

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – October 12, 2021
Long Hill Administration Building

The Trumbull Board of Education met for a Regular Meeting at the Long Hill Administration Building.

Members present:

L. Timpanelli, Board Chairman
T. Gallo, Vice Chairman
J. Norcel, Board Secretary
S. Kerr
M. Petitti
A. Squiccimarro
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. Recognition - Mr. Todd Manuel, CAS High School Assistant Principal of 2020
Congratulations to Todd Manuel for the honor of representing Connecticut as the 2020 Assistant High School Principal of the Year. Mr. Manuel will be honored at the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) 19th Annual Celebration of School Leadership Awards dinner on October 21, 2021 in Portland, Connecticut.

The Board congratulated and commended Mr. Manuel on this achievement.

- C. Recognition – First Selectman’s Golf Classic Presentation
First Selectman Vicki Tesoro presented the proceeds from the First Selectman’s Golf Classic to the following student organizations:
- Academic Challenge for Excellence (ACE) Foundation
 - Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band
 - PowerPlay Club—Hockey
 - Laxmen’s Club—Boys and Girls Lacrosse
 - Touchdown Club—Football
 - Diamond Club—Baseball and Softball
 - Basketball

These organizations provide extraordinary opportunities outside of the classroom for students. The Board thanked the First Selectman and members of the Golf Classic.

- D. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence: Lauren and Brian Walsh asked about dyslexia screening; Marianne Piatkowski is in favor of later start times; Kristen Sabad sent an article on mental health; Kathy Rubano invited the BOE to attend the Veterans

Day program at THS; Catherine Martini and Cat Lamy shared an email in support of later start times and Ellie and Wayne Grosso urged the Board to invite SERC to do a virtual presentation.

E. Public Comment-Patricia Kelly spoke about the emergency order regarding the mask mandate; Lisa Hughes addressed the removal of a book at THS with inappropriate content; Gloria Manna expressed concerns about the culture at TPS; Melissa and David Steeves believe that masks are ineffective; Elizabeth Parenzan feels the objective for SERC training should provide students with a sense of well-being; Gordana Thompson stated that masks need to be made optional; Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox commends TPS in their effort to diversify curricula; Tara Figueroa asked for later Curriculum Meeting start times; Challa Flemming is thankful to TPS for making diversity a priority.

F. Superintendent Report-Dr. Semmel

- Thanks to the Trumbull Rotary Club for sponsoring Read Aloud Day at our elementary schools. This year's theme is mathematics.
- We are proud of the THSGEMB who competed in the Bands of America Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship at the University of Maryland for a job well done.
- Thanks to Mr. Hendrickson for completing the reimbursement grant application for the Middlebrook roof project. We are now awaiting the response from the State Department of Administrative Services.
- The TPS District Equity Leadership Team will share updates at the next BOE meeting. The State Education Resource Center will participate in-person or remotely.
- TPS is complying with the Governor's Executive order for all staff to be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing. The vast majority of TPS staff has been vaccinated.
- Quarantine restrictions continue to be challenging. Less than 50 TPS students are in quarantine at this time. We are working on finding ways for students to remain in school when they are identified as a close contact.
- 74.72% of our students ages 12- 17 in Trumbull are fully vaccinated. This means when a positive case arrives in grades 7-12, many of our close contacts can avoid quarantining. This vaccination rate continues to slowly rise. We understand that a lower dose version of the Pfizer vaccine may be considered for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) in the future. If this EUA is provided, it will likely be for children ages 5-11.

G. Board Chairman Report

Mrs. Timpanelli announced the BOF meeting on Thursday, October 14, with the expectation of receiving the \$901,413 surplus funds. She thanked the First Selectman and the Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Town Council and Board of Finance for attending a preliminary meeting on October 7th regarding a budget conversation for 2022-2023. She also applauded the efforts of the Principles of Marketing class at THS and Alessia Lye, the designer of "Pink Pledge" apparel. That Business class is using the apparel as a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

H. Student Board Representatives Report

Student Board Representative Edrina Laude reported on events at TPS: Middlebrook is sponsoring a walkathon; Daniels Farm is having student council elections; Frenchtown is having a Pumpkin Parade; Hillcrest is participating in National Bullying Awareness month; Madison is sponsoring a program to promote inclusivity; THS is having an October advisory day, the Pink Pledge, Pink Out football game and the Marching Band field trip to Maryland.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval Minutes:

Regular Meeting, September 28, 2021

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the Regular Board of Education minutes of the September 28, 2021 meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the following appointments:

Narciso, Donna***; 6/16 (.5) (\$45,342) school psychologist* at Middlebrook Elementary School, effective August 26, 2021

Presutto, Jean***; 6/21 (\$114,478) special education* teacher at Trumbull's REACH program, effective October 1, 2021

Belanger-Zalewski, Michele; 6/21 (\$114,478) special education* teacher/department chairperson at Madison Middle School effective October 18, 2021

The above appointments were unanimously received and filed by the Board.

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignation:

Santilli, Mary; District elementary math program leader since August 2002, retiring effective June 30, 2022

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

C. 2021-2022 Enrollment Update – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the current enrollment numbers at all of the TPS schools. The total elementary enrollment increased by 125 students from October, 2020 to October, 2021. The increase in enrollment necessitated four additional class sections. The Board will be keeping a close eye on student numbers as our community grows.

D. Policy Committee Report – Mr. Gallo

Dr. Iwanicki and Ms. Regina Williams presented the following policies for First Reading:

- Policy 418.239/4218.239 Required COVID-19 Vaccinations for Certified and Non-Certified Staff.

Dr. Iwanicki and Regina Williams presented the CUBE recommendations regarding this policy based on the Governor's Executive Order 13-G.

It was agreed to bring this policy back to a future Board meeting for second reading.

E. Finance Committee Report – Mr. Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson submitted the District's grant application to the State Department of Administrative Services for reimbursement for the MB roof project. He then reviewed the August financials for Board approval.

- Financial Reports as of August 31, 2021

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Kerr) to approve the financial reports as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:31 p.m.