

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – February 7, 2023

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

Members absent:

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.

Recognitions

B. VFW Student Essay Winners

Trumbull High School student Justin Adorante won the VFW Essay contest for the Voice of Democracy Program at the high school level. Hillcrest Middle School student Addison Doyle and Madison Middle School student Samantha Russo won for the VFW sponsored Patriot's Pen Program essay contest.

The Board congratulated and commended these students for their outstanding achievements.

VFW Teacher of the Year for the State of Connecticut – Kathy Rubano

THS Social Studies Department Chairperson Kathy Rubano has been selected as Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Teacher of The Year for the State of Connecticut. She won the local Post, the District (Fairfield County) and now the State.

The Board congratulated and commended Kathy Rubano for this outstanding achievement.

C. Correspondence – Ms. McNamee read the following correspondence: Srikanth and Sree Prabhala and Jennifer Williamson support a later school start time; Linda Zwickler, Jane Flanigan, Caroline Minella, Michael Iaccarino and Patrice Stanley wrote with concerns with the parking policy; 43 people wrote asking that Trumbull students be given Diwali off from school, many noting it is an important part of Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and Sikh culture; 47

people wrote asking that Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adha be holidays off from school since they are important in the Muslim religion.

D. Public Comment

The following people spoke: Jane Flanigan spoke about concerns with the parking policy; Fatima Muthana, Mehreen Seyal, Sara McConnell, Musa-Ali Ahmed, Khaled Elleithy, Heidi Hanson, Sheetal Abbi, Jiya Mahotra and Michael Ganino all spoke in favor of TPS adding Muslim holidays to the school calendar; Michael Ganino also thanked all those who donated their time and valentines to the Trumbull Senior Center.

E. Superintendent Report- Dr. Semmel

- There is a district-wide Math/Literacy Night scheduled on February 8 at Frenchtown from 6:00-8:00 p.m. Parents will learn how to engage in various programs with their children to enhance learning. We are excited to report that over 100 families have registered to attend.
- Dr. Semmel reviewed the parameters of the parking policy that were recently instituted at THS as a safety measure. We are reviewing residents' recommendations and concerns in order to be considerate to our surrounding neighbors as we work through the implementation of this new policy.
- Dr. Semmel thanked the families who voiced their opinions at public comment that will be forwarded to the District Calendar Committee when they meet in late spring to develop the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school year calendars.

F. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli

- Mrs. Timpanelli reported the Calendar Committee works with the entire Trumbull community to research and consider all requests to develop the school year calendar. The Committee will meet in late spring to plan for the next two years and all requests will be evaluated and considered equally.
- Mrs. Timpanelli has visited and met with residents on Cardinal Circle regarding concerns in the surrounding neighborhood to THS. Administration is monitoring possible issues moving forward.

G. Student BOE Representatives Report – Matthew Wich and Elizabeth Steeves reported:

Booth Hill- Father's Club pancake palooza, Kids heart fundraiser, international day, Black History month, after school enrichment; Middlebrook- Wings Scholarship, book drive, Best Buddies chapter, bowling night, CAS leadership workshop, book tasting, student Kushagra Bhargave won the chess champion title, Black History month assembly; Daniels Farm- forces and motion assembly, Eli Whitney museum visit, green team, book fair, kids heart challenge; Jane Ryan- 100 day celebration, sports team day, Father's Club breakfast; Frenchtown- T.R.A.C.K.S. commitment, piglet mindset; Tashua- family wellness night, spirit week; Hillcrest- basketball clinic to donate gift bags to Yale nurses, chamber choir, Shrek Junior play, engineering challenge, math counts, science bowl, snowflake drive; Madison- winter concerts, athletic playoffs, iReady reading and math, mentors winter workshop; THS- new block schedule, mastery based diploma assessment, career and technical spirit week, We the People team won states, Bye Birdie, world language day, language honor societies visit to the middle schools, and success of our sports teams.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes:

- Minutes of the BOE Budget Meeting of January 10, 2023

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 Budget Meeting of January 12, 2023

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

B. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel reported the following appointments:

DiDonato, Jennifer; MA/9 (\$41,417) (.6) reading teacher at Hillcrest Middle School effective February 1, 2023

Swift, Marissa; MA/4 (\$58,734) special education teacher at Trumbull High School effective January 10, 2023

Dr. Semmel reported the following certified resignations/retirement:

Acerbo, Lisa; English teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2008, resigning effective January 20, 2023

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

C. Approval/DECA Trip to Orlando, Florida

Advisor Ms. Christina Rusate presented the proposed trip for THS DECA group to travel to Orlando, Florida from April 21-26, 2023 to attend the International Career Development Conference (ICDC). Funding is provided by students/families and DECA.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the DECA trip to Orlando, Florida from April 21-21, 2023 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Color Guard Field Trip to attend Winter Guard International

Mr. Joshua Murphy presented the proposed THS Winter Guard trip to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania from March 18-19, 2023 to attend the Winter Guard International and asked the Board to waive the 90-day field trip timeline. Funding is provided by students/families.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to waive the 90-day timeline and approve the above Color Guard trip to the Winter Guard International as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Approval/Model Congress Field Trip

THS teacher, Ms. Katie Boland, presented the proposed THS Model Congress trip to the University of Pennsylvania from March 23-26, 2023 and asked the Board to waive the 90-day field trip timeline. Funding is provided by BEI grants, the ACE Foundation and students/families.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to waive the 90-day timeline and approve the above Model Congress trip to the University of Pennsylvania as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Future Ready Technology Plan

Mrs. Christina Hefele, Director of Digital Learning presented the district's participation in the Future Ready Schools Cohort and shared the 3-year plan that the committee developed to show how technology will be implemented to support our curriculum and district goals.

G. Approval/2023-2024 Budget

The administration has reviewed the Superintendent's proposed 2023-2024 budget which was presented in January and made revisions based on adjustments in health benefits, ELITE, Facilities/Summer Help, pending bus contract, custodial night differential, maintenance overtime, and HVAC repairs/service fees.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the Superintendent's 2023-2024 budget with revisions as proposed. Vote: In favor- Norcel, McNamee, Gallo, Nuland, Petitti, Timpanelli, Bandecchi. Motion passes.

H. Curriculum Committee Report

The Curriculum Committee met on January 10, 2023 and reviewed curriculum texts and guides. Dr. Iwanicki presented the following for full Board approval.

- New Text Proposal - Kindergarten Social Studies

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the K Social Studies text as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Grades 2-5 Social Studies Curriculum Guides

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the grades 2-5 curriculum guides as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Grade 2 Social Studies New Text Proposals

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the grade 2 social studies texts as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Grade 3 Social Studies New Text Proposal

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Grade 3 Social Studies text as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

I. Financial Committee Report

The Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on December 15, 2022 and January 26, 2023 and reviewed the financials through November 30, 2022 and December 31, 2022. In addition, the Finance Committee also considered and approved the semi-annual inter-fund transfers.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the financial reports through November 30 and December 31, 2022 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the semi-annual inter-fund transfers as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:15 p.m.