
TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Regular Meeting – Tuesday, February 23, 2021, 7:00 p.m.
AGENDA

<https://zoom.us/j/96357497295?pwd=RmRuNVRhUWlzZW5oRDgycGk3UXcvdz09>

Webinar ID: 963 5749 7295

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Join by telephone: (301) 715-8592 or (833) 548-0282 (Toll Free) / Webinar ID: 963 5749 7295

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel
Correspondence may be sent to BoardofEd@trumbullps.org
- C. [Public Comment](#) – The Trumbull Public Schools Board of Education will be allowing public comment at the upcoming Board Meeting. If you are interested in speaking during the Public Comment portion of the meeting, [please use this form to signup](#). We will limit participants to the first **15** individuals that submit the form. Public comment will be limited to 2 minutes.
- D. Superintendent Report
- E. Board Chairman Report

III. REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval Minutes – Regular Meeting, February 9, 2021
- B. Personnel – Dr. Semmel
- C. National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) Finalist Marcellino Petroccio – Dr. Semmel
- D. Reopening Update – Dr. Semmel
- E. Social Justice Update – Dr. Iwanicki

IV. RECEIVE AND FILE

- A. Pending Litigation
- B. Negotiations

V. OTHER

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
Regular Meeting – February 23, 2021

Dr. Semmel

Agenda Item – III-A

Approval/Minutes

Regular Meeting – February 9, 2021

Recommendation:

Approve the minutes of the above noted meeting.

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – February 9, 2021
Via Audio/Video Conferencing

The Trumbull Board of Education met via video/audio conferencing for a Regular Meeting.

Members present:

L. Timpanelli, Board Chairman
T. Gallo, Vice Chairman
J. Norcel, Board Secretary
S. Kerr
M. Petitti
A. Squicciarro
M. Ward

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence:
Mike Stafaroni requested to move to 5 day in person learning and Ella Grosso is grateful to our educators and support staff and considers a diverse educational system to be a priority.
- C. Public Comment - The following people spoke:
Marc Mascola commented on the status of the current budget proposal and Mike Miller addressed the Board and offered any assistance.
- D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel reported:
- Dr. Semmel attended a *We the People* dress rehearsal and was so impressed with this year’s team and their level of expertise.
 - As of today, we will move to remote learning for future snow days making the tentative last day of school June 18, 2021.
 - Ms. Hefele gave an update on technology workshops that are available to parents, students and staff. These workshops are available online and include several topics to help engage the community to enhance better understanding of technology.
 - On her first week on the job, Dr. Iwanicki has been visiting our schools and is so impressed with our educators and their determination to keep all students engaged in providing the highest level of education possible.
- E. Board Chairman Report - Board Chair Lucinda Timpanelli reported:
- At tonight’s meeting, the budget will be presented for approval. I want to thank the Superintendent and his staff for all their efforts and hard work in developing the 2021-2022 budget. Thank you to the Board for their questions and concerns given to the Superintendent and Business Administrator.
 - Elementary teachers will present a virtual lesson that is being used with great success.

- Mr. Hendrickson will provide the status of the operational review and update on recommendations as they are being implemented.
- F. Student Board Representatives Report - Gabriella Biondi and Jack Allen reported on:
- At Tashua, plans are underway to celebrate Black History Month and will include a virtual visit with the author Charles R. Smith Jr.
 - At Hillcrest, the basketball season will begin soon with tryouts geared to ensure everyone's safety.
 - At Madison, a grade 6 student has been selected as a congressional category winner for an essay written about Dr. Martin Luther King.
 - At THS, the Gratitude Challenge was a huge success that promoted kindness and understanding; the *We the People* team was the runner up at the Connecticut State Finals and will be competing in in the spring nationals as a wild card. Congratulations to senior Dylan Cranston who was chosen to participate in the All-National Honor Ensemble.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Minutes: Regular Meeting – January 26, 2021

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel reported the following certified resignation:

Sansone, Michele; math interventionist (.5) at Frenchtown Elementary School (currently on a personal leave of absence) since August 2005, resigning effective 1/29/21.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded by (Norcel) to accept the resignation as presented. Vote: all in favor.

C. Teacher Presentation – Using SeeSaw in Primary Grades to Support Blended Learning

Elementary teachers Amy Congdon and Rachel Orr presented a virtual lesson using SeeSaw. Seesaw enables learners to be creative and allows teachers flexibility by assigning individualized activities. Students can learn by listening at their own pace. A messaging platform for parents to communicate with teachers is available. Teachers have noticed an improvement in cognitive learning skills while students are using SeeSaw.

D. Reopening Update - Dr. Semmel reported on the following:

- At our elementary schools, we are continuing with 4-day in person learning. At our middle schools, teachers are identifying disengaged students to bring them back to the classroom. At THS, 277 students opted to return to school four days a week. Administration evaluated that safety guidelines could be met to accommodate all 277 students who returned to their classrooms last week.
- Each time a Covid case is reported in our school system, the Covid dashboard on our webpage is updated so that the Trumbull community stays informed.
- Dr. Semmel is in contact with the Connecticut State Health Department to stress that our school staff be a priority to receive the vaccine.
- Dr. Semmel's Town Hall conversations with educators will continue in March, 2021.

- The Reopening Committee is planning for the possibility of returning to classroom learning to include Wednesdays in late March. This date remains tentative as we continue to monitor the virus and the directives from the Health Department and the Governor's office.

E. Budget Discussion and Approval - Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the revised 2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$113,751,421 that reflects a 4.33% increase over last year's budget. Revisions to the first proposed budget were necessary to incorporate recommendations from the operational review. Please note that this budget increase is derived by a few major drivers: Staff Benefits (\$1.919 million); Transportation (\$973,000); Additional Staff (\$477,000); Special Revenue Accounts (\$430,000); Magnet School (\$245,000); Salaries (\$190,000); and Utilities (\$44,000). The budget hopes to rebuild TPS by avoiding deficit spending and by adding back high priority positions. The Board will present the budget to the First Selectman for approval on February 11, 2021.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the Superintendent's 2021-2022 proposed budget request as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Operational Review Update - Mr. Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson updated the Board on the implementation of recommendations of the Operational Review that was conducted by PKF O'Connor Davies. Fifty-six of 68 recommendations have already been implemented with the remainder in progress and being addressed. The detailed list is available on our website under budget, then click on operational review update - February 9, 2021.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:55 p.m.

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
Regular Meeting, February 23, 2021

Dr. Semmel

Agenda Item III-B

Personnel

Request for Leave of Absence

Thomas, Ellen; grade 1 teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School since August 2012 (currently on child rearing leave) is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay through June 30, 2021. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

Recommendation:

Approve the above request for a personal leave of absence for Mrs. Thomas.

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

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Dr. Semmel

Agenda Item – III-C

National High School Athletic Coaches
Association (NHSACA)

Last year, the NHSACA selected Marcellino Petroccio as one of eight candidates for National High School Football Coach of the Year. Due to Covid-19, the conference was cancelled. It will be held this year in Lincoln, Nebraska in July.

Recommendation:

Review and Congratulate

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
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Dr. Semmel

Agenda Item – III-D

Trumbull School Reopening Plan Update

Dr. Semmel will update the Board of Education with information on the reopening of Trumbull Public Schools.

Recommendation:

Review

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
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Dr. Iwanicki

Agenda Item – III-E

Social Justice Update

Dr. Iwanicki will update the Board of Education with information on the Trumbull Public Schools Social Justice Coalition.

Recommendation:

Review and Discuss

TRUMBULL BOARD OF EDUCATION
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
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Martin Semmel, Ed.D.

Agenda Item IV-A

Pending Litigation

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

PENDING LITIGATION

CASE TOWN/BOARD	DESCRIPTION	CASE	REPRESENTATIVE TOWN/BOARD
1. C.T., J.T. and L.T. vs.	C.T., a Trumbull minor, his parents J.T. and L.T., alleged that he was injured on or about November 13, 2019 while playing soccer at recess and fell into a hole on the soccer field near the goal. Their claim covers that the soccer field was in an uneven, defective and/or dangerous condition. This claim seeks monetary damages against Board of Education, Town of Trumbull and Parks and Recreation Department. (Notice of claim received January 9, 2020).	Pending	Town/Board
2. M.D. vs.	M.D., former Director of Facilities, claims his termination of employment on 2/7/20 constitutes a breach of his employment contract with Trumbull Board of Education. This claim seeks monetary damages against Trumbull Board of Education. (Notice of claim received 5/20/20).	Pending	Town/Board
3. M.F. vs.	M.F., Plaintiff is challenging BOE/Town of Trumbull over her being excluded from the local pension plan that she claims she was entitled to when hired.	Pending	Town/Board

TRUMBULL BOARD OF EDUCATION
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
Regular Meeting, February 23, 2021

Agenda Item IV-B

Status of Negotiations

Please see reverse side for status of
negotiations with the eight bargaining units.

Recommendation:

Receive and file.

STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Member of Board's Negotiating Team</u>	<u>Status of Negotiations</u>
Teachers TEA	Attorney Floyd Dugas Marie Petitti Michael Ward	The TEA Agreement covers the period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023.
Administrators TAA	Attorney Floyd Dugas Marie Petitti Michael Ward	The TAA Agreement covers the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024.
Administrative Support Services CALU	Attorney Floyd Dugas	The (TASS) Administrative Support covers the period from July 1, 2016 to June 30, 2021.
Custodial/Maintenance UPSEU LOCAL #424	Attorney Floyd Dugas	The Custodial/Maintenance Agreement covers the period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.
Paraprofessionals UPSEU LOCAL #222, CILU #78	Attorney Floyd Dugas	The Paraprofessional Agreement covers the period from July 1, 2018 to June 30, 2021.
Cafeteria Workers UPSEU LOCAL #424	Attorney Floyd Dugas	The Cafeteria Workers Agreement covers the period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2024.
CILU Supervisor/ Support Staff CILU LOCAL #21	Attorney Floyd Dugas	The CILU Supervisors Agreement covers the period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021. The CILU Support Agreement covers the period from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021.