

These minutes were approved by the Torrington Board of Education on February 24, 2021.



Torrington Public Schools

SUSAN M. LUBOMSKI
SUPERINTENDENT

SUSAN B. FERGUSON
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

School Improvement Committee Wednesday, January 6, 2021, 6:00 P.M. Migeon Avenue School

Minutes

1. Call to Order: 6:00 P.M.
1. Roll Call: Mr. Kissko, Ms. Richardson, Ms. DePretis (Remote), Ms. Todor (Remote), Ms. Gelormino (Teacher Rep.)
Also Present: Ms. Cappabianca, Ms. Hoehne, Mr. Maniccia (Remote), Ms. Lubomski, Ms. Fergusson, Ms. Schulte, Mr. Barlow, Ms. Mazzatto, Mr. Deacon, Ms. Herold
2. Approval of Agenda: Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.
3. Approval of Minutes: Ms. Richardson made a motion to approve the minutes, second by Ms. DePretis. All in favor.
4. Public Participation: None
5. Discussion and Next Steps:
 - a. Systemwide Focus Areas: (Attendance, Student Engagement, Targeting Student Needs): Discussed later in the meeting.
 - b. Board Goals: Brief Discussion About Delegating Responsibility for Board Goals:
 1. Monitor the implementation of the district strategic plan and its integration into the city strategic plan once that plan is developed. Mr. Kissko and Ms. Cappabianca proposed for the full board to oversee this goal, then it will go to the School Improvement Committee.
 2. Monitor and support the Middle School/High School Building Committee and allocate resources to the development and implementation of the "Pathways" approach to the secondary curriculum. – Mr. Kissko proposed that the School Improvement Committee oversee this goal.
 3. Develop a plan to re-align TPS facility needs once the new building opens. – Mr. Kissko proposed that the Facilities & Technology Committee oversee this goal.

4. Oversee and support whatever is necessary to deal with the educational impact of the effects of prolonged distance learning. – Mr. Kissko proposed that the School Improvement Committee oversee this goal.
 5. Implement the capital plan as presented. – Mr. Kissko proposed that the Facilities & Technology Committee oversee this goal.
- c. District Improvement Plan: Ms. Fergusson gave a brief overview. Based on a review of the district data, seven priority goals were established to improve student achievement:
- Priority Goal 1:** Engage in curriculum development and revision to enhance the district's core educational program that ensures equitable access for all learners.
- Priority Goal 2:** Guarantee instruction that is student-centered, rigorous, meaningful, and responsive to all students' needs and fosters the development of critical thinking, argumentation, collaboration and transference through a blended learning approach.
- Priority Goal 3:** Design a comprehensive assessment system to monitor and evaluate student growth and achievement in all curricular areas and engage staff in data-driven decision-making processes.
- Priority Goal 4:** Continue to provide best research-based practices in special education to ensure appropriate differentiated instruction for all students and compliance with state and federal regulations.
- Priority Goal 5:** Design a comprehensive Diversity, Equity and Inclusion plan that supports attracting and retaining high quality teachers, that are racially, ethnically, and linguistically diverse in order to improve outcomes for *all* students.
- Priority Goal 6:** Ensure that the integration of instructional and non-instructional technology appropriately supports the district's vision and goals for teaching and learning and operations.
- Priority Goal 7:** Ensure that existing resources are used efficiently while identifying resources that are needed and prioritizing expenses.

Mr. Kissko asked if it is safe to assume that goals begun last fall have been achieved. Yes.

- d. Discussion of the Educational Impact/Projected Aftermath of Distance Learning: Ms. Lubomski stated that distance learning is extremely challenging for the students and for the teachers. If we receive alliance funding for next year then a portion of those funds will be used to be addressing the gaps that we know will occur. The Superintendent and her team meet regularly with people across the State to share concerns and ideas. Ms. Cappabianca raised the concern that so many students have fallen far behind. There was a brief discussion about what to do to address this issue. The board discussed the possibility of retaining students as opposed to moving everyone ahead. Ms. Cappabianca stated that she thinks we need to have a solid afterschool and summer program planned for this year and next year. The Superintendent explained that her team is in the process of planning many different programs and options for students to address the learning gaps caused by the pandemic. Ms. Lubomski stated that at this time, the State is not changing the mandates of the standardized testing.

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- e. Website, Altice, Social Media Updates: Ms. Fergurson gave an update on our social media. Ms. Herold gave an update on Altice. The district sent Altice a list of 220 families who would benefit from their service. Of the 220, sixty are scheduled for installation tomorrow. All the hotspots are out. Altice has been a wonderful partner to work with.
 - f. Alliance News: Ms. Lubomski stated that the conversation revolved around testing and that the State is moving forward with the standardized tests. Regarding budget, we are a long way away from the budget being signed. It will be a long legislative session.
6. Comments for the Good of the Order: (Paraphrased.)
- Cathy – “Great distctic plan and great job everyone.”
- Andrew – “I am excited for our district plan! We have a clear articulate plan to achieve our goals.”
- Maureen and Kim – “We echo what Andrew said. We have a lot of good things happening.”
- Veronica – “ I am excited for the distrctit implementation plan.”
- Armand – “ I like the district implementation plan. I can’t wait to hear more about what we will do to mediate the loss of education time for the students who have fallen behind.”
- Sue F. “I echo what everyone else said. I am so proud to be a part of all of these efforts.”
- Sue L. “I want to Thank Sue, Maureen and Andrew for spearheading the district implementation plan. We will continue to work on those gaps.”
- Ally H. “I am thankful for being a member of this plan and being able to contribute. We have been able to address so many things on this plan.”
- Fiona – “Great job everyone!”
- Ellen – “Great plan and I like that everyone is so excited about it.”
- Jessica – “ I like the concrete action of the plan and I think we have to have courageous conversation. With all the challenges of learning, it clarifies the importance of keeping the kids in the building when possible.”
- John – “I reiterate what everyone else thinks about the district implementation plan. I like that so many people worked on it.”
7. Topics for Future Meetings:
- a. Liasions
 - b. Social Promotion in the future
 - c. Board goals
 - d. Distinguished Alumnus
8. Adjournment: Ms. Richardson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Mr. Kissko. All in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:21 P.M.
- Next Meeting: February 3rd, Migeon Avenue