

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – February 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
A. Squicciarro

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: Ashley Smith, Felicia Czumble, Gloria Manna, Daniela DeLibro, Liane Brink, Jaimie Molgard, Danielle Romano, Kaleigh White, Sarah Olschan, Liz Buonicore, Brian Walsh, Rebecca Hudzik, and Amanda Dombrowski all wrote letters asking that the mask mandate be lifted. Michael Barker and Sandy Vallati wrote asking that TPS maintain mask mandates. Several parents wrote in support of Dr. Semmel’s budget, including Frank Squicciarro, Rachelle Giordano, Catherine Martini, and Lara Walden. Writers spoke of the need to restore important positions and programs and were grateful that the kindergarten paraprofessionals were included in the budget. Mary Isaac suggested the Board explore the possibility of electric vehicles and invited members to a presentation. D. Scot Kerr wrote supporting a later school start time and stated “Let’s Talk Mental Health Trumbull” launched by TPAUD will take place on February 16th. Gloria Manna wrote with concerns and requested policies and information.
- C. Public Comment
The following people spoke in favor of removing the mask mandate in our schools: Pat Kelly, Lisa Hughes, Gloria Manna, Elizabeth Tarifay, Jamie Polatsek, Amanda Dombrowski, Meredith Bagley, Danielle Pampillonio, Ann Rerat and Christopher DeCruze. Frank Squicciarro spoke in favor of fully funding the Superintendent’s budget citing the need to support our children’s academic and social/emotional needs and address learning loss.
- D. Superintendent Report
Dr. Semmel reported:
- Currently at TPS, 85.34% of 12–17-year-old students and 46% of 5–11-year-old students are fully vaccinated. Covid cases have dropped dramatically and the current Covid positive rate is 7.08%. Governor Lamont will be making a statement concerning the mask mandate in our schools on February 15, 2022. At this time, Superintendent Semmel’s recommendation is to take no action to create a mask mandate in Trumbull Public Schools. Our district has examined all of the criteria and sees no reason to enact a mask mandate in our schools.
 - Our Technology Department is working on a website that will allow parents to easily access student assessment data. More information will be forthcoming at a future BOE meeting.

- E. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli lauded the ELITE bookshop located at 2 Daniels Farm Road (above Fatty Patty restaurant). It will be open to the public in March and we welcome the Trumbull community to stop by, to buy a book, and to have a coffee and snack. Congratulations to the We the People team for their first place in the state competition. They will compete next at the national level in Washington in April.
- F. Student Board Representatives Report - Eman Seyal and Edrina Laude reported on events at Trumbull schools: **Tashua**- spirit week emphasized tolerance, integrity, and generosity, Flannel Day, look alike day, Workout Wednesday, and Throwback to Summer Thursday. Senator Chris Murphy’s MLK Essay Contest on Martin Luther King. **Jane Ryan**-Annual Bridge to Bridgeport Supply Collection. giving tree in the school lobby, Trumbull High students visit to observe classes. **Booth Hill**-celebrations of Chinese New Year and Groundhog Day and creating biographies of notable African Americans, 100th day of school, Random Act of Kindness Week and twin day. **Middlebrook**-Chinese New Year, Student Council service projects, SOUPer bowl drive, Valentine’s Day teacher appreciation, Word Masters Challenge, “One School, One Book Experience”, American Heart Month and “What’s up Dolphins?!” **Hillcrest**- “Cross-Town Showdown” canned food drive to benefit the Bridgeport Rescue Mission, eSports, SHADES students are celebrating the contributions of African-Americans. **Madison**: art contest and Dining for Dollars event at Old Town Restaurant. **Trumbull High**- We the People Team won 1st place at the State Competition and the Pulsera Project throughout the month of February.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. Approval/Field Trip – THS Music Department Trip to Virginia Beach Music Festival in May, 2022

Mr. Joshua Murphy and Mr. Christopher Wasko presented the field trip for the THS Band and Chorus to attend the Virginia Beach Music Festival on May 5-8, 2022.

It was moved (Bandedecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the THS field trip to Virginia Beach. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- B. Approval/Minutes of BOE Budget Sessions, January 11, 2022 and January 13, 2022.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Budget Sessions of January 11, 2022 and January 13, 2022 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- C. Personnel- Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified appointments:

Connor, Sarah; 6/6 (\$67,188) school psychologist at Booth Hill Elementary School, effective January 18, 2022.

Daly, Nicole; BA/4 (\$53,657) reading teacher at Madison Middle School, effective January 4, 2022.

D’Angelo, Debra; 6/21 (0.6) (\$68,687) special education teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School, effective January 24, 2022.

Flagg, Jennifer; MA/7 (\$64,423) art teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School effective January 18, 2022.

The Board received and filed the above certified appointments.

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations:

Bullock, Heather; Board Certified Behavior Analyst at Frenchtown and Middlebrook School since September 2020, resigning effective February 4, 2022.

Larkin, Donna; special education teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2004, retiring effective June 30, 2022.

Romano, Isabella; special education teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School since August 2021, resigning effective January 27, 2022.

Dr. Semmel presented the following non-certified resignation:

Gould, Cheryl: secretary at Trumbull High School since March 2001, retiring effective February 22, 2022.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the above three certified resignations and one non-certified resignation as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/THS Graduation Date, Class of 2022

Dr. Semmel discussed the proposed graduation date of Thursday, June 16, 2022 for the Class of 2022.

It was moved (Bandecci) and seconded (Nuland) to approve Thursday, June 16, 2022 for this year's graduation date. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. 2022-2023 Budget Approval-Dr. Semmel thanked the Board for their support of this year's budget request. Mr. Hendrickson presented several proposed budget adjustments, noting that the final requested amount remains the same at \$117,297,398 at a 4.45% increase. The Board held a lengthy discussion reviewing each object and its impact on our students.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Superintendent's presented budget for the 2022-2023 school year in the amount of \$117,297,398 that reflects a 4.45% increase. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

(Squicciarro) made a motion and (Bandecci) seconded to amend the motion to increase the proposed budget by \$32,550 for chrome books for a new total of \$117,329,948. Vote: No- Squicciarro, Bandecci, Nuland, McNamee, Gallo, Norcel, Petitti, Timpanelli. In favor-0. Motion fails.

F. Policy Committee Report

First Reading

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policy for a first reading:

- Policy CP3283.1: Authorization of Signature

It was unanimously agreed to bring this policy back to a future Board meeting for approval.

Second Readings

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policies for second readings:

- Policy CPS3451: Petty Cash
- Policy CPS3450: Monies in Buildings
- Policy CPS3326.3: BOE Credit Card

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the above three policies as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor

G. Finance Committee Report

Mr. Hendrickson presented the financial reports ending November, 2021 and December, 2021 and discussed 2022-2023 proposed budget adjustments.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the November and December 2021 financials as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the transfer of \$1,000,000 from the Food Services cash account to the "Due to Town" account. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (McNamee) to approve that the Open Choice, Head Start Food and Magnet Transportation accounts held as Special Revenue (205) accounts be moved to Grant (200) Accounts as of July 1, 2021 and that the \$318,063.26 in cash balances be part of such a movement. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Bandedcchi) to approve the transfer of \$150,000 from the Non-Lapsing Account to the ELITE Facility account. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:10 p.m.