



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

School Improvement Committee Meeting Wednesday, October 6, 2021, 7:00 P.M. Torrington School

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 7:03 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Mr. Kissko, Ms. Todor, Ms. DePretis
Also Present: Ms. Cappabianca, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Deacon, Ms. Fappiano, Ms. Herold, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Herold, Ms. Mazzato, Ms. Klimaszewski, Ms. Sousa, Mr. Craig
Excused: Ms. Richardson
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. DePretis made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes: Ms. DePretis made a motion to approve the amended minutes, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
5. Public Participation: None
6. Discussion and Next Steps:
 - a. Torrington School Report – Mr. Kissko reported on his recent visit to Torrington School. He found the school to be a vibrant, happy place with staff and students going about the business of teaching and learning. Torrington currently has 604 students enrolled in grades K-3 with 173 of them in Kindergarten. The Kindergarten students range in age from 4 to 7 years which is a challenge but one that was anticipated due to impacts of the pandemic. The school is sponsoring a book fair at the end of this month.
 - b. Middle School Improvement Plan – Mr. Brian Scott and his administrative team presented the TMS SIP. The school mission statement is: TMS fosters a challenging learning environment that inspires high expectations for achievement through instructional practices that embrace individual differences and learning styles. Mr. Scott shared that 96 new students registered at the start of the year. This was a larger than expected number and scheduling was a challenge, however it has now been worked out. He also reported that middle school age students faced difficulty learning remotely which is reflected in the STAR assessment data for Fall 20, Winter 21, and Spring 21. There is a flat trendline. While student performance on this assessment was largely static,

given the pandemic and all the associated impacts, the administration is pleased that the scores did not dip. He reminded the committee that the middle school students were attending via a hybrid model until March 15th.

Priority Goal 1: Strengthen collaborative and effective planning for instruction that engages all students in rigorous and relevant learning.

Priority Goal 2: Strengthen instructional strategies and practices with a focus on Tier 1 instructional supports and differentiated instruction.

Priority Goal 3: Ensure a culture of caring that supports student engagement.

Priority Goal 4: Engage in curriculum development and revision to enhance the district's core educational program that ensures equitable access for all learners.

The team shared various strategies employed to work toward these goals, reporting that due to the teacher shortage and the high enrollment, class sizes are large. The administration is addressing that problem. Ms. Fergusson shared with the committee that a phone-call still qualifies as a "home" visit. There are two very exciting new world language teachers this year. The committee inquired as to whether the teaching staff are given voice and opportunities to be involved in building-wide change. Mr. Scott shared that he and the teacher's union rep and meet monthly to ensure that a collaborative climate is cultivated. Teachers are afforded many opportunities to be as involved as they'd like to be. There are middle school teachers in the grading committee. Ms. Cappabianca asked Mr. Scott what things may we consider during budget season to get in front of the disciplinary issues that we are seeing in the middle school? Mr. Craig replied that having a social worker has been very helpful. Mr. Scott stated that 95% of TMS students are making good decisions. Cellphones and Air pods are the most low-level difficulties they deal with.

- c. Meeting Minutes Components: The committee discussed the documents handed out in the meeting and options of these documents being available online. Ms. Herold will come up with a plan for this.
- d. Building Committee Structure and Membership: What is the BOE's role in this? State statute does not address who is responsible for establishing this committee; it is up to the town. The board can get a legal opinion. City Council approved the member list of the building committee. Ms. Fappiano requested that the committee seek a legal opinion. As the result of a straw poll, a legal opinion will not be requested at this time.
- e. Superintendent Evaluation – Mr. Kissko asked Ms. Lubomski if she can bring back the list (that she created last year) and goals for next month.
- f. Systemwide Focus Areas:
(Attendance, Engaging and Differentiated Instruction, Targeting Student Needs, Community Outreach: Student, Parent, and Community Engagement)
- g. 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.
 - h. Website, Altice, Social Media Updates: Ms. Herold gave the committee updates on our Facebook page and the engagement. Can THS football be live streamed? She will send out the link via Twitter.
 - i. TAG Update: Ms. Klimaszewski reported that Andrew Deacon is developing a schedule for CoGat test administration. All of the assessments will have been administered by the end of October.
 - j. Alliance Update: Ms. Lubomski stated that our data must be submitted by the end of the week. There will be an update at a future meeting.
7. Topics for Future Meetings:
- a. Social Promotion
 - b. Homogeneous vs. Heterogeneous Grouping
 - c. Washington Field Trip
 - d. Cellphones
 - e. Uniforms
 - f. Facilities Re-alignment
 - g. Documents
 - h. Pathways
8. Comments for the Good of the Order: (Paraphrased)
- Andrew - "Thank you to the Middle School team."
- Kim - "Good meeting and good presentation."
- Sue L. and F. - "Good meeting and thank you to the Middle School team."
- Laura - "Thank you for all your efforts."
- John - "Thank you everyone for coming to these meetings."
9. Adjournment: Ms. Todor made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:43 P.M.

Next Meeting: November 3rd, Vogel-Wetmore School

Future Meetings: December 1st, Forbes School; January 5th, Migeon Avenue School; February 2nd, Migeon Avenue School; March 2nd, Migeon Avenue School; April 6th, Southwest School; May 4th, Torrington Middle School; June 1st, Torrington High School