

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hicks Municipal Center
Council Chambers
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING

7:30 – 10:00 P.M.

AGENDA
April 22, 2015

VISION STATEMENT

To represent education at its best, preparing each student for an ever-changing society, and becoming a full community of learning where excellence is achieved through each individual's success.

A. CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Regular Meeting – April 8, 2015

C. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2 minute limit)

The members of the Tolland Board of Education welcome members of the public to share their thoughts and ideas at this time. When appropriate to do so, members of the Board and the administration may respond to comments during "Points of Information". However, in consideration of those in attendance and in an effort to proceed in a timely manner, follow-up discussion may need to take place outside of the meeting setting.

D. POINTS OF INFORMATION

E. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES REPORT – Charles Perosino and Sarah Welch

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- F.1 Recognition of the Boys Hockey Team for winning the CIAC Division III State Tournament
- F.2 Health Statistics and Discussion (no enclosure)
- F.3 2015 – 2016 School Calendar (Second reading)
- F.4 Superintendent Evaluation (no enclosure)
- F.5 UISF (no enclosure)

G. COMMITTEE & LIAISON REPORTS

H. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

I. BOARD ACTION

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (2 minute limit)

Comments must be limited to items on this agenda.

K. POINTS OF INFORMATION

L. CORRESPONDENCE

M. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

N. EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS ASSIGNMENT OF TROOPERS

O. ADJOURNMENT

TOLLAND BOARD OF EDUCATION
Hicks Municipal Center
Council Chambers
Tolland, CT 06084

REGULAR MEETING – April 8, 2015

Members Present: Mr. Sam Adlerstein, Chair; Mr. Patrick Doyle, Vice Chair; Ms. Kathy Gorsky, Secretary; Ms. Karen Moran, Mr. Steve Clark, Ms. Colleen Yudichak, and Mr. Tom Frattaroli.

Administrators Present: Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent of Schools; Mark McLaughlin, Business Manager

A. **CALL TO ORDER, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The meeting was called to order at 7:41 P.M. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

B. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- Regular Meeting –March 25, 2015

Ms. Moran motioned to accept the minutes of the March 25, 2015 meeting. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. Changes: none. All were in favor. Motion carried.

C. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Ron Chagnon, 230 Kate Lane, spoke in regard to the elimination of the social worker at THS. He asked if it is a done deal and if so, commented that it is a huge mistake. The kids who go to see him are kids at risk. They need him. If they do not have someone to talk to, there is going to be a problem. He asked if there could be money found for the position such as taking a little money from multiple areas to make it work. The social worker is top notch.

D. **POINTS OF INFORMATION**

Mr. Clark commented that he was surprised by the article in the Journal Inquirer regarding the supposed obscene language that supposedly the THS principal used to a parent. He inquired if Dr. Willett had read the article and had any comment. Dr. Willett responded that he did read the article and had no comment.

Mr. Adlerstein asked Dr. Willett about the social worker and what happens to the kids who are at risk that utilize the social worker's services. Dr. Willett explained that this is not what anyone wanted. Fifteen staff positions were reduced in order to get to the budget. No one wanted to reduce 15 staff positions. The principals were given the task of reviewing the staff and making decisions based on impact. While the position of the social worker is one that is needed and wanted, it is one that can be covered by other staff such as the school psychologist, the guidance staff, and other resources. Ms. Gorsky added that a couple of letters have been received from the public reflecting the same concerns. Dr. Willett explained that if the social worker position is not cut, something else will be. The 2.98% budget was what the Board approved after 7 workshops and additional sessions where there was a lot of feedback elicited. Mr. Adlerstein noted that the social and emotional health of students was highlighted a number of times in the workshops. The conversation was about making this a priority for all students. Thirty thousand dollars was added to the budget for a systemic approach to the social and emotional health of students in grades K-12. This allocation of funds will allow the district to

focus this energy to ensure it is doing right by the students at all levels. Mr. Frattaroli agreed that early intervention is important but it is a shame that the position has to be reduced. Dr. Willett explained that when asked, the individuals who do this every day and know the staff and were hired by the Board, decided that losing this position would have less impact than other options. This is what they are empowered to do and it is what they have done.

Ms. Yudichak, while she was helping out at Birch Grove, was posed a question by a parent. The parent understands that the 1st grade class size next year may go to 25.1. Dr. Willett responded that he did not believe that this was accurate but would need to check the numbers. He will reach out to the parent who posed the question. (Ms. Yudichak will provide the contact information). He added that if the budget fails, that this may be possible but is something that would not be limited to Birch Grove but would be district-wide.

In regard to correspondence, Ms. Gorsky reported that she received 2 letters reflecting the opinion that the social worker position should not be cut. Additionally, there were a couple of letters in support of the budget and one that specified that the writer would like to see more money within the parameters of the budget allocated to custodians in the schools. Also received were letters in regard to student data privacy due to standardized computer testing. Another letter asked the Board to reconsider cutting the reading paraprofessionals at Birch Grove and another was from a parent concerned about the amount of sickness in the school and asked if the cleaning and ventilation is sufficient. Further, a letter was received regarding Tolland High School being ranked 70th in the state. The writer expressed concern that the study was not well done and is probably not a real reflection of where Tolland stands. Lastly, Ms. Moran received a letter from a Tolland Middle School student who expressed concern about the unhealthy snacks in the vending machines. She forwarded the letter to the Board and Dr. Willett will follow up with the student.

Dr. Willett noted that on April 22nd at Birch Grove, he will present a comprehensive report including statistics of nurse visits. In general, visits trend up in March and April every year. He conferred with the district doctor who explained that the enterovirus-68 has been more significant this year and the regional health professionals added that this is what can be expected at this time of year.

Mr. Doyle commented that Ms. Diane Clokey sent an e-mail noting that the Community Conversation will be held on May 16th from 8:30 – 11:30AM. The topic is Raising Resilient Kids. Ms. Moran provided a history of the Community Conversation grant and added that it has been recommended that scribes, preferably from the Board and Town Council, attend to take notes and listen.

Mr. Clark inquired about the healthy food initiative which is signed each year and asked if it was applicable to vending machines. Dr. Willett believes that it is. The vending machines are in place for those students who are there later in the afternoon for clubs, sports, and other activities.

E. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

Mr. Perosino noted that the THS music department trip to Chicago to perform at the festival will take place April 22nd through April 26th. A presentation was held this week during which the logistics and guidelines were explained. Additionally, the THS students are looking forward to

meeting with Dr. Willett on Friday. Many students are still concerned about the impending cuts to the Foreign Language Program.

Ms. Welch noted that there was a lock down drill on Monday that went well. On Friday, Cupcake Wars will take place. There are 19 teams. Each team will make at least a dozen cupcakes. There will be judges who will look at taste, style, and creativity. The winners will receive Sweet Frog gift certificates and the cupcakes will be sold to students.

F. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

F.1. Jaden Delgobbo Presentation – Styrofoam Trays (No Enclosure) - deferred

F.2. Monthly Financial Report

Dr. Willett explained that the excess cost reimbursement was greater than anticipated. It expected that the end of year balance will come in at .7%, about \$260K. The district plans on using some of the money to offset items such as language arts materials which are in the upcoming year's budget. Mr. McLaughlin noted that the excess cost payment will not be received until the end of May and could be a little more or less since the numbers have not yet been determined.

Dr. Willett explained that financing the \$10M project to put geothermal into TMS/TIS is being done over a 20 year period of time. The savings that will be incurred will help pay off the debt but as a matter of good planning and practice the district needs to increase its energy budget by 2.75% each year. This is the projected amount that energy costs will increase every year and it covers the debt service but not expenses such as a failed boiler. The plan is to budget 2% on top of the 2.75% for a total of 4.75%. The extra 2% would be put into the USIF fund to cover any problems that may arise so that the district's visions and plans are not derailed.

G. COMMITTEE AND LIAISON REPORTS

Finance and Facilities – Mr. Doyle noted that the committee met on April 1st. They discussed USIF, the facilities overall, enrollment, the EASTCONN project, and the exploration of creating a STEAM academy. The committee also discussed its goals: improving the overall conditions of the schools, ensuring a safe school environment, promoting alignment between school and town staff to provide better safety and security in school buildings, and supporting a transparent budget process. Ms. Yudichak inquired if the SRO will attend an upcoming BOE meeting. Mr. Doyle confirmed that the SRO will be on a future agenda. Dr. Willett added that he has asked the administrators to attend the session as well.

Communications – Ms. Moran noted that the Town Manager presented the budget on March 26th at TMS. It was lightly attended. There will be a town-wide increase of 2.68%. Two additional budget presentations have been scheduled: April 23rd at THS and April 27th at the Senior Center (12:30PM). The referendum is May 5th.

Town Council – Ms. Moran noted that at last week's meeting, the Town Council approved to put the 2.68% budget increase on the ballot and set the referendum date. Mr. Krasusky commented that the March 26th meeting was lightly attended and encouraged the public to attend the April 23rd meeting so they can get the information behind the number. The increase is due to the decrease in the overall grand list. Ms. Moran noted that there is a tax calculator available on the

Tolland website where residents can plug in data to learn the impact on one's taxes. Mr. Krasusky added that the process this year has been visibly different than in the past with a unanimous approval by the Board in adopting its budget and a unanimous Town Council adoption of the budget presented. He added that hopefully the citizens who have elected them trust their judgement that this is the right thing to do for the Town. Ms. Moran encouraged the Civics students in attendance to vote if they are or will be turning 18 and asked them to encourage their friends to do so as well. Dr. Willett added that he has heard from some TIS students who expressed that they do not want to see any positions reduced.

CABE – Ms. Yudichak noted that there will be a workshop on declining enrollments and will keep the Board updated.

H. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Mr. Adlerstein explained why the Board reduced the budget and the Town Council did not. This is the first time a Superintendent has proposed a budget that has reduced 15 staff from the budget. It was done purposefully – there is no one better to address the needs of the schools in a constructive way that will pass referendum and move the district forward than the administrators and the Superintendent. The Board passed the budget unanimously after a lot of discussion. It is a good budget and the Board acknowledges that there was a lot of sacrifice. No one wants to cut anything but enrollment is declining. The district cannot move forward with the instructional and curriculum needs as well as the declining enrollment by doing what has been done in the past. In turn, the administrators attempted to right-size the budget to accomplish what needs to be done. The Board appreciates the Town Council for recognizing the work the Board did and passing it with the same scope in which it was presented.

I. BOARD ACTION - none

J. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ron Chagnon, 230 Kate Lane, commented that he understands the Board's problem but still the kids are at risk. The Board said there are other people in line to pick up the slack. He hopes these people who will take on the social worker's job have a degree in social work. If they don't, then it is passing the buck. These kids need the right person. The guy who is there now is the right guy and he thinks the Board is making a big mistake. If the Board can find money for a repair that might be needed in a year or two, it can find money for the social worker. He added that God forbid something happens, he hopes the Board wonders, "what if this guy was here" because it will be on the Board's conscience.

K. POINTS OF INFORMATION - none

L. CORRESPONDENCE

- Special Town Council Meeting – March 12, 2015
- Special Town Council Meeting – March 18, 2015
- Town Council Meeting – March 24, 2015
- Special Town Council Meeting – March 26, 2015
- Special Town Council Meeting – March 31, 2015

M. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- School Calendar
- Superintendent's Goals
- SRO
- Jaden Delgobbo Presentation

N. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Clark motioned to adjourn the meeting and pay the clerk at 8:44PM. Mr. Doyle seconded the motion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Lisa Pascuzzi
Clerk

TO: Members of the Board of Education

FROM: Walter Willett, Ph.D

DATE: April 22, 2015

SUBJECT: Proposed School Calendar – 2015-2016

Attached for your review is the proposed school calendar for 2015-2016. The calendar has 181 school days with the first day of school being September 2, 2015. The tentative last day of school falls on Monday, June 13, 2016.

The Administration recommends approval of the 2015-2016 school calendar.

WW:jp

Tolland Public Schools

Dr. Walter Willett, Superintendent

Tolland High School
Tolland Middle School



Tolland Intermediate School
Birch Grove Primary School

Total Student Days: 181

Total Faculty Days: 188

School Calendar 2015-2016

August/Sept.					February				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
24	25	26	27	28	1	2	3	4	5
31	1	2	3	4	8	9	10	11	12
7	8	9	10	11	15	16	17	18	19
14	15	16	17	18	22	23	ER	25	26
21	22	23	24	25	29	(20 days)			
28	29	30			March				
(20 days)					M	T	W	TH	F
October					7	8	9	10	11
M	T	W	TH	F	14	15	16	17	18
5	6	7	1	2	21	22	23	24	25
12	13	14	8	9	28	29	ER	31	
19	20	21	15	16	(22 days)				
26	27	28	22	23	April				
(20 days)					M	T	W	TH	F
November					4	5	6	7	8
M	T	W	TH	F	11	12	13	14	15
2	3	4	PTC-ER	PTC	18	19	20	21	22
9	10	11	12	13	25	26	ER	28	29
16	17	18	19	20	(16 days)				
23	24	25	26	27	May				
30	(17 days 9-12)				M	T	W	TH	F
(16 days K-8)					2	3	4	5	6
					9	10	11	12	13
					16	17	18	19	20
					23	24	25	26	27
					30	31			
					(21 days)				
December					June				
M	T	W	TH	F	M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4	6	7	8	9	10
7	8	9	10	11	ER	14*	15*	16*	17*
14	15	16	17	18	20*	21*	22*	23*	24*
21	22	ER	24	25	27*	28*	29*	30*	
28	29	30	31		(9 days)				
(17 days)									
January									
M	T	W	TH	F					
				1					
4	5	6	7	8					
11	12	13	14	15					
18	19	20	21	22					
25	26	ER*	28	29					
(18 days 9-12)									
(19 days K-8)									

Important Dates

Aug 25-27, 31, Sep 1- Faculty In-Service

Sep 2 **First Day of School**

Sep 7 Labor Day

Oct 12 Columbus Day

Oct 13 Faculty In-Service

Nov 5 K-8 Conferences

Nov 5 Faculty In-Service (THS)

Nov 6 K-8 Conferences

Nov 6 No school K-8

Nov 6 9-12 Full Student Day

Nov 11 Veteran's Day (school will be in session)

Nov 25-27 Thanksgiving Recess

Dec 23- Jan. 1 Winter Break

Jan 18 Martin Luther King Day

Jan 27 Faculty In-Service

Feb 15 President's Day

Feb 24 Faculty In-Service

Mar 3-4 K-8 Conferences

Mar 3-4 Faculty In-Service (THS)

Mar 25 Contractual Holiday

Mar 30 Faculty In-Service

Apr 11-15 Spring Break

Apr 27 Faculty In-Service

May 30 Memorial Day

June 13 **Last Day of School**

★There will be an in-service/ meeting day for high school staff only on the day after the first semester ends. **No school for High School students.**

If the March 3 & 4 PTCs are postponed they will be held on March 10 & 11.

No School In-Service

PTC= Parent/ Teacher Conferences

ER = Early Release
THS 7:15- 11:47 am
TMS 8:00- 12:35 pm
BGP/TIS 8:50- 1:20 pm

* = Snow/ Emergency Day Make Up (as needed through June 30)

The last day of school is scheduled for June 13. All snow or emergency days will be made up after this date, through June 30, in order to provide 181 instructional days.

The school calendar is posted on the Tolland Public Schools website at <http://www.tolland.k12.ct.us>

Adopted by the Board of Education on DRAFT 22 Mar 15