

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – March 8, 2022

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

Members present:

L. Timpanelli – Chairman
J. Norcel – Vice Chair
J. McNamee - Secretary
C. Bandecchi
T. Gallo
L. Nuland
M. Petitti-online
A. Squicciarro-online

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 – Ms. McNamee read the following correspondence: Mike Pastore and Rob Hamilton wrote regarding the Assistant Principal position and the impact on K students; Police Chief Michael Lombardo wrote about the Security Resource officers at our schools and stated the department will continue to provide services to keep schools safe; Liz Buonocore has questions regarding learning loss and K class size; Gloria Manna wrote about a THS pledge; Laura Citerella and Sandra Platt have Hillcrest pool concerns; Liz Parenzan thanked the Board for the new mask guidelines and Monica Terry thanked the Board for their hard work each and every day.
- C. Introduction of Interim Assistant Principal of Frenchtown & Middlebrook-Dr. Semmel introduced the Frenchtown and Middlebrook Interim Assistant Principal: Michele Molloy who spoke words of thanks for the opportunity to serve Trumbull Public Schools and is looking forward to the new position.
- D. Public Comment-The following people spoke: Daniel Durden spoke about being an advocate for the school system; Frank Squicciarro spoke about the return to normalcy and the importance of parent involvement in our schools; Liz Parenzan spoke about TPAUD and James Durden spoke about open houses.
- E. Superintendent Report- Dr. Semmel
- All are welcome to attend the opening of the Elite bookshop, *The Next Chapter* on March 23, 2022 at 2 Daniels Farm Road in Trumbull Center.
 - On March 7, 2022, Trumbull's First Selectman published the Town budget which included a 3% increase to the BOE budget. Ms. Tesoro's budget of \$115,665,558 reduces the BOE approved budget by \$1,631,840. The 3% increase for the BOE in Ms. Tesoro's budget provides a challenge and will require difficult decisions to be made in the coming months. My team and I will present the BOE budget to the BOF on March 10 in the Town Council chambers. I hope you will take the time to attend the meeting. If you have questions or comments for the BOF, you can email them to BOF@trumbull-ct.gov. If you have questions or comments for me, you can reach me at msemmel@trumbullps.org.
- F. Board Chairman Report – The School Resource Officers are an integral part of our educational system and serve an important and much needed role in our schools. The BOE and I will continue to advocate for their return to Hillcrest and Madison, as they have been reassigned due to staffing shortages.

Mrs. Timpanelli also reported on attending the Aquatic Committee Meeting and thanked them for listening to concerns regarding the Hillcrest pool.

- G. Student Board Representatives Report-Edrina Laude reported on events taking place at our schools: at Frenchtown and Tashua- Read Across America week; Middlebrook- Rotary Club celebrated World Down Syndrome Day; Carmen Rubin author visit; Hillcrest- Sandy Hook Promise- Say Something campaign; Science Bowl, food drive to support the Bridgeport Rescue Mission; THS- the Red Cross Club is sponsoring a blood drive, link crew and the class of 2025 invite all THS freshmen to attend the Freshman Social on Friday, April 1 from 7-10 p.m. at THS.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Overnight Field Trips

The following overnight trips were presented for full Board approval:

- *All-State Music Festival*- Mr. Murphy and Mr. Wasko
- *We the People: The Citizen and Constitution National Finals*- Ms. Boland

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the field trip to the All-State Music Festival in Hartford, Connecticut. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Bandecci) to approve the field trip to the We the People finals in Washington, D.C. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/Minutes of BOE Regular Meeting, February 22, 2022

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Bandecci) to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Regular Meeting of February 22, 2022 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Personnel

Dr. Semmel presented certified appointments:

Borges, Alda; Board Certified Behavior Analyst (unaffiliated - \$67/hour) at Frenchtown and Middlebrook School, effective February 24, 2022.

Molloy, Michele***; (\$136,167) Interim Assistant Elementary Principal (Frenchtown and Middlebrook) effective March 21, 2022.

Received and filed.

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations:

Blair, Kathleen; speech language pathologist (.8) at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 1993, retiring effective June 30, 2022.

Galow, Lorraine; Grade 5 teacher at Booth Hill Elementary School since August 2016 (currently on a personal leave of absence), resigning effective March 3, 2022.

Hartman, Tammy; Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services since October 2020, resigning effective May 20, 2022.

Kloster, Mindy; reading teacher (.6) at Hillcrest Middle School since November 2013 (currently on a personal leave of absence), resigning effective March 7, 2022.

Zuk, Gina; math teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2003 (currently on a personal leave of absence), resigning effective February 28, 2022.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Bandecci) to approve the above resignations. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Resignations- Non-Certified

Lasprogato, Debra; Secretary at the Long Hill Administration Building since November 2011, retiring effective May 4, 2022.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Bandecci)) to approve the non-certified resignation. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- D. TPAUD, Trumbull's Prevention Partnership Student Survey Results- TPAUD's mission is to engage youth, parents and community partners to prevent alcohol and drug use, foster social/emotional health and create a safe and healthy Trumbull. TPAUD works toward these goals through education, outreach and enforcement. At tonight's meeting, TPAUD Project Director Melissa McGarry presented the results of the 2021 student surveys.
- E. Human Resources Update-Hiring Process
Human Resources Director Regina Williams presented the updates for the upcoming hiring season that included known vacancies; electronic hiring process, recruitment and training for hiring managers.
- F. Donations to the Chelsea Cunha Scholarship Fund
In accordance with BOE Policy 3210, donations of \$31,500 received from multiple sources will be presented to Trumbull Public Schools for the Chelsea Cunha Scholarship Fund.

It was moved (Bandecci) and seconded (Nuland) to accept the donation of \$31,500 to the Chelsea Cunha Scholarship Fund as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- G. Mid-Year Student Performance Update
Dr. Iwanicki and Digital Learning Director Christina Hefele gave a presentation on how Trumbull students have progressed from the beginning of the year to the mid-year. The I-Ready assessment gauges reading and math acuity in grades K- 8. Phonological awareness, or the awareness of and ability to work with sounds in spoken language, sets the stage for decoding, blending, and, ultimately, word reading. Phonological awareness begins developing before the beginning of formal schooling and continues through third grade and beyond. Dr. Iwanicki shared the improvement data on the phonological awareness of our students. Ms. Hefele shared the statistics for the winter attendance and behavior data at all Trumbull schools.
- H. Finance Committee Report
The Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on February 24, 2022. Mr. Hendrickson presented the financial reports as of January 31, 2022.

It was moved (Bandecci) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the financial reports as of January 31, 2022 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:25 p.m.