



## **Torrington Public Schools**

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI  
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSON  
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

### **School Improvement Committee Meeting Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 6:00 P.M. Migeon Avenue School**

#### **Minutes**

1. Call to Order: 6:00 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Mr. Kissko, Ms. Todor (Remote), Ms. Richardson, Ms. Gelormino (Teacher Representative)  
Also Present: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Deacon, Ms. Herold, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Herold, Ms. Morton, Ms. Pollutro, Ms. Creedon
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes: Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
5. Public Participation: None
6. Discussion and Next Steps:
  - a. Summer Program Report: Ms. Fergusson stated that hard data for the high school was not yet available because summer school is still in session. A total of 739 students participated in a TPS sponsored summer learning experience (approximately 22% of our student body). The extended learning/engagement opportunities were: Theme-based Summer school at the elementary level, personal interest project for grades 6-8, credit recovery for grades 9-12, Camp Moe, and KidsPlay Museum. The board watched a short video that captured some of the highlights of summer school. The upper elementary students were surveyed:  
Favorite part of summer program: getting to learn all about the Olympics, doing a play with Ms. Legendre, STEM outside activity, all the work and the team aspect, doing the research, meeting new people and making new friends. The students also gave an on what should be improved: make it a little longer, more activities and a little longer, full days, field trip to go along with the theme, more reading activities, combine grades and playscape time, more stem/outside time, and time to add more to the play.  
The Middle School: The PIP program – the Skills21 Personal Interest Project provided an opportunity for students to follow their own passions, complete a

project where they could “learn, solve, make or do” while mastering high leverage college and career readiness skills necessary for school and beyond, and communicate and collaborate with family, peers, and community experts. There are 3 phases in PIP: 1) Discover, 2) Create, and 3) Share. TMS personal interest projects included: Learn projects, solve projects, make projects, and do projects. Torrington High School – There were two programs: Credit recovery program (students earning between 50-64 in class) and intensive blended credit recovery program (students earning below 50 in the class.)

For elementary, the attendance rate was approximately 92% average daily. For TMS, the attendance rate was about 80% daily. The final average daily attendance had not been calculated at the time of this meeting due to the fact that summer school was still in session.

- b. Systemwide Focus Areas: Ms. Lubomski presented the updated focus areas for 2021-2022.
  - 1) Attendance: Reduction of chronically disconnected/absent students: 11%, 9%, 8%, 7%, 6% over the next 5 years
  - 2) Engaging, Differentiated Instruction
  - 3) Target Student Needs
  - 4) Community Outreach: Student, Parent, Community EngagementOne of the new areas for attendance is to: train and implement K-12 Home Visiting/Family Engagement outreach plan. She explained in detail how these focus areas will be met.

Ms. Richardson asked if we were able to engage with families who disconnected throughout the summer. Ms. Fergusson stated that several staff members are being trained to conduct home visits, and they keep a log of all outreach. This is an ongoing process.

- 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.
  - 3. Oversee and support whatever is necessary to deal with the educational impact of the effects of prolonged distance learning.
- d. Opening Plan, Current Status: Ms. Lubomski stated that we are awaiting the guidance from the Governor. Information on the status of mask wearing is forthcoming.
- e. Website, Altice, Social Media Updates: Ms. Herold gave an update: 175 people viewed our Facebook page. A highlight is that 508 people watched the new clip about our backpack giveaway at Summer Fest. Our graduation broadcast has been viewed over 1,500 times.

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on September 22, 2021.

- f. Alliance Update: We may be getting a little more funding. More updates to come.
  - g. Meeting Location Schedule for 2021-2022: Ms. Lubomski stated if we adhere to the COVID guidelines in the buildings; we should be able to meet in the schools. This would be good to start in October.
    - September – Migeon Ave.
    - October – Tarringford
    - November – Vogel-Wetmore
    - Dec – Forbes
    - Jan – Migeon Ave.
    - Feb – Migeon Ave.
    - March – Migeon Ave.
    - April – Southwest
    - May – TMS
    - June – THS
7. Topics for Future Meetings:
- a. Social Promotion
  - b. Homogeneous vs. Heterogeneous Grouping
  - c. Washington Field Trip
  - d. Middle School Improvement Plan
  - e. Cell Phone Policy
  - f. Uniforms
8. Comments for the Good of the Order: (Paraphrased)
- Joanne – “I enjoy my new position.”
- Ronnie – “Summer school has been great for the teachers and students”
- Andrew – “Thank you to the administrators and staff for the planning of this upcoming school year”
- Sue F. – “I reiterate the comments about summer school.”
- Sue L. – “Thank you everyone for summer school; we were able to reach students on a whole new level.”
- Kim – “I loved watching the summer school video.”
- Cathy – “Great report on the summer school video and I am thankful for our community partners.”
- Ally – “You saw a 7-minute video, but we have an hour and a half of footage of amazing and talented students.”
- Gary – “As much as I had my doubts, it was better than I had expected.”
- Fiona – “Thank you everyone for the backpack distribution.”
- Jessica – “Good meeting, a lot of good information.”
- John – “It is such a pleasure to talk about numbers of students, instead of dollars. Many thanks to everyone for being here.”
9. Adjournment: Ms. Richardson made a motion to adjourn, second by Ms. Todor.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.
- Next Meeting: September 15<sup>th</sup>