



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Monday, May 3, 2021, 6:00 P.M.
355 Migeon Ave – Remote Meeting**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:03 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Ms. DePretis, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Maniccia, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Todor, Ms. Fappiano, Ms. Todor, Mr. Corey (Remote) Ms. Richardson, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Ferguson (Remote), Mr. Arum, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Herold, Ms. Klimaszewski, Mr. Barlow (Remote)
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. DePretis made a motion to amend the agenda changing the future meeting to May 12th for SIC, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
4. School/Community Service/Public Participation: None.
5. Information Sharing Session:
 - A. Superintendent's Report: The THS Marching Band has received another honor. They have been invited to perform in Washington DC at the 2022 Memorial Day Parade representing Connecticut. Many thanks to CHH and the Armory to providing vaccinations to our 16+ year old students. This week is staff appreciation week. Ms. Lubomski read the statement she sent out to her staff – some of the statements she made were “you have offered support to our students during this unprecedented time. You have been the hope and connection to help them persevere. You have kept our students healthy and strong...thank you for all you are, all that you do for our students and for your extraordinary dedication to the Torrington Public Schools community.”
 1. Office of Teaching and Learning Update: Dr. Deacon shared that plans are underway to partner with the Center for School Change to provide Acceleration of Learning professional development training this summer for site administrators and in August for teachers district wide. Our coaches and intervention staff have already been trained. Ms. Mazzatto provided an update on the curriculum work being done throughout the district. Extended Day learning is happening at each grade band. At the elementary level, there are 170 students receiving supplemental instruction and 60 of our TMS students are receiving instruction after school in English and

Math. The Academic Resource Center at THS supports 130 students. The Grading Expectations team is meeting this Wednesday to explore and develop guidelines for secondary teachers based on the data collected from the teacher surveys.

Dr. Deacon gave an update on assessments. The administration of the NGSS assessment is currently occurring for our students in grades 5, 8, and 11 and will conclude mid-month. We are beginning to administer the SBA to grade 3-8. Grade 3 students began testing today, grade 4 students will begin next week and so on.

Ms. Herold gave an update on technology. The Tech Team members in each building are supporting the administration of the NGSS and SBA. Loaner Chromebooks have been brought to each school. Due to recent network upgrades and increased bandwidth, the assessment data traffic does not create any impact on network performance even with multiple buildings testing at once.

2.Special Education Update: Ms. Klimaszewski gave a Special Education update. We have had a little bit of an uptick. The CT SDE Annual Performance Report Prevalence Rate (APR) on April 1, 2021 is 15.72%. The CT SDE Rate APR for Students Outplaced K-12 on April 1, 2021 is 10.87%. There have been 33 students who exited from special education this year; they have tested out. Since the start of school this year, 37 children have moved into Torrington with an IEP for in-district programming. Also, 33 children have moved out of Torrington with an IEP for in-district programming. Right now, the focus is on filling staff vacancies.

- B. BOE Budget 2021-2022: The meeting went very well. We will know the City's decision by mid to end of June.
- C. American Rescue Plan Act: Ms. Lubomski updated the board that we are waiting right now. We should be receiving more information about mid-May. There may be options for a combination of operational and capital expenditures.
- D. Monthly Financials: Mr. Maniccia stated that we are about million dollars in the black. However, we are not sure what the final numbers will be. About 96% of our budget has been expended. The lights at Vogel-Wetmore were installed.
- E. Covid-19 Expenses: We received our 4th payment.

F. Covid Update

1. End of Year Events: We will be having outside events, but we will be asking people to wear their masks. The 8th grade night, prom and graduation will be held outside. June 19th is the rain date for graduation.
2. Remote Learning: Ms. Lubomski shared the interim guidance on remote learning. There is no requirement for remote education next year. However, we are still looking at some different strategies where remote learning may be applicable. We are going to start the school year in person next year.
3. Location of Future BOE Meetings after May 19th: We would like to have a few people join us for our May and June meetings for recognitions. The meetings can be held at Torrington, so those being honored could come.

- G. Policy #3050 School Activity Funds (Updated) – the change to Administrator of Business Services was made.
- H. Policy #4003 Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletics (New) We were following this state mandate, but the district needed to make it a policy.
- I. Federal Adult Education Program Enhancement Projects Grant – This does not cost the district anything. The focus is birth to 3. All the district must do is provide the space. The grant provides for parent education, building language and job skills.
- J. Distinguished Alumnus: Mr. Kissko stated that the process has been going on over several months. There were 12 nominees. It was a difficult decision. The committee is recommending Stephen Rusckowski from the class of 1975. Mr. Rusckowski is the President and CEO of Quest Diagnostics.
- K. School Calendar 2021-2022: Ms. Lubomski presented the calendar with the changes. The PD date was moved from February to August. The board is tentatively approving this. It will be determined if the half days once a month will be Wednesdays or Thursdays.
- L. Healthy Food Certification: Mr. Arum stated this comes before the board every year. As a result of the Healthy Food Certification, the district will receive about \$58,000.00 from the State.

6. Committee Reports:

- A. Budget Committee: Mr. Maniccia reported that we continue to monitor our budget. Our BOF and BOE joint meeting went exceptionally well. We are looking forward to finding out the parameters of the American Rescue Act.
- B. Facilities & Technology Committee: Mr. Barlow reviewed the window project. Mr. Arum and Mr. Barlow are working on the fees for the field usage. Ms. Cappabianca will write a letter to the City to waive the fee for field usage (not the custodial fee) for our varsity baseball team.
- C. School Improvement Committee: Mr. Kissko reported that our meetings are very well attended. We heard the school improvement plan for Vogel-Wetmore and Tarringford at the last meeting.
- D. Policy Committee: Ms. Schulte and Ms. Ferguson are looking at which policies that need to be updated as well as evaluating what we do not have and what we need to have.
- E. Building Committee: Mr. Arum reported that we are finalizing the plans on the parking and entrance. We hired a commissioning company. The SLAM and O & G contracts are being finalized.
- F. Liaison Reports: (Paraphrased)
 - Ms. Fappiano reported on Vogel-Wetmore: "Litchfield County Superintendent award is going to Chase Picz. They're very happy with the new lights and new treads. They celebrated beach day. They started testing. This week is staff appreciation week."
 - Ms. DePretis reported on Southwest "Litchfield County Superintendent award is Lily Artruc. Some of their testing is complete and other testing is coming up. Spirit days were a lot of fun: Earth Day and Fancy Friday. They are planning a Memorial Day program for Uncle John on May 28th at 11 A.M. Staff appreciation week is happening."
 - Mr. Eucalitto reported on Tarringford: "Drop in Principal's Virtual Coffee Hours on May 6th. Kindergarten registration is happening, spread the word. Ms. Mangan's class is problem solving. Ms. Giampaolo's class had a special camping day."
 - Mr. Kissko reported on EdAdvance: "Foothills Adult Education Graduation will be in person."
 - Ms. Richardson reported on School Governance: "There was a good turnout for PSAT and SAT. They talked about getting a THS PTO. We have sports happening right now: softball, baseball, tennis, track, and golf."
 - Ms. Todor reported on Forbes: "The school celebrated National Poetry month in April. Student leadership helped coordinate an Earth Day Bottle Drive. The students went on a virtual fieldtrip to Mystic. Many thanks to our coaches for smooth test administration that our students are taking."

7. Action Items:

- A. Monthly Financials: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the monthly financials, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.

- B. Policy #3050 School Activity Funds (Updated) – Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve Policy #3050, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
- C. Policy #4003 Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness for Intramural and Interscholastic Athletics (New) – Ms. Hoehne made a motion to approve Policy #4003, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
- D. Federal Adult Education – Program Enhancement Projects Grant – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the Federal Adult Education Grant, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
- E. Distinguished Alumnus – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve distinguished alumnus as recommended by the SIC committee, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor. Congratulations Stephen Rusckowski.
- F. School Calendar 2021-2022 – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the School Calendar 2021-2022 as amended with the understanding there may be a change to half days, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
- G. Healthy Food Certification: Mr. Maniccia made the following motion which was second by Mr. Kissko:
Motion language for healthy food option: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the board of education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.
All in favor. This motion passes.

Mr. Maniccia made the following motion which was second by Ms. DePretis:

Motion language for combined food and beverage exemptions: The board of education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly

scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

All in favor. This motion passes.

- H. BOE Regular Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2021 – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
 - I. BOE Special Meeting Minutes – March 24, 2021 - Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
 - J. BOE Special Meeting Minutes – March 31, 2021 - Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
 - K. Committee Meeting Minutes – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the committee minutes in a bundle, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - 1.School Improvement – March 10, 2021
 - 2.Policy Committee – November 4, 2020
 - 3.Budget Committee – March 3, 2021
 - 4.Special Budget Meeting Public Hearing – March 11, 2021
 - 5.Special Budget Meeting Public Hearing – March 16, 2021
 - 6.Special Budget Meeting – March 22, 2021
 - 7.Facilities and Technology Committee – March 3, 2021
 - 8.Building Committee – March 4, 2021
 - L. Consent Agenda: Appointments, Retirements & Resignations – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
8. Items for Upcoming Agenda:
- A. Monthly Financials
 - B. 2021-2022 Budget
 - C. American Rescue Act
 - D. Remote Learning Update
 - E. Alliance Update
9. Comments for the Good of the Order (Paraphrased)
- John – “Social Dilemma on Netflix is an excellent movie.”
- Nikki – “It was nice to hear from Andrew and Maureen. I wanted to give a shout out to Torrington Dunkin for sponsoring coffee for all the staff.”
- Armand – “Thank you everyone and keep up the good work.”
- Fiona – “Junior class is selling spirit wear.”

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on May 26, 2021.

Lubomski – “Much appreciation for all of our staff at the sites and Central Office.”

Kim – “We are recruiting.”

10. Future Meetings:

Wednesday, May 12, 2021 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – School Improvement Committee

7:00 p.m. – Policy Committee

Wednesday, May 19, 2021 (at Migeon Ave.)

6:00 p.m. – Facilities/Technology Committee

7:00 p.m. – Budget Committee

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 (at Torringtonford)

6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Education Meeting

11. Adjournment: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:39 P.M.