

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – August 17, 2021
Long Hill Administration Building

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

Members present:

L. Timpanelli, Board Chairman
T. Gallo, Vice Chairman (virtual)
J. Norcel, Board Secretary
S. Kerr
M. Petitti
A. Squiccimarro
M. Ward

Members absent:

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. Marcellino Petroccio, a finalist for National High School Football Coach of the Year
Trumbull High School Head Football Coach Marce Petroccio was selected by the NHSACA (National High School Athletics Coaches Association) as one of 8 finalists in the United States at the 55th annual National Awards Banquet in Lincoln, Nebraska, on July 29, 2021.

The Board unanimously congratulated and commended Coach Petroccio on this great honor.

- C. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence:
The Board received numerous emails on unmasking students, making mask wearing optional and to follow the science of the CDC and Department of Public Health. Sandy Vallati, Tom Dalgar, Angelique Feaster, Laura Citarello, Tara Figueroa, Amanda Pinto, Tina Facey, Ellie Grosso, Diane Autore, Lynn Brown, Natalie Morales, Emily Rackoff, Nadine Ford, Catherine Pulliam, Christine El Eris, Haley McCarthy wrote about the conduct at the July 13th BOE meeting and support adult training in equity. Correspondence was also received by Lynn Brown, Diane Autore and Matthew Bracksieck as members of the District Equity Leadership Team (DELT) and shared progress made at THS this year. Christa Watson wrote about feeling unsafe to attend a BOE meeting. Jean-Marie Lohse, Kathi Eigenrauch and Eric Czumble wrote against CRT. Gloria Manna sent correspondence about the Ally program and concerns regarding BLM. Also, the Board received many emails from parents regarding class size at Booth Hill grade 3, Frenchtown grade 3 and Daniels Farm grade 4. UPSEU representative Colleen Ezzo wrote on behalf of paraeducators and health aides to request mask wearing through November 30, 2021.

D. Public Comment

The following people spoke during Public Comment:

Judith de Graffenried and Lisa Waldo spoke against wireless microwave radiation and its effects; Lynn Brown as a member of DELT in support of equity training; Tara Figueroa stated the progress made in social justice; Challa Flemming supports diversity partnership; Brett Gustafson, Wayne Winston and Ellie Grosso supported equity training; Ruth Fontilla and Noah Rossi in support of mask wearing; Patricia Kelly stated that masks should be up to the parents and supports remote learning; Melissa and David Steeves spoke against mask wearing and CRT; Michael Ganino spoke on behalf of vaccines and Ashley Gaudiano spoke in support of class size and choice in mask wearing.

E. Superintendent Report

Dr. Semmel discussed the need for hiring another 3.0 FTE teacher positions to add to three sections of classes and 0.3 Art, 0.25 Physical Education, and 0.25 Music positions to accommodate enrollment. He conveyed that SERC will present at a future Board meeting as they are currently working on in-person safety protocols. He reported that the Summer Explorations programs were a success. Even though masks were still required, 45 students in five separate reading programs as well as elective courses and credit recovery courses were all positive. Technology Department is prepared with fully functional Chromebooks for the upcoming school year. Welcome to the new Director of Operations on Monday, August 23rd and new Human Resources Director on September 1st.

F. Board Chairman Report

Board Chair Lucinda Timpanelli reported that she attended the Unified Cheer Banquet on August 12th and thanked Lily for the decorations. She stated that all transfers must be voted on by the Board of Education and brought forth by the Business Director and Superintendent. She reported that the Board attended a Retreat at Cooperative Educational Services (CES) in Trumbull with Mr. Nicholas Caruso of Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) to review district goals and Board protocols, and possible new policies.

Mrs. Timpanelli had a moment of remembrance for Lorraine Smith, after whom the Board Room is named. Mrs. Smith was the former Assistant Superintendent of the Trumbull Board of Education in the late 1980's-1990's who recently passed away.

G. Teacher Board Representative Report

Mr. John Mastrianni read the report on behalf of Teacher Board Rep Nick Banks

Teachers are looking forward to the new school year, despite the uncertainties due to the pandemic. We all hope that the State Board of Education and Governor Lamont outlines the plans for the 2021-2022 school year. We would also like to welcome all the recent hires and say goodbye to many of our friends and colleagues who have retired or moved on over the summer.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval Minutes:

- Regular Meeting, July 13, 2021
It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the Board of Education minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 13, 2021, as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Special Meeting/Executive Session, July 13, 2021
It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Board of Education minutes of the Special Meeting/Executive Session of July 13, 2021 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- Special Meeting/Executive Session, July 23, 2021
It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the Board of Education minutes of the Special Meeting/Executive Session of July 23, 2021 as presented. Vote: In favor Timpanelli, Gallo, Petitti, Ward, Norcel, and abstain Squicciarro and Kerr. Motion passes.

B. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the following appointments:

Arganese, Rodney; MA (\$64,423) TESOL teacher at secondary level.
 Berte, Isabel; BA/4 (\$53,657) special education teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School.
 Biegen, Mathew; MA/5 (\$60,572) math teacher at Trumbull High School.
 Bruzinski, Katherine; MA/10 (\$71,111) science teacher at Hillcrest Middle School.
 Colucci, Jennifer; 6/10 (\$76,037) literacy consultant at Middlebrook Elementary School.
 Conigliaro, Amanda; MA/4 (\$58,734) math teacher at Hillcrest Middle School.
 Cote, David; (\$130,000 - unaffiliate position) Director of Operations at the Long Hill Administration Building, effective August 23, 2021.
 Dushay, Mary; MA/4 (\$58,734) science teacher at Trumbull High School.
 Ekstrom, Casandra; MA/5 (\$60,572) grade 1 teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School.
 Elkins, Justin; 6/14 (\$85,513) music teacher at Madison Middle School.
 Garoffolo, Zachary; MA/9 (\$68,952) math teacher at Trumbull High School.
 Gatto, Julia; MA/4 (\$58,734) grade 4 teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School.
 Heagney, Elizabeth; 6/15 (\$88,060) literacy consultant at Frenchtown Elementary School.
 Hibson, Robert; 6/19 (\$99,033) technology integration specialist at Trumbull High School.
 Hoette, Carolyn; MA/18 (\$90,995) special education elementary teacher/department chairperson.
 Holohan, William, 6/6 (\$67,188) math teacher at Madison Middle School.
 Kahn, Ruth; MA/6 (\$62,468) math teacher at Trumbull High School.
 Kopec, Mallory; MA/4 (\$58,734) grade 2 teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School.
 McGillicuddy, Danielle; MA/4 (\$58,734) grade 4 teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School.
 Moore, Bridget; 6/10 (\$76,037) social worker at Trumbull High School.
 Natal, Michaela, 6/4 (\$63,357) speech language pathologist district wide.
 Nichols, Emily (\$71,676 - unaffiliate position) BCBA, district wide.
 Palamara, Joseph; MA/4 (\$58,734) French teacher at Trumbull High School.
 Plitnick, Kayla; 6/4 (\$63,357) speech language pathologist at Hillcrest Middle School.
 Powell, Stacey; MA/10 (\$71,111) math specialist at Middlebrook Elementary School.
 Scavacini, Joann; MA/4 (\$58,734) math teacher at Hillcrest Middle School.
 Suto, Brian; MA/4 (\$46,987) (.8) music teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School.
 Sweeney, Erin; MA/11 (\$36,668) (.5) special education teacher at Booth Hill Elementary School.
 Taylor, Dawn; 6+15/18 (\$99,057) school psychologist at Madison Middle School.
 Tedesco, Robyn; 6/14 (\$85,513) math specialist at Daniels Farm Elementary School.
 Villano, Delores; MA/6 (\$62,468) math teacher at Trumbull High School.

Williams, Regina; (\$130,00 - unaffiliate position) Director of Human Resources at the Long Hill Administration Building, effective September 1, 2021.
Wilson, Melanie; MA/11 (\$73,336) special education teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School.
Woodruff, Kimberly; 6/6 (\$67,188) grade 1 teacher Frenchtown Elementary School.

The Board unanimously accepted the above.

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations/retirements:

Ciborowski, Nancy; math teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2003, retiring effective August 3, 2021.

Cohen, Hanna; district speech/language psychologist since August 2006, resigning effective August 15, 2021.

Darrow, Brian; math teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2018, resigning effective August 20, 2021.

Hayes, Michelle; special education teacher/middle school department chairperson since August 2007, resigning effective September 3, 2021.

Held, Wendy; art teacher (.2) at the Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center since September 2020, resigning effective July 29, 2021.

LoCoco, Andrea; special education teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School since August 2019, resigning effective July 21, 2021.

Ruber, Ethan; special education teacher at Madison Middle School since February 1995, retiring effective August 16, 2021.

Turtoro, Martha; math teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2004, retiring effective August 25, 2021.

A motion was made (Gallo) and seconded (Kerr) to accept the above resignations/retirements as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Annual Report to the First Selectman

Dr. Semmel presented the 2020-2021 Annual Report to the First Selectman to the full Board for their approval. Once approved, the report will then be forwarded to the office of the First Selectman. The Board commented this was a well-done report.

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Ward) to approve the 2020-2021 Annual Report to the First Selectman as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. 2021-2022 Enrollment Update – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the current enrollment numbers and stated this continues to change daily. In anticipation of increasing enrollment, he recommended that the Board include a motion to hire 3.0 FTE teacher positions and additional special positions (0.3 Art, 0.25 PE, and 0.25 Music) to accommodate incoming students. Mr. Hendrickson explained the funding for these can either come from the Non-Lapsing account, turnover from retirements (budgeted \$300,000 for teacher turnover) and the savings from the hiring of new teachers at a lower step.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Ward) to approve the hiring of 3 new FTE elementary positions as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was also moved (Kerr) and seconded (Norcel) to approve an additional 0.3 Art; 0.25 PE; and 0.25 Music positions as proposed. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Reopening Update – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel reported that Governor Lamont confirmed Executive Order 13A continuation of mask wearing inside schools and municipal buildings through September 30, 2021. There is no requirement for outdoor mask wearing. The CIAC declared that all sports are up and running for the fall and there is no outdoor mask wearing required. The indoor sports such as volleyball will require mask wearing. Marching band program has finished up their 2nd week and will be performing Friday, August 20th at 6:45 p.m. at THS.

It was determined that requirements for disinfecting have been modified. Although bathrooms will still be disinfected thoroughly, high touch areas can be cleaned with soap and water. Lunch shifts will be as normal as possible. Quarantine requirements per DPH directive have also been modified but are still challenging. The CSDE endorses in-person learning. There will be no remote learning. If a child is quarantined, teachers will provide missed materials to students as with any other missed time due to illness. If 15 or more days are missed, homebound instruction will be implemented.

F. District Goal Setting

Dr. Semmel presented the 2021-2022 District Goals of Trumbull Public Schools. Mrs. Timpanelli stated they are detailed and comprehensive and were reviewed at the Board Retreat with CABA feedback and revisions.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Ward) to approve 2021-2022 District Goals of the Trumbull Public Schools as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Policy Committee Report – Mr. Gallo

Policies, First Reading - Dr. Iwanicki presented the following for first reading:

- 4111.1 Non-Discrimination in Employment – This policy will include verbiage on respectful and open world for natural hair which is in line with Public Act no. 21-2.
- 0.521/Non-Discrimination

It was unanimously agreed to bring these policies back to the full Board for second reading and approval at a future Board meeting.

H. Finance Committee Report – Mr. Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson reported that the Year End financials for the Town of Trumbull are done in September and therefore, the BOE Year End will be done at the next BOE meeting, September 14th, to be in line with the Town. He will provide detail from an upcoming BOE Finance Committee meeting to be held on September 2nd.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:56 p.m.