



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Monday, June 21, 2021, 6:00 P.M.
Torrington School
800 Charles Street, Torrington, CT 06790**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:03 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Corey (Remote), Ms. DePretis, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Fappiano, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Todor, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Arum, Mr. Barton, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Herold
Absent: Ms. Klimaszewski (unable to attend, Mr. Barton presenting), Mr. Barlow
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. DePretis made a motion to amend the agenda adding 7H – ECS Funding and 7I 2021-2022 BOE Calendar and action items 9H – ECS Funding and 9I – 2021-2022 BOE Calendar, second by Ms. Kissko. All in favor.
4. School/Community Service/Public Participation:
Liz Patterson: Advocating for unmasking the children for the school year.
Jennifer Kelly: Advocating for unmasking the children for the school year. She believes that masks should be optional, and a remote option should be given if masks are not optional.
Elliana Patterson: She advocated for not wearing masks in school.
5. Recognitions: Ms. Lubomski and the Chair recognized Mr. Arum tonight and his significant contributions during his many years in service to the district. Mr. Arum received a plaque and a standing ovation.
6. Information Sharing Session:
 - A. Superintendent's Report: Graduation was held on the turf field. It was the perfect way to culminate the year on our own "turf". Staff and student speeches were very inspiring. Today was the last day of school.
 1. Office of Teaching and Learning Update: Ms. Fergusson reviewed the summer work, programs and activities. Summer training for administrators: Various electronic platforms, Data Analytics, Systems work-goal development, student & family engagement/chronic absenteeism, Accelerated Learning. Summer curriculum work is scheduled for all core content areas: ELA, Math, Science, Social Studies, World Language, Library Media Science. Results of Spring testing are being disaggregated now. OTL will present data at an upcoming School Improvement Committee meeting.

Technology – The team is in process of receiving devices back from students. they will be inventoried, cleaned, asset tagged, updated, and prepared for distribution. We will turn around over 550 devices in about a week to prepare for summer school. Graduation was a huge success. Ms. Herold coordinated the sound system and the live-streaming of the event.

2.Special Education Update: We are down total 9 SPED students for June. A total of 55 students have exited (tested out) from special education this year. Mr. Barton gave an overview of the elementary reflection rooms. Ms. Richardson asked how do they know if the child is overutilizing the reflection room for the wrong reasons? For example, acting out, so s/he can go to the reflection room. Mr. Barton said the staff would change the way the child saw the reflection room, so they would not perceive it as a reward. They are trained in dealing with these situations.

- B. BOE Budget 2021-2022: There will not be a joint meeting with the BOE and BOF. The Mayor suggested to the Chair that she should email the BOE's issues and concerns regarding the budget to her, so the comptroller and their legal counsel could respond.
- C. American Rescue Plan Act Update: Ms. Lubomski reported that no less than 90% of the funds must be allocated to local educated agencies. LEAs must reserve at least 20% of their allocation to address learning loss through the implementation of evidence-based interventions and ensure these interventions: Respond to student's social, emotional, and academic needs; Address disproportionate impact on under-represented subgroups. CSDE may reserve up to 10% of the funds for state-level activities, including the following set aside requirements. LEA (Local Education Authority-district) allocation is based on respective Title allocations. It is our collective responsibility to fulfill the established priorities through an equity-focused lens.

Ms. Lubomski will update the board continuously. This plan must be evaluated every 6 months until 2023.

- D. Reopening Plan 2021-2022: Ms. Lubomski presented the plan to the board. The following at the priorities for next year:
 - 1.100% in-person instructional learning model;

- 2.Safeguarding the health and safety of students and staff;
- 3.Monitoring the health of students and staff and, when necessary, isolating positive cases and close contacts who have not been vaccinated;
- 4.Emphasizing equity, access and support to the students and communities that are emerging from this history disruption, including 1:1 devices and connectivity;
- 5.Fostering strong two-way communication with partners such as families, educators, and staff; and
- 6.Ensuring all students, families and staff have the social emotional and mental health support they need.

The ARPA/ESSER III allocated funds will be \$5,955,536.00.

Feedback from the 1,327 respondents of the Re-Opening Plan survey is as follows:

- 68.4% Are completely comfortable returning
- 17.2% Happy to return but a little apprehensive
- 6.1% Happy for the sense of normalcy but wish there were more ways to protect everyone
- 8.3% Wish remote learning was still an option

The board talked about rewording the mask mandate and what it means to follow guidance as opposed to mandates. There were questions on the emphasis from the State on social emotional support requirements of the application. There were questions about summer school. There have been 700 kids identified, but there is not a final commitment from everyone yet. There were questions about chronic absenteeism.

- E. Monthly Financials: Mr. Maniccia reported that we are at a year end surplus.
- F. Approval of Primary Mental Health Program Grant: This grant has been in existence for many years. The students will receive support as they enter kindergarten. This does not cost the district anything – we just provide a space for the program.
- G. Field Trip – All State Music Festival, Hartford CT – This is a recurring trip.

- H. ECS Funding – The BOE now has the option to request from the State 2% of the ECS funding be given directly to the district. We must notify the BOF and City Council and the State by the end of June. The Chair stated that the benefit students will receive the funding needed. “Each year, the district has come to the table to work with the City in good faith.” The negative side is that the City is will receive 2% less. Mr. Eucalitto stated, “If we can’t get an increase this year when the City has a surplus, we will not get an increase ever.”
 - I. BOE Calendar 2021-2022: The Board discussed making the changing the events dates on April 20th to April 13th.
7. Committee Reports:
- A. Budget Committee – Mr. Maniccia reported that the committee discussed the ARPA update, Covid-19 final report, EdAdvance food management services, and monthly financials.
 - B. Facilities & Technology Committee: Mr. Eucalitto reported that the committee discussed the Security Grant, Window project update and on June 24th there will be a zoom meeting with the State.
 - C. School Improvement Committee: Mr. Kissko reported that the committee presented the Alumnus of the Year award. It was a very positive experience. The next meeting will be on August 4th SIC, including the TMS improvement plan.
 - D. Policy Committee – Ms. Hoehne reported that the committee discussed two policies - #1028 and #6088, and they will revisit them again in August.
 - E. Building Committee – first career fair at THS at the gym.
 - F. Liaison Reports: (Paraphrased)
 - Ms. Todor’s report on Forbes – “Fabulous 15 days of fun with special activities in June. There was an outside concert for the whole school to enjoy. Fifth graders received their t-shirts for class of 2028. Today was the last day of school, and we there was a 5th grade farewell parade.”
 - Ms. Richardson’s report on THS – “Ninety-five scholarships were given out. Raider Rally was super fun and successful - they exceeded their goal by a couple of thousand dollars.”
8. Action Items:
- A. ~~BOE Budget 2021-2022~~ – Remove
 - B. Monthly Financials – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the monthly financials, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
 - C. Approval of Primary Mental Health Program Grant – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the Primary Mental Health Program Grant, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - D. Field Trip – All State Music Festival, Hartford CT – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the field trip, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.

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

- E. BOE Regular Meeting Minutes – May 26, 2021 – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
 - F. Committee Meeting Minutes: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the committee minutes, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
 - 1. School Improvement Committee – May 12, 2021
 - 2. Policy Committee – May 12, 2021
 - 3. Budget Committee – May 19, 2021
 - 4. Facilities & Technology Committee – May 19, 2021
 - G. Consent Agenda: Appointments, Retirements & Resignations – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
 - H. ECS Funding – Mr. Corey made a motion to notify City Council and the CSDE (Connecticut State Department of Education) that the BOE will be requesting that 2% of the ECS funds be sent directly to the district, second by Mr. Eucalitto. Ms. Fappiano opposed. Everyone else in favor. Motion passed.
 - I. BOE Calendar 2021-2022 – Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve the BOE Calendar 2021-2022 with changes of April date, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
9. Items for Upcoming Agenda:
- A. Monthly Financial
 - B. Reopening
 - C. BOE Calendar 2021-2022
 - D. Health Insurance Options
10. Comments for the Good of the Order: (Paraphrased)
- Ed A. - "I appreciate as a Brooklynite who lives in Torrington, I am always available, you know you can always call on me Sue and Sue! I appreciate living here and helping out."
- Ed C. - "Thank you Ed arum for all of your service to our school district. I am proud of everyone for all of the discussions we are having concerning the hard issues."
- Nikki - "Thank you, Ed. It was nice to hear from parents and a student today on whatever the topic we are talking about."
- Sue D. - "Thank you, Ed; we appreciate you."
- Cathy - "Thank you, Ed for all your guidance. The graduation parade was so much fun."
- Jessica - "Thank you, Ed. We need to look at our cell phone policy."
- Armand - "Thank you, Ed for everything. I am going to miss your papers at budget meetings. Graduation was awesome."
- Gary - "Thank you, Ed for all your hard work. Sue and Sue, I know this is difficult. We don't have a lot of acrimony at our meetings. We get through our disagreements."
- Ellen - "Thank you, Ed. I was at the graduation, and it was the best graduation in the 12 years that I have attended. Thank you to our Board Chair who has led us competently."
- John K. - "Ed is gold standard for business managers. End of a successful school year, the central office staff working through an unpleasant school year and great job. The HS

graduation went so well. No one understands how much work Fiona does. We are so lucky to have a dedicated chairman.”

Chair - “Ed, I am going to miss you more than I can ever express. It has been so nice to have someone competent and you have continued to carry us in a very good financial position. My wish for central office is to get some time off this summer.”

Sue L. - “I can’t say how proud I am of our staff, they rose to the challenge and took it on this year. Ed, I am not going to say goodbye, because I am going to continue to call you.”

Sue F. - “I am not going to say goodbye to Ed yet either, I can’t think of a nicer group of people I’d rather go through a pandemic with. If we can do this, we can do anything.”

Kim - “I echo what everyone is saying about Ed. I promise that after I park my car, I will think of you every time.”

Mr. Barton - “Thank you for letting me speak on Laura’s behalf. Congrats to Ed.”

Ally - “Ed, thank you so much I can finally say, I know a guy.”

11. Future Meetings:

Meetings in July - TBD

12. Adjournment: Mr. Kissko made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:52 P.M.