



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

School Improvement Committee Wednesday, November 4, 2020, 6:00 P. M. Migeon Avenue School

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:00 P.M.
2. Roll Call: Mr. Kissko, Ms. Todor, Ms. Richardson, Ms. DePretis (Remote) Ms. Gelormino (Remote/Teacher Representation)
Also Present: Ms. Cappabianca, Mr. Eucalitto, Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Ms. Schulte, Ms. Ledversis, Mr. Marchand, Ms. Mazzatto
3. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the agenda with the additional amendments: remove 6B and add "Pre A" to talk about the passing of the referendum for the new high school being approved, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
4. Approval of Minutes: Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor.
5. Public Participation: None
6. Discussion and Next Steps: open, but not unlimited, updates, information, and discussion:
 - Pre A – New THS Referendum Approved – The committee acknowledged all the effort that went into this project and publicly thanked the PAC group for the time and energy invested. Now that the project is a reality, the following might be implications for the School Improvement Committee: New courses to support the pathways, Curriculum development, Tag, expanding opportunities for younger students, improving test scores, continued partnerships with community businesses to provide students with internships and apprenticeships.
 - a. Board Goals for 2020-2021 (2021-2022) School Year(s) – Mr. Kissko led a review of the current board goals document and suggested additional potential goals: 1) Long Term Capital Plan, 2) Sustainability, 3) Teaching in 21st Century, and 4) Community Communication. Mr. Eucalitto suggested the formation of a "Friends of TPS" to keep the momentum going and keep the public abreast of progress regarding the building project. Ms. Richardson recommended school security as a board focus area.

Alliance Concerns – The board would like to see the Alliance district designation removed as soon as possible. Ms. Cappabianca reminded the committee that the funds associated with the designation are helping the district to move forward. The Superintendent explained that when a district's status changes/improves, the Alliance designation is removed, but the funding continues for some time.

- b. New Course Proposals: Two new course proposals:
 - 1. Applied STEM (Tech Ed Engineering Pathway)
 - 2. FIRST Tech Challenge: Exploring Robotics & CodingMs. Richardson asked to be updated on the new courses that SIC approves.
- c. Website, Social Media Updates – New THS School Counseling Website. Channel 22 access from 5a.m.-10a.m. and from 3p.m.-10p.m. for district use. Mr. Kissko suggested possibly broadcasting BOE meetings on channel 22 and the website.
- d. Snow Days vs. Distance Learning Days – Committee agreed that the first five days missed due to weather should be treated as traditional snow days. Anything in excess of that would be distance learning day provided power outages do not occur.

7. Comments for the Good of the Order: (Paraphrased.)

Fiona – “I feel so positive about where we are going - the new school and the new courses!”

Gary – “My daughter and 18 friends voted for the new school!”

Jessica – “Thank you to the community for their vote and support!”

Ellen – “Thank you Ally for your hard work.”

Cathy – “Thank you to everyone.”

John – “Thank you all. We have the right people to do it - the right people on the board, in the buildings, and in administration to do it right.”

8. Topics for Future Meetings:

- a. Distance Learning for December
- b. Social Promotion
- c. Board Goals
- d. New Courses

9. Adjournment: Ms. Richardson made a motion to adjourn, second by Ms. Todor. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:13 P.M.

Next Meeting: December 2nd, Migeon Avenue