

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on August 25, 2021.



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN FERGUSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

School Improvement Committee Meeting Wednesday, June 2, 2021, 6:00 P.M. Migeon Avenue School

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:00 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. Mazzatto, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Maguire
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes: Ms. DePretis made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Richardson. All in favor.
5. Public Participation: None
6. Discussion and Next Steps:
 - a. Systemwide Focus Areas
(Attendance, Student Engagement, Targeting Student Needs)
 - b. 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.
-The new building will support the pathways. Pathways are evolving.
 3. Oversee and support whatever is necessary to deal with the educational impact of the effects of prolonged distance learning.
-Mr. Deacon responded that we are starting to see some preliminary data at the elementary level, and it is looking promising.
 - c. New Course Proposals
UCONN ECE Philosophy 1101: Problems of Philosophy – Ms. Ferguson shared

an e-mail from Mr. Richardson explaining what this course will entail. There will not be a pre-req for this class. This will replace the current philosophy class. African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Contributions to United States History and Society

Based on State legislation this course will be required to be offered as an elective by September 2022. This was submitted by the Social Studies department. The State is anticipating having a curriculum this Summer.

- d. Barriers to Student Success (continued from May): Ms. Fergusson shared some data:

Semester #1 2019/2020: 11% of students failed one class pre Covid

Semester #1 2020/2021: 12% of students failed one class during Covid

Semester #1 2019/2020: 10% of students failed more than one class pre Covid

Semester #1 2020/2021: 32% of students failed more than one class during Covid.

We are attempting to get to the root of the problem. The problems are being addressed through curriculum work – common assured learning, improvement in instruction – intentional teaching, adopting an Acceleration Model, prioritization of standards – grade level and course team collaborative planning and using data to drive instructional decision-making.

Building In-School Supports:

- WINN Blocks K-8

- Learning Lab 6-8

- Academic Resource Center 9-12

- STAR Study Hall 9 (proposed)

- Common planning time for teachers

Extended Day - Grades 2-5 - 23 teachers and 170 students. Grades 6-8 - 6 teachers and 60 students. Grades 9-12 - 9 teachers and 100 students.

Summer Programming: In grades K-8, a theme-based approach will be used with a focus on skill development. In grades 9-12, students will attend to attempt to recover credit. An online platform will be the basis for this, however teachers will be present to assist with skill development and conceptual understanding.

Professional Development: Teacher professional learning will focus on prioritization of the standards, Performance Matters (data analytics tool), acceleration, and intentional planning.

Professional Development: Administrative professional learning will include Performance Matters, acceleration, critical conversations, data driven decision making, and additional training in digital platforms adopted by the district.

- e. Website, Altice, Social Media Updates: Ms. Herold reviewed the statistics. A highlight is that 314 people have watched the Academic Awards night.
- f. TAG Update: Ms. Klimaszewski has received some phone calls from parents requesting information about the TAG process. There are 4 students who have begun to go through the identification process.
- g. Alliance Update: We will be meeting with Iris White (Alliance Liaison) in mid-July.

7. Topics for Future Meetings:

- a. Social Promotion

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- b. Homogeneous vs. Heterogeneous Grouping
 - c. Washington Field Trip
 - d. Grade Configuration
8. Comments for the Good of the Order: (paraphrased)
- Leanne – “Glad to be here and step in for Robin – love to hear the progress.”
- Veronica – “I love to hear the positivity.”
- Sue L. – “I agree with Ronnie and this was a very efficient meeting.”
- Sue D. – “Great meeting and thank you for getting us through the student success”
- Ally – “Big shout out to the OTL.”
- Ellen – “Great meeting and great information.”
- Fiona – “It is nice to be in a position where we have all the right people in all the right places.”
- Cathy – “Great meeting and thank you for that report to celebrate the students and our teachers.”
- Maureen – “Thank you Sue and Sue for their leadership.”
- Sue F. – “Thank you; it takes a village.”
- Andrew – “Thank you; great meeting.”
- Jessica – “Thank you; great meeting.”
- John K. – “Thank you for participating and good things are happening.”
9. Adjournment: Ms. Richardson made a motion to adjourn, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:03 P.M.
- Next Meeting: August 4th Migeon Ave.