

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – April 12, 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: Traci Galla, D. Scot Kerr, Laura Citerella, Emma Cenholt- Hauland, Isaiah Henry, Nadia Champagne, Matt Bracksieck, Cat Lamy and Andrea Fonseca all wrote in support of inclusion week at THS noting that activities that focus on improving diversity, equity and inclusion improve emotional wellness. Patricia Kelly, Liz Parenzan, Lisa Marie Lohse and Gloria Manna do not support inclusion week citing several criticisms. Mrs. Lohse also asked the Board to look closer at the number of children in TPS who have been identified as dyslexic; Marylena Kourounis brought the good news that the Middlebrook and Jane Ryan Odyssey of the Mind team competed at the Connecticut State Tournament and earned second place in their division! Jaimie Molgard, Amanda Dombrowski, Justin and Jaime Mitchell and Stephen and Allison Minio wrote that they do not feel the Healthy and Balanced Curriculum recently released by the State Board of Education is appropriate for our children.
- C. Public Comment
Challa Flemming spoke to thank the Board for inclusion week citing a theme of belonging at THS; Lisa-Marie Lohse feels there are more students not being identified as dyslexic in TPS; Tara Figueroa quoted a recent THS graduate who stated that a more welcoming atmosphere at THS is essential so all students feel included; Christine El Eris spoke in support of inclusion week at THS; Patricia Kelly and Meredith Bagley feel parents need to take a stand for the sexual health of young children; Elizabeth Buonicore would like dialogue at BOE meetings and Gloria Manna spoke about the Child Endangerment Act.

D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel

- The Board of Finance approved a \$250,000 increase to the First Selectman's BOE budget that would necessitate approximately 1.38 million in cuts from the BOE proposed budget of \$117,297,498 that represents a 4.45% increase over the 2021-2022 budget. The Superintendent continues to defend the BOE budget and will continue to identify addressing potential cuts. There will be another public hearing of the Town Council on April 25, 2022.
- There is a slight uptick in the number of Covid cases in Trumbull. We will continue to update our Covid website and principals will continue to email the number of positive cases to parents daily.
- Dr. Semmel extends his best wishes for a restful spring break to the Trumbull community beginning this Friday, April 15.

E. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli and Mrs. Petitti attended the CES Foundation dinner and several Board members attended the THS diversity assembly. The proposed theme was of positivity, feeling safe/belonging and understanding different perspectives. THS is celebrating World Language Week with international poetry, flamenco dancing and door decorating. French students are displaying their artistic talents on April 14 in a French Café night at THS in the senior lounge at 6:30 p.m. All welcome.

F. Student Board Representatives Report - Edrina Laude and Eman Seyal reported on:

Tashua: students celebrated St. Patrick's Day and focused on behavioral goals throughout the month of March. Also, to celebrate Women's History Month, third grade students shared information that highlighted women and their impact on history.

Jane Ryan: students are getting ready for author visits from April 12-14. The author of the Biscuit series visited classrooms and Dan Gutman, author of the My Weird School series will be visiting students to speak about writing. Lisa Herrington will visit to speak about her experience writing over 100 non-fiction books.

Madison: celebrated "World Language Week" with a variety of activities- Up Day, Dance Day, and had a virtual visit from author Natalia Simons. Madison's Broadway Babies club performed the play "The Brothers Grimm Spectaculathon".

Trumbull High: Trumbull Eagles Boys Varsity and JV Rugby teams opened their season with a win against Simsbury. Trumbull High is celebrating World Language Week in all language classes with activities such as door decorating, authentic flamenco presenters, international poetry and other activities.

Allies for Angels: we are grateful to have accomplished our goal of raising \$1,000 for Infinite Love, also the THS Pot-of-Gold for Kids Fundraiser Yale Toy Closet. Tickets are on sale for the Parker Project and Rockwell Dance Center's concert on April 30th at Trumbull High School in honor of Charlie Capalbo to benefit pediatric cancer patients and their families.

Booth Hill: The school has the honor of earning national recognition from the US Department of Education as a Blue Ribbon School. Student Council arranged for students to donate one dollar to wear yellow and blue in support of Ukraine. The money raised is going to the Trumbull Helps Drive in order to purchase medical supplies for the citizens of Ukraine.

Middlebrook: students celebrated World Down Syndrome Day and are celebrating Math Awareness Month with weekly math challenges. Roxi Jean Goodwin and Sambit Sharma were honored with awards by the Connecticut Association of Schools for their artistic abilities through the Association’s Elementary Arts Recognition Festival. Alyssa Capucilli, author of the Biscuit series, and Dan Gutman, author of the My Weird School series, will visit. Middlebrook student Kushagra won the Elementary School CT Chess Tournament, becoming the one student who will represent CT in the prestigious National Tournament of Elementary School State Champions to be held in California this summer.

Daniels Farm: two students, Chloe Levin and Harvey Postlethwaite, were honored at the Connecticut Association of Schools for artistic talents and students are getting ready for the Daniels Farm School Variety Show, where students will perform. The theme for this year is “The Comeback,” and students will be using songs and acts relating to overcoming hard times and not giving up in the face of adversity.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Trumbull Day 2022 Special Request/Alcohol Waiver

Mr. Preston Merritt and Ms. Kathleen McGannon of the Trumbull Day Commission presented the request for use of Hillcrest Middle School and Trumbull High School on Friday, July 1, Saturday, July 2, and (rain date) Sunday, July 3, 2022 and are requesting that the Board of Education waive its Policy 1330, Use of Public School Buildings and Sites for three (3) days to allow for an alcohol concession on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High Schools. All other provisions of the Board Policy must be adhered to and alcohol distribution and consumption will be properly monitored and controlled by the Trumbull Police Department and the First Selectman’s office. Trumbull Day Commission members will ensure that this concession is regulated in a responsible and appropriate manner.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Bandedchi) to approve the waiver for the Town of Trumbull to allow an alcohol concession booth on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High School in conjunction with Trumbull Day on Friday, July 1, Saturday, July 2, and (rain date) Sunday, July 3, 2022. Vote in favor: unanimous.

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

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

C. Personnel

Dr. Semmel presented one certified appointment:

Eide, Christopher; 6/14 (\$85,513) technology integration specialist at Trumbull High School effective March 28, 2022.

The Board unanimously received and filed this appointment.

Dr. Semmel presented one certified resignation:

Scavacini, Joann; math teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2021, resigning June 21, 2022.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve this resignation. Vote all in favor.

D. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff/Long Term Replacements

Prior to May 1 of any given year, the Board of Education is asked to non-renew the contracts of non-tenured staff whose employment may not continue. This year, the non-renewal process includes three long-term replacement (substitute) teachers. The long-term replacement teachers were hired for the 2021-22 school year in a position of fixed duration. It is the opinion of the Superintendent that the non-renewals recommended are within the scope of the statutory teacher employment and tenure provisions, Section 10-151 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and are consistent with provisions of the TEA Agreement applicable to non-renewals of non-tenured and Long-Term Replacement teachers and non-tenured teachers. Move that pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, the Trumbull Board of Education non-renew the teaching contract of the following three long term replacement teachers at the end of their long-term contract or at the end of the 2021-22 school year, whichever occurs first, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Long Term Replacements:

Jessica Buono – Jane Ryan Elementary School

Gina Moriello – Trumbull High School

Stephanie Pelling – Hillcrest Middle School (.6)

and further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests which may be forthcoming from these teachers or their representatives pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-151.

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the above non-renewals of non-tenured staff as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Orange Frog Presentation

Director of PPS Dr. Tammy Hartman presented the 2021-2022 SEL initiative that is focused on Positive Psychology through Shawn Achor's work with *Orange Frog*. In order to strengthen our mission of ensuring student success, TPS is focused on creating a positive school community that recognizes the happiness advantage with the goal of enhancing student engagement that ultimately improves performance, student well-being and fuels positivity and success.

F. Policy Committee Report

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policies for first reading:

- Policy 5113.1 Attendance in Grades K-8
- Policy 5113 High School Attendance- Loss of Credit

It was unanimously agreed by the Board to bring the above policies back to a future Board meeting for approval.

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policies for second reading and approval:

- Policy 4118.112 Sexual Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace
- Policy 5145.5 Sexual Harassment of Students

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

G. Facilities Committee Report/Update on Facilities

Director of Operations, Mr. David Cote presented an update on facilities projects that are scheduled at our schools. Mrs. Nuland presented information from her tour of all buildings.

H. Financial Committee Report

Mr. Hendrickson presented the financial reports as of February 28, 2022 to the Board.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the financial reports as of February 28, 2022 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

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