



**TORRINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
Monday, September 21, 2020, 6:00 P.M.
355 Migeon Ave – Remote Meeting**

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:02 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Corey, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Kissko, Mr. Eucalitto, Mr. Maniccia, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Todor (Remote), Ms. Fappiano (Remote), Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Mr. Arum, Ms. Klimaszewski, Ms. Schulte, Mr. Barlow, Ms. Herold
Absent: Ms. Spino
3. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
4. School/Community Service/Public Participation: No e-mails were sent.
Carrie Cassady – TMS teacher speaking about the safety concerns on behalf of the teachers. Teachers are reporting that classrooms and buildings have not been properly sanitized.
5. Executive Session on Legal Matter: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss a legal matter inviting in Ms. Schulte, Attorney Johanna Zelman, Ms. Lubomski, and Ms. Herold, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor.
The Board entered executive session at 6:07 P.M.
The Board returned executive session at 6:45 P.M.
6. Information Sharing Session:
 - A. Superintendent's Report: Ms. Lubomski shared that Christine Gamari is a finalist for CT Teacher of the Year honors. Only 4 teachers out of 169 districts are in this distinguished group. She welcomed Alden Paye, the new AP at Vogel-Wetmore. Ms. Lubomski acknowledged Lance Reynolds for his article about a partnership program between the THS science students and NCCC students who studied viruses together. School has started. It has been an extraordinary effort on all fronts contributing to the successful beginning of the year. The instructional piece has been a struggle, which is no one's fault. Ms. Lubomski commended teachers for balancing Zoom and in person lessons. Staff has done a great job addressing contact tracing with the utmost respect for privacy regarding the COVID positive case. Big shout out to Torrington Health Department for all of their help. Ms. Lubomski recommended remaining in hybrid until October 16th. In Litchfield County, the positivity rate is increasing. If we were going to go in person, we would probably start with Elementary School rather than the Middle or High School. Right now, we will continue to monitor the health metrics

and address the operational issues. Mr. Barlow spoke about the two COVID positive cases, Torrington and Torrington High School. He stated that there has been adjustments, corrections, and improvements regarding sanitizing/cleaning. There are plans in place for Torrington and Torrington High School for the schools to be ready for reopening. Mr. Barlow stated that we are continuing to work on checks and balances with the new sanitizer company. Mr. Fappiano asked what is difference that you are doing in these plans that you are not doing on the daily cleaning? Mr. Barlow clarified that the custodians don't clean individual teacher desks, teacher phones, walls, entire doors, lockers etc. Those things do not get sanitized daily. Mr. Eucalitto asked why wouldn't you consider sending Elementary back full time and doing TMS and THS hybrid? The Superintendent stated that we are not there yet, there are many considerations: social distancing and scheduling are more complex at the secondary level. We are learning through this whole process. The percentage of parents who opted for 100% distance learning: 32%. There are 62 students who are being homeschooled this year.

- B. Instruction Update: Ms. Ferguson started her report with a big thank you to our teachers and support staff. "This is a huge effort and to have to engage kids remote and in person at the same time is a huge challenge. Thank you to the parents who are supporting this effort from home or remote location. We need you folks; you are our partners." Ms. Herold spoke about IT. We now have everything that we have been missing in our supply chain; however, we are still missing some monitors that should be here by Wednesday. Ms. Herold is in the process of creating a big visual library of instructional guides for teachers, students, and parents. Ms. Ferguson shared, "One thing our teachers are doing is creating short videos to introduce a lesson or to summarize an activity - the video can be watched at any time. If a parent is unable to be with the child at the time the lesson is being delivered, the parent can watch the video when they're able to and the student can re-watch it as much as they need to. We have created a professional development website for our staff where we are archiving these videos so teachers have access and they can work together." Mr. Eucalitto wants to resurvey the parents one more time about how they feel sending their kids to school full time, so we can get an answer before October 16th.

- C. Special Education Update: Ms. Klimaszewski presented the monthly special education summary packet. She summarized the progress from last year: There were 51 students that exited from special education. There were 14 students who moved from a self-contained to a less-restrictive program in district. Ten students returned from outplacement to an in-district program. The tuition decrease is \$343,959.91. There were 49 students found eligible pre-k through grade 12 for special education. There were 11 students moving from a less restrictive in-district program to self-contained program. Five students were outplaced. There was a \$96,678.63 increase in outplacement tuition. The fluctuation in residency: Students moving into Torrington with an IEP = 98 and students moving out of Torrington with an IEP = 33. Overall reduction in total out-placement costs from Sept 2019-June 2020 was \$356,435.87. Currently, the district is starting with 805 identified students from pre-k to grade 12:

Total District Enrollment 9/8/2020 = 3,935
Starting Number Attending School in District = 654
Starting Number Break-Down
September 2020

Special Ed. Totals	805
In-District	654
Out-Place by PPT	84
Agency Place (DCF)	8
Magnets/Vo-Ag/Charter (by parent choice)	59

- Right now, we have 22% of students who have chosen to 100% remote learning. The Board members asked questions about the out-placement tuition/transportation costs 2019-2020. Ms. Fappiano had a question about the interventionist. Right now, our interventionists are in their assigned role as interventionists during the hybrid model.
- D. Monthly Financials: Mr. Maniccia stated that next month there will be more details. Nothing glaring this month.
- E. COVID Expenses: Mr. Maniccia and Mr. Arum reviewed the report. We are looking at \$1,484,705 COVID expenses and we are waiting for \$656,108 which will be paid for by the State.
- F. Fall Sports Update: Ms. Lubomski stated that Middle School is doing intramurals for the fall and the cohorts will play each other. It is only a month-long season this year. Because of what happened today at THS, we are not doing

full practices this week. The students can continue to condition on their own. Games and competitions will resume on October 3rd. We are figuring out what the ticketing system will look like regarding spectators for outside sports. Volleyball is played inside, and it will be livestreamed. Visitors are not allowed inside the building at this point.

7. Committee Reports:

- A. Budget Committee – The Committee is working on the budget and COVID-19 expenses. Next month, we will have more details and hopefully the state will have issued the \$656,108.
- B. Marketing Committee – The Committee was dissolved last week.
- C. Building Committee – This Thursday the main portion of the meeting will be a report by the engineer on energy efficiency of the 7-12 high school project.

8. Action Items:

- A. Possible Action on Legal Matter – Ms. Hoehne made a motion to authorize settlement in the matter of the former HR Director and the BOE via the amount negotiated by the BOE attorney and the Superintendent and authorize the Superintendent to sign said agreement. Mr. Maniccia second. All in favor.
- B. Monthly Financials – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the Monthly Financials, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
- C. BOE Regular Meeting Minutes – August 26, 2020 – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
- D. BOE Public Forum Minutes – September 1, 2020 – Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Mr. Corey. All in favor.
- E. BOE Special Meeting Minutes – Mr. Kissko made a motion to approve the special meeting minutes, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
 - 1. August 25, 2020
 - 2. September 9, 2020
- F. Committee Meeting Minutes: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to approve all the subcommittee minutes, second by Mr. Maniccia. All in favor.
 - 1. Budget Committee – August 19, 2020
 - 2. Building Committee – August 6, 2020
 - 3. Building Committee – August 20, 2020
 - 4. Marketing Committee – August 17, 2020
 - 5. Marketing Committee – September 10, 2020

- G. Consent Agenda: Appointments, Retirements & Resignations - Mr. Maniccia made a motion to approve the consent agenda, second by Mr. Eucalitto. All in favor.
9. Comments for the Good of the Order: (The following comments are paraphrased)
- Cathy – “Huge thanks to the teachers, paras and Central Office for all of the hard work and determination in pulling together the instruction for our kids and making it work. I have the unique responsibility of doing distance learning with my grandson and our teachers are working so hard and the collaborations with the videos are awesome.”
- Nikki – “Cathy said it all. It is amazing, all the videos and the work that has gone into it. Being able to see different teachers through the video has been awesome - huge kudos to the teachers, all the parents and any adult that has been helping these kids.”
- Armand – “I reiterate all of that and I thank everyone from top on down, from personal experience, it is a lot of work, it is different, I understand and thank you.”
- Ellen – “Ditto to what everyone said.”
- Gary – “Ditto.”
- John- “I agree with what everyone said. Our Football coach has looked so good over the past few weeks under difficult circumstances.”
- Ed – “Thank you everyone for all the work, and thank you to Ms. Lubomski and Mr. Barlow for tackling all the concerns.”
- Jessica – “I echo everything and hang in there everyone.”
- Chair – “These are very challenging times, and this is difficult for everyone. We are fortunate to live in the community that we live in.”
10. Items for Upcoming Agenda
- A. Monthly financials
 - B. COVID-19 expenses
 - C. School reopening
 - D. Committee updates
 - E. Capital expenses for THS
 - F. Special Education update
 - G. Survey results
11. Future Meetings:
- Thursday, September 24, 2020 (at Torringtonford)**
5:30 p.m. – Building Committee
- Wednesday, October 7, 2020 (at Migeon Ave.)**
6:00 p.m. – School Improvement Committee
- Wednesday, October 14, 2020 (at Migeon Ave.)**
5:30 p.m. – Facilities/Technology Committee
6:00 p.m. – Budget Committee
- Wednesday, October 28, 2020 (at Migeon Ave.)**
6:00 p.m. – Regular Board of Education Meeting
12. Adjournment: Mr. Eucalitto made a motion to adjourn, second by Ms. Richardson. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 P.M.