, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
 - N. Committee Meeting Minutes: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.
 - 1.School Improvement Committee – April 7, 2021
 - 2.Special School Improvement Committee – May 3, 2021
 - 3.Policy Committee – April 7, 2021
 - 4.Budget Committee – April 21, 2021
 - 5.Facilities & Technology Committee – April 21, 2021
 - 6.Building Committee – March 25, 2021
 - 7.Building Committee – April 22, 2021
 - 8.Building Committee – May 6, 2021
 - O. Consent Agenda: Appointments, Retirements & Resignations – Mr. Corey made a motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Ms. Fappiano. All in favor.
 - P. Out of State Field Trip –
 - 1.Washington DC – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the trip as submitted pending one year analysis, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.
 - 2.ROTC – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the trip as submitted, second by Ms. Fappiano. All in favor.
 - Q. Reopening 2021-2022 School Year – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion that the BOE is requiring all students and staff, unless they have a 504 or a disability, to be in person next school year, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
13. Items for Upcoming Agenda
- A. Monthly Financials
 - B. Budget
14. Comments for the Good of the Order: (paraphrased)

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Jessica “Thank you to the administrators to answering all of our questions. June 4th is Raider Rally!”

Board Chair “Thank you Mr. Arum for everything you have done for us.”

15. Future Meetings:

Tuesday, June 1, 2021 (at Torringtonford)

4:00 p.m. – Building Committee

Wednesday, June 2, 2021 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – School Improvement and Community Relations Committee

7:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – Facilities/Technology Committee

7:00 p.m. – Budget Committee

Monday, June 21, 2021 (at Torringtonford)

6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Education Meeting

16. Adjournment – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 9:27 P.M.

Liaison Reports

Sue DePretis report on Southwest:

Rube Goldberg activity is for all of Grade 5 at SW and Forbes and a Canton Science teacher/Forbes mom organized it; Michael McCotter is taking the lead in working with her at Southwest

Torrington Library is also organizing a virtual Escape Room activity for Grade 5; also sponsored by the PTO

Torrington Library is working closely with Grade 5 teachers on the virtual Culper Spy Ring as they study the American Revolution; we've done a full role-playing program in person in the past led by Pauline Palladino – looking forward to getting back to it next year

Friday's dedication to John Mastrocola was AMAZING! The students were involved in every part of it. Mayor Carbone, Mrs. Lubomski and Mrs. Theeb were guest speakers. If you did not get a chance to see it there is a link on SW Schools Facebook page.

End of year activities at SW –

5th Grade

- Food Truck
- Birds of Prey virtual program presented by the Sharon Audubon Society
- Rube Goldberg, stem type activity put together by Canton Science teacher/SW Mom.
- Grade 5 t-shirts with all student signatures for each student
- A flavored ice truck will be at the school on 6/18 for the kids to enjoy after lunch
- Torrington Library is sponsoring a program around the Culper Spy Ring which brings in key aspects of the American Revolution.

Many thanks to the SW PTO for making these activities possible!

4&5th grade will have a modified field day with their respective grades. All activities will of course follow DPH & CDC guidelines.

The ABC final days of school countdown is underway! A few examples from this week; Wednesday was 'Inside out' day for the letter "I"; Thursday was Jammie & jokes day, so everyone got to wear their pajamas to school & Friday was 'kindness' day which fell in line perfectly for the dedication to "Uncle John".

BIG NEWS! Mia Pinny has made NATIONAL news! Her dream of becoming a police officer led her to begin a program to help train K9 police dogs. She recently kicked off an Instagram fundraiser and was able to raise enough money to purchase a bullet proof vest for Farmington's K9. Follow this link to see the full story! https://www.wfsb.com/news/young-girl-donates-bulletproof-vest-to-farmington-police-k9/article_2b4f88fe-bdfd-11eb-838c-77905049d28f.html?block_id=994091

The Sue Grossman walkway project that Lily Artuc has been diligently working on is going to be completed on Sunday, June 6th. With volunteers from her Girl Scout Troop, family & friends, the posts will be installed along the walkway. Much thanks to those who donated toward materials, Ray Delmonte for donating the posts and for building the podiums, Patrick Matthews for donating the Plexiglas needed to protect the posters, and Joe Laganga for letting us borrow his pole diggers for the installation!

Cathy Todor's report on Forbes:

1. Our very small but very mighty PTO treated our staff to a week of treats for Staff Appreciation Day!
2. We completed SBA Testing with very high participation rate!! Students, for the most part, took this very seriously and really worked at these assessments.
3. We're very proud of our LCSA Award winner Avery Mazzacane!
4. We'll be doing a June Calendar Countdown with a fun activity planned for each day!
5. Forbes will be having a simple, cohort-friendly but fun field day on June 10th.
6. Our 5th graders will enjoy their special 5th grade Fun Day on June 17th. Many thanks to the parents who raised money and planned to make this happen!

Nikki Fappiano's report on Vogel-Wetmore:

- Our staff has worked hard over the last month to start a "new" garden near our school entrance. The base of each raised bed gardens are made from the same blocks that were used at East School. We have begun to plant flowers and other ornamental plants. We hope to attract butterflies. Eventually, we will have vegetables growing as well. Staff and students have all played roles in this work and are excited to see the results!
- We have been celebrating a great year of hard work with an A to Z count down to the last day of school. Each day is a different theme based on the letter of the alphabet. For example, yesterday was H day and we had happy birthday day. All of our summer birthdays were announced. Many teachers celebrated in their classrooms with summer birthday students so they could feel special just like those that have birthdays during the school year. We have many surprising days coming for our students. Perhaps my favorite day (so far) was giving day. Students brought in coins to donate to a local animal shelter. The box of coins was so heavy that it took two of us to lift it!
- Last month I left you all with a cliffhanger on what would be happening for teacher appreciation week. I can share that it was an amazing week and students, parents and staff celebrated all of our teachers (remember, all of the adults in our building are teachers!) A few of the great celebrations were, an Ice Cream Emergency on Monday, small thoughtful treats each day following a circus theme (cotton candy, peanuts, popcorn), and the highlight of the week was a food truck that provided lunch for every teacher in the building. It was a wonderful week and all of the parents, students, and staff that helped made us all feel appreciated! Thank you!

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- Our student academic data is starting to come in and we are excitedly anticipating the work that we will get to do analyzing it as we finish the year and enter the summer. This data will so valuable in meeting individual student and curricular needs.

Armand Maniccia's report on TMS

- The Virtual Art Show is currently online link posted on our website
- National Junior Honor Society will happen June 8th at 6:30 in person for those families.
- Class night for 8th graders will happen outside June 11th 5:30-7:30 (rain date June 17)
- Virtual Acoustic Cafe will happen June 16th time to be determined and a link will be posted on our website and social media page.
- 8th grade special Hypnotist event will be June 18th during the school day

John Kissko's report on EdAdvance

In recent months Ed Advance

- extended the Executive Director's contract for three years
- approved the FY 2021-2022 budget
- held a ribbon cutting ceremony for a maker-space facility in Bethel
- gave out two scholarships to graduating member district seniors
- offered many pandemic-related services and programs to member districts
- held commencement exercises for the Foothills Adult and Continuing Education program; Assistant Superintendent Fergusson represented Torrington

Gary Eucalitto's report on Torringtonford

Torringtonford wrapped up SBA testing for our 3rd graders earlier this month. Most students took the test in-person, while some remote students tested from home. For some remote students, it was their first and only time in the building and meeting thier teacher in-person.

Teacher Appreciation week was a hit! The PTO spoiled our staff and made sure to show their appreciation for everyone at Torringtonford.

Congratulations to Jen Prichard Torringtonford Teacher of the Year and Maggie Scott Torringtonford Para of the Year.

PTO partnered with our teachers to provide virtual curriculum enrichment experiences for each grade level. We are looking forward to a final Science Extravaganza for all students to wrap up the year.

Third grade students will participate in a Fun Day on June 9th to celebrate their time at Torringtonford. Forbes 4th grade team is creating a virtual tour and Q&A for the transitioning third grade students.

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We have about 120 incoming Kindergarten students enrolled for next year. Please encourage families you know to register online. Once we know what protocols are in place this Summer, we will begin planning a way for incoming Kindergarten students to have an orientation or building tour.

Our Spring data is coming in from district assessments and we are pleased with the growth we are seeing from our targeted WINN block and afterschool intervention program. We have invited several students to our upcoming summer learning program to accelerate their growth as well. We have also seen phenomenal growth in student outcomes as a result of our student centered coaching cycles. The additional coaching position will allow for us to have more opportunities for student centered coaching that is directly impacting our achievement.

With the additional intervention positions, we have planned a master schedule for next year that allows for pull out and push in intervention support in all grade levels.

The staff, students, and families have worked tremendously hard to accelerate growth and provide engaging instruction this year. We are so proud of all of the efforts of our team.