

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – November 15, 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 arrived at 7:25 p.m.
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: Gloria Manna wrote with questions regarding TPS policies and curriculum. Jess Citron Henry inquired about the proposed bell schedule change. John Congdon wrote regarding the shortage of substitute teachers. Steven Lage, Erica Siegel, Diana Lage, Stan Zazula, Jason Allen, Diane Norlander, Bolu Adewami, Lindsey Ciocci, Kathy Babin, and Ashley Zuzik all wrote in support of retaining the literacy and math specialists at Daniels Farm School,
- C. Public Comment
The following people spoke: Kelly Mallozzi spoke about the stress on students regarding the high level of rigor and to consider adding a Muslim holiday to the school calendar; Meredith Bagley spoke about ensuring students' rights in our schools.
- D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel reported:
- Dr. Semmel is looking forward to the first public discussion group with Tecton Architects at Booth Hill School on Thursday, November 17 from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. All Trumbull residents are invited to attend.
 - Dr. Semmel sends his thanks for the remarkable work that TPAUD does for our community in reducing drug and alcohol use in our children. TPAUD recently conducted a forum for grade 9 students at THS.
 - The last day for free school meals is Wednesday, November 30, 2022. Paid meals will start on Thursday, December 1, 2022. Reduced price food remains in effect for those students who qualify. Please visit our website to apply for free and reduced lunch through our Food Service Department.

- Dr. Semmel and several TPS staff members toured Sikorsky Aircraft in Stratford, Connecticut where they were given the opportunity to discuss how TPS can prepare students to enter the high-tech manufacturing workforce.
- E. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli reported:
- Mrs. Timpanelli attended the Agriscience Open House for potential applicants from Trumbull and eight surrounding school districts.
 - Veterans shared their experiences with THS seniors and were honored at the Veterans Day Program at THS.
 - The Board hopes Trumbull residents will attend the first public meeting with Tecton on November 17 at Booth Hill School.
 - Congratulations to Dr. Semmel who has been invited by UConn to instruct a course in the the Administrator Preparation Program.
- F. Student BOE Representatives Report – Elizabeth Steeves and Matthew Wich reported:
All Trumbull schools participated in events honoring Veterans Day. Booth Hill- author's and firefighters visit, walkathon. Middlebrook- student council food drive, Little Free library, Start with Hello Spirit Week. Daniels Farm- kindergarten I am a Reader parade, PJ day, family bingo night. Jane Ryan- Pumpkin Fair, Veterans Day concert. Frenchtown- Key to the Reading Kingdom, First Selectman reading challenge, Vicki Soto race. Tashua- National Stress Awareness Day, author's and Rotary visit, World Kindness Day, Turkey Trot. Madison- eSports, FallOut dance, basketball tryouts, Live Your Best Life Week. Hillcrest- ice cream social, Native American Heritage month, Red Ribbon Week, Hawk Talk. THS-boys soccer FCIAC champions, recap of sport teams, TPAUD grade 9 forum, Veterans Day celebration.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes:

- Minutes of the Special Meeting/Executive Session, October 20, 2022

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

- Minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting– October 25, 2022

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

B. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel reported the following certified resignations/retirements:

Buckingham, Teresa; district elementary English/language arts program leader since August 1992, retiring effective June 30, 2023.

Gorton, Carolyn; kindergarten teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School since August 2000, retiring effective June 30, 2023.

Muralidharan, Malathi; math teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2001, retiring effective June 30, 2023.

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

C. Approval/THSGEMB Winter Percussion Trip to Dayton, Ohio

Mr. Joshua Murphy presented the trip for THSGEMB Winter Percussion to Dayton, Ohio on April 18-23, 2023.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Gallo) to accept the above overnight trip to Dayton, Ohio as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/2023 Board of Education Dates

In accordance with Section 10-218 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the By-laws of the Trumbull Board of Education, the Board shall adopt a meeting schedule for the upcoming year. Dr. Semmel presented the 2023 Board of Education meeting dates for full Board approval.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Squicciarro) to accept the 2023 Board of Education meeting dates as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Approval/Educational Specifications for Middlebrook Elementary HVAC Improvement Grant

Mr. Cote presented the Educational Specifications of the HVAC Grant Program for Middlebrook. Funding for the HVAC improvement project has been approved for the 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Plan by the Board of Education and Town Council.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the Educational Specifications for the Middlebrook Elementary HVAC Improvement Grant Program. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Bell Schedule Presentation

Jonathan Costa from EdAdvance presented an analysis on the benefits of an updated bell schedule that will increase instructional time, reduce stress and be in the best interest of our students. A new schedule will allow for more elective courses that will help increase the well-being and mental health of students. Financial impacts were discussed as well as the consideration of a 30 minute later school start option pending transportation costs.

It was moved (Bandecci) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the 8 period drop 2 bell schedule for Trumbull High School for the 2023-2024 school year. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Curriculum Committee Report- Dr. Iwanicki presented:

Approval/Curriculum Guides/Texts

Grade 6 Reading New Texts Approval for Revised Course

- Woodson, Jacqueline. *Harbor Me*, 2018.
- Lai, Thanhha. *Inside Out & Back Again*, 2011.

Grade 7 ELA New Text Approval for Revised Course

- Alifirenka, Caitlin, et al. *I Will Always Write Back: How One Letter Changed Two Lives*. 2015.

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

Trumbull High School (New Course Curriculum Guide Approvals)

- Grades 9-12 – *Jazz Band*

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

- Grades 10-12 – *African American/Black and Puerto Rican/Latino Course of Studies*

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

H. Policy Committee Report

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policies for a Second Reading:

- 5141.3 – Student Health Services, Health Assessments and Immunizations

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

- 1212.1 - Volunteers

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the Volunteers policy as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

I. Financial Committee Report

The Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on October 27, 2022 and reviewed financials through September, 2022.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the financial reports through September 30, 2022 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:22 p.m.