

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
**Board of Education**  
Regular Meeting – September 27, 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  
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. Teacher Tenure

Dr. Semmel announced that the following staff members have attained tenure status with the Trumbull Board of Education:

Booth Hill Elementary: Catherine Lago, Jenna Vietze  
Daniels Farm Elementary: Stephanie Helming, Gioia Shiller  
Frenchtown Elementary: Amanda Cook, Brittini Fife, Alexander Riley  
Middlebrook Elementary: Chelsea Rodrigues  
Tashua Elementary: Beth Maranville, Paige Pellegrini  
Madison Middle School: Dylan DeNuzzo, Danielle Steinberg  
Trumbull High School: Daniel Geraghty, Garrett Halstead, Breana Martin, Jack Rende,  
Kenneth Riley, Katharine Robidoux, Christopher Russo, Christopher  
Siano/House Principal, Rick Vazzano, Christopher Wasko  
Long Hill Administration: Stacey Garrity

The Board of Education and Administration congratulated them on achieving tenure.

C. Correspondence – Ms. McNamee read the following correspondence: Lara Walden supports the proposed parking policy. Bree Anne Prezioso asked for a middle school Social Life Lessons class and for professional development for teachers regarding autism and neurodiversity. Gloria Manna spoke of a book she believes to be inappropriate in Trumbull schools. Steven Cunningham asked about policies regarding the use of private security.

D. Public Comment

Daniel Durden sends his congratulations to the tenured teachers and gave his opinion about speakers at Public Comment.

E. Superintendent Report- Dr. Semmel reported:

- Congratulations to all the teachers/administrators for reaching tenure status at TPS.
- Every two weeks, Dr. Semmel meets with PTA members at each of our schools to have conversations to stay informed.
- The firm, Tecton, is developing a Master Facilities Plan that will include a demographic study to help TPS prepare for the future of our buildings. Tecton plans to meet with Trumbull residents to hear their concerns and suggestions. Tecton will then report its findings to the Board for their review to develop a Capital Plan going forward.
- The HVAC study has been completed and will be incorporated into the Tecton report. Dr. Semmel informed the Board of a HVAC grant allocation and the requirements.
- Over 70 students attended the first esports meeting at Hillcrest this week.
- We congratulate National Merit Scholarship semifinalist THS senior Lizzie Steeves, our BOE Student Rep.

F. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli reported:

- The Board met with Tecton to discuss the future of our buildings at TPS. The Trumbull community will have the opportunity to meet with Tecton in the near future.
- At THS, students celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month by spreading the news of Spanish arts, literature, culture and traditions and the importance of the Spanish language in our global society.

G. Teacher BOE Representative Report – John Mastrianni reported that teachers across the district are happy to be back at school engaging with students in classrooms. He encouraged teachers with suggestions/concerns to reach out to their building TEA Rep.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes:

Minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting– September 13, 2022

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes of the above noted meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Minutes of the BOE Retreat of September 20, 2022

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes of the above noted meeting as presented. Vote: 2 abstain- McNamee, Bandecchi 6 - in favor Motion passes

- B. Naming Committee for Peter G. Horton Update  
Dr. Iwanicki discussed the findings from the September 21, 2022 meeting of the Naming Committee for naming the THS Band Room for Peter G. Horton.

**PETER G. HORTON BAND ROOM**  
**Marching Band Director and Music Teacher**  
**1988-2020**

*From the Heart!*

**PRIDE ♪ ATTITUDE ♪ CONCENTRATION**

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

- C. Approval/World Language French Group to Travel to Quebec, Canada  
Mr. Liebskind presented the World Language trip to Quebec, Canada for the THS French Group on February 17 through February 21, 2023.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the overnight World Language trip to Quebec, Canada for the THS French Group on February 17 through February 21, 2023 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- D. ELL Program Update  
Dr. Iwanicki and TPS ELL Department Chair Lisa Carino presented an update on the ELL Program. Students are offered access to the same curriculum as native English speakers. TPS literacy and oral language skills are assessed by LAS Links testing and Trumbull far exceeds state trends in both oral and literacy performance.

- E. SBAC Update  
Dr. Iwanicki presented a summary of the latest Smarter Balanced Assessment results. SBAC test scores were analyzed from 2018-2022 and it is noted that teachers are having an impact on students' ability to return to high performance levels prior to Covid. According to growth scores, Trumbull met or exceeded goals when compared to other DRG B schools. Most Trumbull schools are approaching their pre-pandemic performance levels. We celebrate Trumbull Teachers and Educators who are making great strides to recover learning loss and motivating students.

- F. Personnel Report  
Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations/retirements:  
Breschard, Jessica; district art teacher (.8) since September 2020, resigning effective October 21, 2022.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to accept the above resignation as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- G. Financial Committee Report  
Mr. Hendrickson reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on September 15, 2022 and reviewed financials through June 30, 2022.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the financials as of June 30, 2022 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

In addition, Mr. Hendrickson presented the following proposed transfers and a discussion ensued:

- It is proposed that transfers in the 2021-22 General Fund be made as presented to right size budget objects in deficit.
- It is proposed that up to \$328,706 be transferred from the 2021-22 General Fund available balance and 2020-21 unliquidated encumbrances to the Non-Lapsing Account pending Board of Finance approval.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the proposed transfers listed to right size those objects in the 2021-22 General Fund that are in deficit. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the transfer up to \$328,706 from the 2021-22 General Fund available balance and 2020-21 unliquidated encumbrances to the Non-Lapsing Account pending Board of Finance approval. Vote-In favor- Squicciarro, Gallo, Norcel, Timpanelli, Petitti, Bandecchi. Against- McNamee, Nuland. Motion passes.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to take \$26,000 from the Band Strings non-lapsing account to be spent on technology. Vote-In favor- Squicciarro, McNamee, Gallo, Norcel, Timpanelli, Petitti, Nuland. Bandecchi- online technology malfunction-unable to connect to vote. Motion passes.

#### H. Approval/Healthy Food Certification for 2022-2023 School Year

Mr. Hendrickson presented the Health Food Certification for the 2022-2023 School Year as follows:

**Healthy Food Option:** *The Board of Education or school governing authority for each public school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must vote “yes” or “no” on whether to implement the healthy food option.*

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.

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Healthy Food Option as presented. Vote-In favor- Squicciarro, McNamee, Gallo, Norcel, Timpanelli, Petitti, Nuland. Bandecchi- online technology malfunction-unable to connect to vote. Motion passes.

**Exemption for Food Items:** *If the Board of Education or governing authority votes “yes” for the healthy food option, the Board of Education or governing authority must also vote “yes” or “no” on whether to allow food exemptions.*

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 **food** 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.

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Exemption for Food Items as presented. Vote-In favor- Squicciarro, McNamee, Gallo, Norcel, Timpanelli, Petitti, Nuland. Bandecchi- online technology malfunction-unable to connect to vote. Motion passes.

I. Five Year Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Cote and Mr. Hendrickson presented an updated proposed Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan and listed several priorities: Jane Ryan paving, Booth Hill roof, Tashua paving, Agriscience- HVAC and THS auditorium spotlights. Mr. Cote detailed the rationale of pursuing a HVAC grant for the Middlebrook roof project and responded to the Board’s questions.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Squicciarro) to review, discuss and approve the proposed Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan as presented. Vote: in favor- Squicciarro, Gallo, Norcel, Timpanelli, Petitti, Nuland. Against- McNamee. Bandecchi- online technology malfunction-unable to connect to vote. Motion passes.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:20 p.m.