

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on May 3, 2021.



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

**Special Budget Meeting
2021-2022 Budget Public Hearing
(Elementary, Special Education, and Curriculum)
Thursday, March 11, 2020, 6:00 P.M.
Migeon Ave/Zoom**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:00 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Mr. Maniccia, Mr. Corey (Remote), Ms. Fappiano
Absent: Mr. Eucalitto, Mr. Lafreniere
Also Present: Ms. Cappabianca, Ms. DePretis (Remote), Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Ms. Todor, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Ferguson, Mr. Arum, Ms. Schulte, Mr. Barlow, Ms. Herold, Ms. Klimaszewski
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Fappiano made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.
4. Public Participation: There was no one on the public line who wanted to speak and there was no e-mail sent.
5. Discussion on 2021-2022 Budget Regarding Elementary, Special Education and Curriculum:
Ms. Fappiano had questions on various staff members and their salaries. She expected to see a salary increase of 2% for everyone. The board reviewed the numbers. Mr. Arum stated that these numbers might have been budgeted at a higher amount, but it was not the actual amount. The board talked about the 5340 account and the projections. If there are retirements, the anticipated amount is level 2, step 5. Ms. Cappabianca discussed other funding sources versus meeting our basic needs. The grants shouldn't be used to fund basic needs. The federal funding sources are helping to address COVID impacts. Mr. Maniccia stated the general budget is our long-term budget, and the funding sources are filling in the gaps right now. There are lasting implications in making short term budgetary decisions. Ms. Cappabianca stated, "We cannot sacrifice regular items that we need (for example an English teacher) in our budget by moving them into these funding sources that will only exist for the next 2 years. For example, are we comfortable paying for classroom teachers with a 2-year grant? This is something we need to think about." The question was raised about adequate social worker and EL staff. Ms. Lubomski shared information on ELL and ESL enrollments. Currently, there is a bilingual teacher at every site with Forbes and Southwest sharing one this year. She shared data on STAR results regarding English learner students. There is a significant achievement gap between non-EL and EL students. ELL students are 11% of our population. Ms. Schulte said we are struggling to fill the bilingual and EL staffing tutors and para positions. Ms.

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Fappiano asked if we should invest in ELL Coordinator. Ms. Lubomski stated that she believes that would be beneficial, especially at the high school level. Mr. Maniccia wants the board to also look at increasing technology to support all students, including ELs with the grant funds. The board agreed that they are responsible to present what is needed for students, staff and programs, and it is up to the Board of Finance to determine the amount they will provide to the district.

6. Adjournment: Ms. Fappiano made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:31 P.M.