

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – May 24, 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 - online
L. Nuland
M. Petitti
A. Squicciarro

Members absent:

T. Gallo

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Board Chair asked for a moment of silence for the tragic death of a child of a Trumbull Public School employee.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.

B. Recognitions:

- COLT Poetry Winners – Ms. Manso Garcia
Trumbull High School was the top medalist in Connecticut at the high school level in the statewide competition COLT (Connecticut Organization of Language Teachers) poetry recitation contest on April 20, 2022. THS received a total of 16 medals; several World Language students attended the meeting and recited their poems to the Board.

The Board congratulated and commended the COLT Poetry winners for this excellent achievement.

- Ms. Katie Boland – 2022 Teacher of the Year by American Lawyers Alliance
Katie Boland, a Trumbull High School government teacher, has been awarded the prestigious 2022 Teacher of the Year Award from the American Lawyers Alliance (ALA), which is a national organization affiliated with the American Bar Association, whose aim is to promote civic- and law-related education. Katie will be presented with the award in August at the Alliance's Annual Meeting in Chicago.

The Board congratulated and commended Ms. Boland for this prestigious honor.

- Mr. Paul Hendrickson – 2022 CASBO Business Official Award
Business Administrator Paul Hendrickson received the 2022 celebrated Connecticut School Business Official award from CASBO (Connecticut Association of School Business Officials). He will be honored at CASBO's June 2nd President's Dinner in Mystic, Connecticut. This award includes a \$1,000 scholarship to be given to a Trumbull Public Schools graduating high-school student of his choice.

The Board congratulated and commended Mr. Hendrickson for his hard work and outstanding achievement.

- C. Correspondence – Ms. McNamee read the following correspondence: Cat Lamy urged the Board to adopt later start time; Catherine Martini supports later start time and also noted that the PTA has allocated funds for a transportation study; D. Scot Kerr and Chris Chase support a later school start time; Traci Galla commented on her family’s happy years at Madison Middle School.
- D. Public Comment
The following people spoke: Marty Isaac spoke of the science to help to improve our children’s mental health by implementing an 8:30 a.m. start time, Susan Schaaf feels we need to remain vigilant in our fight against Covid; Tom Kelly appreciates our teachers who go over and beyond to keep our kids safe; Sujata Wilcox and Mary Isaac thanked Katie Boland who helps transform students into leaders; Christine El Eris supports later school start time and the multi-cultural night at Tashua; Daniel Durden spoke about curriculum; Patricia Borghesan supports decorum at BOE meetings; Pat Kelly spoke about freedom of speech; Joy Colon spoke about equitable access to public education.
- E. Superintendent Report -Dr. Semmel
- We continue to scrutinize our 2022-2023 budget to locate \$2 million in cuts to achieve a balanced budget. We froze the budget early this year to reduce exposure and now can use that surplus to help mitigate cuts. At this time, our insurance rate is the highest it has ever been with an increase from our current insurer of 10.5%. We will be working with the unions to look into other insurers and all reasonable cost-cutting measures to present an update at the June 7 BOE meeting.
 - We are updating the public on a daily basis on our Covid numbers and continue to practice good hygiene techniques in our schools.
- F. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli welcomed John Mastrianni as the new BOE Teacher Representative. Board members are enjoying attending end of the year ceremonies, and events being held in our schools.
- G. Student Board Representatives Report-Student Eman Seyal reported: At all elementary schools, students completed their SBAC tests and NGSS Exam. **Tashua:** Tashua students participated in a schoolwide “Domino Challenge” and all cereal boxes were donated to the Trumbull Food Pantry. **Madison:** the 6th Grade Band made their debut at the Spring Music Concert, and the Jazz Band also played. Madison inducted 77 seventh graders into the National Junior Honor Society. Eight graders enjoyed the in-school lock-in on Friday, which was the first time the event was held since 2019. **Frenchtown:** third grade students have been learning about ecosystems, life cycles, and the traits of living things and first graders participated in a successful egg drop. **Trumbull High:** on June 8th, there will be a Field Day for the freshmen after school to celebrate their first year. **Middlebrook:** Middlebrook held an International Festival, where students enjoyed food and traditions from different cultures. **Daniels Farm:** Fourth grade students took part in a squid dissection for science classes and Student Council prepared their time capsule. **Hillcrest:** Hillcrest and Madison partnered together last month to facilitate a Social Emotional Learning week for all students with a mindfulness assembly. The Interact Club donated care packages for the Bridgeport Rescue Mission and blankets for the Binky Patrol. Hillcrest’s band, orchestra, and chorus students will perform in competitions at Lake Compounce, and Hillcrest’s National Junior Honor Society raised \$1,000 to donate to the Connecticut Heart Camp. Included in the report were comments from Edrina and Eman to support late start time to foster improved mental and physical health in our students. Eman noted that TPS should explore a block schedule at THS that would allow for students to have more time to complete their homework outside of school, thus helping to manage stress. Eman also proposed creating a Trumbull Board of Education Student Advisory Council.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes:

- Regular Meeting – May 3, 2022

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Bandedcchi) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of May 3, 2022 to include the following amendment: At 7:00 p.m. Board member Chris Bandedcchi attended the meeting online and then was present at the Long Hill meeting room at 8:00 p.m. for the remainder of the meeting. Abstain: Squicciarro Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Special Meeting/Executive Session – May 12, 2022

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the minutes of the BOE Special Meeting/Executive Session of May 12, 2022 as presented. Vote: Abstain: McNamee, Bandedcchi. In favor: Timpanelli, Petitti, Norcel, Squicciarro, Nuland. Motion passes.

B. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations/retirements:

Prezioso, Bree Ann; psychologist at Frenchtown Elementary School since August 2004, resigning effective June 30, 2022

Choi, Tiffany; art teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2019, resigning effective June 30, 2022

Conti, Jennifer; teacher of Italian at Trumbull High School since August 2008, resigning effective June 30, 2022

Firmender, Dana; assistant principal at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2019, resigning effective June 30, 2022

McGovern, Margaret; language arts/reading teacher at Madison Middle School since November 2003, retiring effective June 30, 2022

Hoette, Carolyn; special education elementary teacher/department chairperson since August 2021, resigning effective June 21, 2022

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (McNamee) to accept the above resignations/retirements. Vote: all in favor.

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified appointment:

Catalano, Dean; Category II/Step 1 (\$166,106) Director of Pupil Personnel and Special Services effective June 6, 2022.

The Board unanimously received and filed the above certified appointment.

C. Lunch Prices for 2022-2023

Mr. Hendrickson and Food Services Director Betty Sinko presented the recommendation for an increase to school lunch prices in the 2022-2023 school year. Trumbull Public Schools' Food Services Program is one that is self-sustaining and not supported by the district's operating budget. The last time meal and a la carte prices were increased was in school year 2018-2019. During COVID-19, the Food Services meals were *free* to all students as we participated in the Summer Seamless Option, which reimbursed the food services for a *free meal rate*. The Summer Seamless Option (SSO) *ends June 2022*. We return to the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) Reimbursement Rates.

For the 2022/2023 school year, unless students are Direct Certified or have an approved application, they will pay for all meals. Due to the huge increase in the cost of food and supply items and contractual increases, it has become necessary to request an increase in the price of school lunch, 25 cents for lunch and 15 cents for breakfast. Al la carte prices on average will increase 10 to 15 cents.

The recommended prices are:

2022/2023 School Year price increase:

Elementary, Lunch \$3.15 & Breakfast at \$2.35

Middle, Lunch \$3.35 & Breakfast at \$2.35

High, Lunch \$3.50 & Breakfast at \$2.50

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Bandecci) to approve the above increases as presented beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- D. Vision of the Graduate- Dr. Semmel, Dr. Iwanicki, Mr. Costa and Committee
Mr. Jonathan Costa of EdAdvance, Dr. Iwanicki and members of the Vision of the Graduate Committee presented the Trumbull Public Schools Vision of the Graduate work completed this year. Our mission at TPS is to help students prepare to become lifelong learners and to live and participate in a democratic, diverse and global society. The committee work focused on the skills and dispositions useful to students to help them flourish and manage their emotional well-being. Several members cited the importance of: recognizing multiple perspectives, resolving conflict, demonstrating respect and inclusive behaviors, developing coping skills and how to motivate yourself and others. All of the areas to be addressed in the Vision of the Graduate include: problem solving, communication, collaboration, self-efficacy, innovation, growth mindset, emotional intelligence and integrity.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the Vision of the Graduate program as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- E. Late School Start Committee Report
Dr. Iwanicki, THS Principal Mr. Guarino and committee members presented the work of the Late School Start Committee. The evidence is clear that medical evidence supports later start times. Dr. Iwanicki reviewed surveys taken from students, parents and staff that reflect different late start options and the effects on the school community. The committee will proceed to study all of the components of a 30-minute later start time that will have an impact including scheduling, transportation, staffing, traffic and financial costs.

- F. Curriculum Committee Report
The Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education met on May 5, 2022 and reviewed a curriculum guide and textbook. Dr. Iwanicki presented the following:

Curriculum Guide

- ECE Large Animal Science- Curriculum Guide Approval for New Course

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above-referenced curriculum guide as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

New Textbooks

- ACP Global Civilization- New Text Approval: Ellis, G.E., & Elser, A. (2022). World History Interactive. Savvas Learning (2022)

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the above-referenced textbook as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:57 p.m.