

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
**Board of Education**  
Regular Meeting – May 3, 2022

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

Board Members present:

L. Timpanelli – Chairman  
J. Norcel - Vice Chair  
J. McNamee - Secretary  
C. Bandecchi - 8:00 p.m. arrival  
T. Gallo  
L. Nuland  
M. Petitti  
A. Squicciarro - 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 – Odyssey of the Mind Team

The Odyssey of the Mind Team placed second in the State for their competition in March and placed first for their verbal spontaneous responses. The team will now represent Trumbull at the World Competition under the coaching of Mr. Henry Lang in Iowa May 24<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>.

The Board congratulated and commended them for excellent achievement.

C. Correspondence – Ms. McNamee read the following correspondence: Gloria Manna wrote about the TPS social emotional program and emailed resources from *Learning from Justice*; Mari Jackson and April Lang wrote about sustainable cafeteria products; Tara Figueroa wrote in support of sexual health education; Joanne Glaser Orenstein stated it is important to teach all historical perspectives; Sarah Jacobs wrote in support of the district's commitment to diversity; Liliana Cores, Traci Galla, Rose Lodice and Catherine Martini wrote in support of TPAUD; Amanda Wagner wrote in support of diversity/equity training and sexual health education; Rachelle Giordano thanked teachers for their hard work; Jamie Molgard wrote about daily Covid emails; Joy and Otilio Colon thanked teachers and praised inclusion week activities.

D. Public Comment

Ashley Gaudiano spoke about mental health awareness. Tom Kelly gave accolades to his teachers and congratulated the We the People team; Kelly Mallozzi supports inclusion week and small kindergarten class size; Joy Colon stated the success of our students depends on our teachers; Michael Ganino, Mary Isaac, Dawn Cantafio and Cat Lamy thanked TPAUD for helping to build a healthy Trumbull; Susan Schaaf talked about the curriculum review process; Christine El Eris thinks it is never too early to educate our children; Carol Elstein said we

cannot allow any student to be marginalized; Patricia Borghesan thinks our children should be exposed to a broad point of view in our curriculum; April Lang talked about working with students in a tree education program; Gloria Manna stated that we need to prepare for CDC protocols in the future and our response; Jens Haulund thanked TPS for the quality education his child has received; Mrs. Tesoro applauded the We the People and Odyssey of the Mind teams for their success and read a proclamation to our Trumbull teachers who shine every day in their important effort in educating our youth.

E. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel

- Dr. Semmel sent thanks for the remarkable dedication of our Trumbull teachers and support staff as we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week in all of our schools.
- Congratulations to Ms. Boland and the We the People team for their top ten success at the recent competition in Washington, D.C.
- Please visit the K-12 art show at THS, opening night is May 11 at 6:00 p.m.
- The Farm Fair is scheduled for Saturday, May 7 at the Agriscience Center from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Come visit rain or shine.
- We froze our budget in early March due to inflation concerns; thus, we will have a surplus for the 2021-2022 school year. As fuel and insurance prices increase, we continue to scrutinize our 2022-2023 budget to research potential cuts to achieve a balanced budget.
- Our SBAC testing is a success thanks to the diligent work of our teachers and their dedication to our students at the elementary level.

F. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli attended an Odyssey of the Mind practice session that prepares students for the world competition in Iowa; she also attended an Incident Training session sponsored by the Town of Trumbull security staff and Fire Marshal that presents crisis scenarios with reaction protocols. She attended the Instrumental Concert at THS. Congratulations to the We the People team for a job well done. The Board sends huge thanks to all the Trumbull teachers and staff for all they are and all they do each and every day for our students and encourages the community to attend the many wonderful events and award ceremonies currently taking place at our schools.

G. Teacher Board Representative Report - Nick Banks reported on:

- Teachers want to thank parents, students, and citizens for their support of the BOE budget and their advocacy at recent BOE and Town Council meetings.
- Teachers are continuing to keep their students safe in the face of rising COVID-19 numbers, and are hopeful for a decline in Covid cases.
- We would also like to recognize all of the teachers and staff members who continue to support students with a myriad of extra-curricular opportunities at every level.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes of BOE Regular Meeting of April 12, 2022

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of April 12, 2022 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel presented one certified resignation.

Valenzuela, Lina; special education teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2019 (currently on a personal leave of absence), resigning June 21, 2022.

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

C. TECEC Preschool Tuition Increase

Dr. Wheeler reviewed the TECEC projected enrollment and tuition in comparison to surrounding towns. The following recommendation was presented:

- The TECEC annual tuition be increased from \$3,600 => \$3,900 for the 2022-23 school year.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above increase from \$3,600 => \$3,900 to the TECEC annual tuition beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Healthy Food Certification - Mrs. Sinko presented the following two certifications for Board approval:

Healthy Food Option:

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Nuland) to approve: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Exemption for Food Items

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (McNamee) to approve: the Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held. Vote: all in favor.

E. Curriculum Committee Report

The Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education met on April 12, 2022 and reviewed curriculum guides and textbooks. Dr. Iwanicki presented the following:

Curriculum Guides

- ACP Physics
- CP Physics

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the two curriculum guides. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

### New Textbooks

- *Musician's Guide: Workbook and Ear-Training*
- *Musician's Guide to Theory and analysis*
- *Musician's Guide: Sight Singing*

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the above three textbooks. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- *Sentieri*

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the *Sentieri* textbook. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- *Fundamental Financial Accounting Concepts*

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (McNamee) to approve *Fundamental Financial Accounting Concepts*. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

### F. Policy Committee Report-Dr. Iwanicki presented the following:

#### Policies, Second Reading

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

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above two policies. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

### G. Financial Committee Report

The Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on April 26, 2022 and reviewed the financials through March 31, 2022. Mr. Hendrickson presented the financials as of March 31, 2022 that included six transfers to the Board for approval.

It was moved (Bandedcchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the above financial reports that include six cash transfers as of March 31, 2022 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

### Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:47 p.m.