



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Wednesday, August 25, 2021, 6:00 P.M.
355 Migeon Ave. Torrington, CT 06790**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:02 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Corey (Remote), Ms. DePretis, Ms. Fappiano, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Todor (Remote), Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Arum, Ms. Boisvert, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Klimaszewski, Ms. Herold
Absent: Mr. Eucalitto (excused), Mr. Barlow
3. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.
4. School/Community Service/Public Participation:
Liz Paterson: Advocated for unmasking the children for the school year.
Eliana Paterson: Advocated for unmasking of herself and her peers for the school year.
Catherine Fiorella: Advocated for making mask wearing being optional for children.
Linda Galinski: Advocated for mask wearing being optional for children.
Sondra Strulhor: Advocated for “your child your choice” regarding for masks.
5. Information Sharing Session:
 - A. Superintendent’s Report: Ms. Lubomski gave a report to the board. School starts next Thursday. The full staff starts on Monday, 8/30 with Convocation. She acknowledged the hard work of the HR department for a total of 72 new hires! Ms. Richardson asked what will happen if a student refuses to wear a mask. Ms. Lubomski answered that they will try to get the student to comply, and if in an extreme case, s/he does not, the administrator will call the parents.
 1. Office of Teaching and Learning Update: Ms. Fergusson reported on:
Professional Development: Acceleration training, performance matters training, mandated reporter training/OSHA update, and overviews of newly acquired district resources.
Curriculum & Instruction: During summer learning there were 739 students, 70 staff from July 6 – August 19, 2021. Data analysis will be shared at an upcoming SIC meeting. Curriculum work in all core content areas has been done throughout the summer

and will continue through the coming school year.
Assessment: Additional SBA data has been recently released to district officials. It now includes remote test takers. Data analysis will be presented at an upcoming SIC meeting. Preparation for fall test administration and whole group administration of a screener for TAG identification is occurring.
Technology: Ms. Herold reported: Device distribution, support for digital learning platforms, work on configuring switches for erate project, and implementation of Cloud Authentications for all existing Macs and new Macs.

2.Special Education Update: Ms. Klimaszewski showed the board the updated special education numbers from 2019 in comparison to June 21, 2021 and the student growth reflected in the data shared.

- B. BOE Budget 2021-2022: No updates. It is too soon in the year for updates. Minimal purchases were made.
- C. Monthly Financials: We have spent 3.4 million of our budgets thus far. Ms. Boisvert clarified the donations line indicated Covid expenditures, but the description can not be changed in the system, so it was put it as “donations.”
- D. Vaccine Mandate for Employees: This was a surprise for the superintendents. The state employees must provide proof of full vaccination, religious exemption, medical exemption, or get tested weekly. Ms. Lubomski is waiting on clarification regarding if those staff seeking exemptions are still required to get tested weekly. On the subject of testing, if someone is symptomatic and a close contact then the insurance will pay for it, but if a staff member is asymptomatic, our insurance will not pay for the test. Ms. Richardson shared her concerns about asking people with exemptions to pay out of pocket to take a test weekly. Ms. Lubomski replied that we need to wait and see what the lawyers say, and she will update the board with the information as she receives it.
- E. Educational Specifications – Building Project: Mr. Arum and Amy Samuelson from SLAM presented the educational specifications for the new high school building. In June of 2020, the BOE approved the Education Specifications. SLAM reviewed the Education Specifications in over 20 meetings. There were a few adjustments to the program and subsequently, adjusted Education Specifications. Ms. DePretis asked if some of the pathways were removed or renamed? Amy stated a

combination, the pathway program has evolved during this process. Ms. Richardson shared that having an automotive program would be very useful to develop life skills, and she wants to see it put back in. Ms. Cappabianca explained that the space had to be prioritized, because we were already over our space capacity limits. Ms. Samuelson clarified that we must stay within the state's space allocation in order to receive reimbursement on the whole project. Another board member questioned the space for wood shop. Ms. Samuelson explained that the students will still be able to participate in creating things with wood working equipment, but it won't be called "shop." Ms. Samuelson clarified that anytime there is a shared space in the building between THS and TMS, they will not be using it at the same time. The scheduling for use of the rooms for band, music and the auditorium will separate the middle and high school students. Ms. Samuelson stated the board needs to approve the Educational Specifications, before they can go to the state for the design review.

- F. O&G Contract – Mr. Arum clarified:
Building Project: The Building Committee approved the contract, the City Council and Mayor approved it and signed it. Now, the board must approve it and sign it.
- G. Possible Truck Purchase Options: Ms. Boisvert said she would have to order the truck from Tasca Ford for \$36,238.30. The truck from Torrington Ford is \$42,695.90. There is not a truck available on the lot. We would have to order it. The amount for the vehicle would be taken from the maintenance line from the budget.
- H. CAFE Membership: The recommendation is to keep the CAFE membership at least through the pandemic, because they have provided a great deal of relevant information. The membership costs is \$14,831 a year, which is included in our budget.
- I. Calendar 2021-2022 – Ms. Lubomski discussed the change in September to the back to school evening, moving them to Thursday.
- J. Renovation Proposal & Allocation of Funds from 2018 Referendum: Ms. Lubomski shared the City Council meeting approvals. The referendum is asking that the window money be moved and repurposed towards the TMS metal roof. The City put around \$569,000.00 for the Board of Education EL positions into their ARPA grant. There is \$500,000 in Capital Reserve due to the savings from the state reimbursement on the TMS flat roof.

6. Committee Reports:

- A. Budget Committee: Mr. Maniccia reported that the committee discussed trucks, the new year, and the ARPA update.
- B. Facilities & Technology Committee: Move to next month
- C. School Improvement Committee: Mr. Kissko reported that the committee discussed the summer school results and we will hear the THS summer school results at the next meeting.
- D. Building Committee: Discussed previously
- E. Liaison Reports: (Paraphrased).
Ms. DePretis reported that the Torrington Women's Club collected school supplies and they wanted to contact the building administrators to find where the need is.
Mr. Maniccia - TMS – "They had their 6th grade orientation on Monday. Summer school was a success."
Ms. Fappiano – Vogel Wetmore – "Kindergarten orientation is tomorrow. On Monday the 30th is a meet and great for students to meet their teachers."
Mr. Kissko - EdAdvance – "EdAdvance director is on channel 3 today."

7. Action Items:

- A. Monthly Financials – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the monthly financials, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.
- B. Educational Specifications – Building Project – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the educational specifications as presented, second by Mr. Maniccia. Ms. Richardson opposed. Everyone else in favor. Motion passes.
- C. O&G Contract – Building Project – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the O&G contract, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
- D. Possible Truck Purchase: Ms. Richardson made a motion to authorize the Business Office to purchase a truck using the parameters discussed at tonight's meeting, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
- E. CABA Membership – Mr. Kissko made a motion to keep the CABA membership, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.
- F. Calendar 2021-2022 – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the Calendar 2021-2022 with changes, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
- G. BOE Regular Meeting Minutes – June 21, 2021 – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
- H. BOE Special Meeting Minutes: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the BOE special minutes, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
 - 1. June 16, 2021
 - 2. August 4, 2021

- I. Committee Meeting Minutes: Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.
 - 1.School Improvement Committee – June 2, 2021
 - 2.Budget Committee – June 9, 2021
 - 3.Facilities & Technology Committee – June 9, 2021
 - 4.Building Committee – May 20, 2021
 - 5.Building Committee – June 1, 2021
 - 6.Building Committee – July 14, 2021
- J. Consent Agenda: Appointments, Retirements & Resignations
Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Mr. Maniccia. Ms. Richardson abstained. Everyone else in favor. Consent agenda is approved.
8. Items for Upcoming Agenda:
 - A. Monthly Financials
 - B. Mask Update
 - C. Vaccine Update
 - D. Truck Update
 - E. School Opening Update
9. Comments for the Good of the Order: (Paraphrased)
Ms. Todor – “Good meeting!”
Ms. Richardson– “We saw the news of what is going on with Afghanistan, do we have any family members who are impacted are our social workers helping the students?”
Mr. Kissko – “CAFTA meeting October 20th set the date aside.”
Ms. Fappiano– “Here is to a good school year; summer flew by and welcome to all the new hires!”
Mr. Maniccia– “Thank you everyone and welcome to all the newbies.”
Ms. Lubomski– “Very excited for the new year and thank you to the board for all your patience with the state mandates around COVID.”
Ms. DePretis – “Thank you to Ally and her IT team. Good job.”
Ms. Cappabianca– “Wish everyone a happy new school year!”
10. Future Meetings:
Wednesday, September 8, 2021 (at Migeon Ave.)
6:00 p.m. – Facilities/Technology Committee
7:00 p.m. – Budget Committee
Thursday, September 9, 2021 (at Torringtonford)
5:00 p.m. – Building Committee
Wednesday, September 15, 2021 (at Migeon Ave.)
6:00 p.m. – School Improvement and Community Relations Committee
7:00 p.m. – Policy Committee
Wednesday, September 22, 2021 (at Migeon Ave.)
6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Education Meeting
11. Adjournment: Mr. Kissko made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. DePretis second. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.