

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – December 13, 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 7:35 p.m.
T. Gallo
L. Nuland
M. Petitti - online
A. Squicciarro

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

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

Mrs. Timpanelli asked for a moment of silence in honor of Michael Curry, a former Trumbull High and Madison Middle School science teacher, who recently passed away.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

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

B. Recognition – First Selectman’s Golf Classic

First Selectman Vicki Tesoro presented checks from the proceeds of the First Selectman’s Golf Classic to the following groups:

- Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band
- PowerPlay Club—Hockey
- Laxmen’s Club—Boys and Girls Lacrosse
- Touchdown Club—Football
- Diamond Club—Baseball and Softball
- Basketball
- ACE Foundation

The Board thanked and commended the First Selectman and the Golf Classic Committee for their efforts and donations.

C. Correspondence – Ms. McNamee read the following correspondence: Michael Ganino is happy to announce the partnership with the Trumbull Senior Commission; Yohanna Cifuentes, Gilda Kumtas-Oral, Ali Oral and Bolu Adewami wrote to support Daniel Farm’s specialists; Matt Bracksieck thanked the Board for their support of LGBTQ students; 14 parents and former students wrote in support of later school start times, Meredith Bagley, Gordana Thompson, Kristen Sabad and Jamie Molgard wrote with concerns regarding political bias in classrooms;

Stephen Lemoine requested support for a THS club; Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox supports a text for the African-American literature course.

D. Public Comment

The following people spoke: Many parents at this evening's meeting complimented TPS teachers for their diligent work in teaching our children. Amanda Dombrowski, Patricia Kelly, Carol Porrata Elstein and student Chris Pettinella spoke in support of a THS club; Meredith Bagley spoke about political bias; Tara Figueroa spoke in support of a literature textbook; Andrea Fonseca thanked teachers who enable children to build life skills; Michael Ganino is proud of our Trumbull seniors who are willing to volunteer in our schools; Gloria Manna spoke about CRT; Christine El Eris spoke in favor of healthy start times; Joanne Glasser Orenstein spoke about the importance of life-long learning; Kelly Mallozzi thinks teachers must answer students questions factually and Erin Rooney is grateful for the excellent teachers at Daniels Farm and Hillcrest.

E. Superintendent Report – Dr. Semmel

- Dr. Semmel sends his thanks to Mrs. Tesoro and the folks at the First Selectman's Golf Classic for the generous donation of \$41,000 to Trumbull Public Schools booster clubs.
- The Master Planning Committee continues its work and we invite all Trumbull residents to join the conversation by visiting trumbullps.org, District Wide Master Plan to complete the community survey which is forthcoming.
- We are putting the finishing touches on the Superintendent's recommended budget for 2023-2024 and when complete, it will be available to the public on our website. Our first priority is to ensure all students have the support they need. Our focus for next year's budget will be to replace much needed staff in our buildings; and at the high school - enable students more opportunities for elective courses. The hurdles for next year are: expected increases in healthcare, transportation and inflation. The first BOE budget meeting will be on January 10, 2023.
- Dr. Semmel was honored to attend the State BOE meeting with Math Program Leader Kim Lombardi representing Booth Hill; where Blue-Ribbon schools shared the strategies that make their schools unique.
- We wish all of the Trumbull community and TPS staff a safe and healthy holiday season.

F. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli reported on attending the legislative breakfast on December 2 at CES with Dr. Semmel and Marie Petitti. The Agriscience Holiday Sale held this past weekend was a success. The entire Board sends its most sincere wishes for a Happy Holiday season.

G. Teacher BOE Representative Report – The TEA sends its condolences to the family of teacher Mike Curry. We wish everyone a happy and healthy holiday season.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes:

- Minutes of the Special Meeting/BOE Retreat, November 10, 2022

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes of the above noted meeting as presented. Vote: Squicciarro-abstain. 7-in favor. Motion passes.

- Minutes of the BOE Special Meeting– November 29, 2022

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the minutes of the above noted meeting as presented. Vote: Gallo-abstain. 7-in favor. Motion passes.

B. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel reported the following certified appointment:

Stellato, Caitlin; MA/5 (.5) (\$30,286) art teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School and Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center

Dr. Semmel reported the following certified resignations/retirements:

Medeiros, Nicole; special education teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2015, resigning effective December 22, 2022

Romanello, Nancy; special education teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2002, retiring effective January 31, 2023

Dr. Semmel reported the following non-certified resignations/retirements:

Collins, Susan; secretary at Madison Middle School since December 1, 2003, retiring effective December 30, 2022

Zamary, Evelyn; secretary at Trumbull High School since November 27, 2006, retiring effective January 17, 2023

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

C. Approval/Model UN Field Trip

THS teacher, Mr. Jack LaBarca presented the trip for the Model UN Club to travel to Boston, MA for March 24-26, 2023 for students to participate in the Boston College Model UN Conference. Funding for the trip is provided through parents and fundraising.

It was moved (Bandecci) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the above Model UN overnight trip to Boston, Massachusetts as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. CESO Bus Study

Mr. Mike Archer of CESO Consulting presented a transportation review funded by the PTA Council. Mr. Archer presented data on number of students transported, core bus routes and estimated annual spending. A cost analysis associated with the new high school bell schedule and the impact of the proposed later school start time were discussed. A forthcoming report will summarize current operations and make recommendations for long term efficiency opportunities.

E. Curriculum Committee Report -Dr. Iwanicki presented:

- Grade 4 & 5 Science Curriculum Guide Updates

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the above curriculum guide update. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Trumbull High School New Course Proposals
 - Grades 9-12 American Sign Language- Level 1
 - Grades 11-12 Early College Experience- If You Love It, Teach It

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above two course proposals.
Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Trumbull High School New Text Proposal for Grade 12 - African American Literature
 - Butler, Octavia E., *Parable of the Sower*. New York, Four Walls Eight Windows, 1993.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the above new text proposal.
Vote: against- Petitti. 7- in favor. Motion passes.

F. Financial Committee Report

The Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on November 17, 2022 and reviewed financials through October 31, 2022. Discussed were the rise in the cost of transportation and health care benefits and the impact of the Smart Food program ending.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the financial reports through October 31, 2022 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:55 p.m.