



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Board of Education Special Meeting Monday, October 5, 2020, 5:30 PM 355 Migeon Ave.

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 5:25 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Kissko, Ms. Hoehne, Ms. Fappiano, Ms. Todor, Ms. Richardson, Mr. Maniccia (remote), Mr. Corey (remote), Mr. Eucalitto (remote)
Also Present: Ms. Lubomski, Mr. Arum, Ms. Herold, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Klimaszewski
3. Discussion on Reopening and Possible Next Steps: Ms. Lubomski started the discussion by looking at the health metrics. We would like to propose a K-5 transition to in person instruction on October 19. The K-5 parent survey was shared. There were 1,521 respondents: In-Person = 71.3% and Distance = 28.7 %. Mr. Arum spoke about the cleaning day on Wednesday. The district will have additional sanitizers on Wednesdays. They will come in one hour after the teachers leave. The dismissal will be A through L and M through Z for traffic control. We are trying to get bus monitors. Everyone is struggling to get bus monitors right now. Ms. Lubomski shared that it is more complex to move into in-person at the secondary level, since there are 1,000 students at the middle school and over 900 at the high school. "We want to see how everything will play out with the Elementary schools." Even at the elementary level, in some cases there is less than 6 feet of distance in the classroom. The survey information stated there is anywhere from 3-6 feet and 71.3% still said they wanted their child to attend in-person. We are working on having enough distance teachers. The distance teacher will focus on the distance learning students and the in-person teacher will focus on the in-person students. This is only for elementary. We are only trying to perfect this plan at the elementary level. We will revisit this idea in November and check on our progress. Ms. Richardson said that it would be interesting to see this type of survey for the secondary level at this time. Ms. Lubomski said she would do another survey. Ms. Richardson asked to investigate about the students being able to leave their cameras off. Ms. Herold explained the issues with Google. Our students should be able to have a background blur within 4

weeks then the teachers will be able to require cameras being on for students. A question was asked about why a substitute would be needed for a course taught by a distance teacher. Ms. Lubomski addressed the issue of when there is a substitute in the classroom monitoring the students in the classroom and the teacher is remote teaching the courses. The reason for the subs in the classes at the secondary, especially the high school, is because there are a few teachers that are trained and certified to teach those advanced courses, but they needed a medical accommodation; however, we are still able to offer the course, so it works out for everyone. For next board meeting, will look at survey results for 6-12 and attendance by grade levels.

4. Comments for the Good of the Order: (The following comments are paraphrased)

Jessica – “Thank you to the administration, I think this is moving in the right direction and I am grateful.”

Cathy – “Ditto and I think the kids will be so excited to be back and I am so impressed when I am on the zoom with the teachers - kudos to them.”

Ellen – “Ditto with what everyone has said.”

John – “This is a good plan, and we are moving in the right direction.”

Gary – “Great job on all parts given the circumstances, I agree with everyone.”

Armand – “Keep up the good work.”

Chair – “Everyone has been working ridiculously hard and it is greatly appreciated. We are not having a lot of problems that other districts are having, because everyone is working so hard at Central Office.”

5. Adjournment: Mr. Kissko made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 6:26 P.M.