

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – February 28, 2023

The Trumbull Board of Education met for a Regular Meeting on Zoom due to inclement weather.

Members present:

L. Timpanelli – Chairman
J. Norcel – Vice Chair
J. McNamee - Secretary
C. Bandecchi
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: The Board received 34 emails regarding the Indian Diwali and the Muslim Eid holidays. Many residents wrote in support of adding Diwali and Eid to the school calendar. The Board also received 28 letters in support of Eid being added to the school calendar.
- C. Public Comment- The following people spoke: Shefa Alaakoori, Perry Soliman, Izaan Ahmed, Jennifer Russo, Mehreen Seyal, Ritu Raina, Sudiksha Gadiraju, Ronika Choudhary, Sai Dhana Sourish Devanaboyina all spoke of the importance of the Islamic holidays being included on the Trumbull school calendar; Mergima AlArnaout gave suggestions for Ramadan awareness; Sara Desautels spoke in support of the rugby team being recognized as a varsity sport.
- D. Superintendent Report – Dr. Semmel
- We are looking forward to the partnership with the Trumbull Senior Center pilot program beginning at Frenchtown. We are grateful for the seniors who are willing to provide their valuable time to our students.
 - A big thanks to the Tashua and Daniels Farm PTAs for their donations for Ben’s Bells murals to be installed at these elementary schools.
 - We have submitted the science of reading waiver to the State Department of Education.
 - On March 9 at 7:00 p.m. in Town Council Chambers, the Superintendent will present the BOE adopted budget to the Board of Finance. There are also two public hearings scheduled: Saturday, March 18 at 10:00 a.m. in Town Council Chambers and a virtual meeting on Tuesday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m. All of the budget information is available on our website. We encourage the public to attend these meetings and voice their opinions.
 - The Connecticut State Department of Education will begin a new free student meal program on March 1, 2023 - June 2023, at Trumbull Public Schools.

- At this evening’s meeting, we would like to recognize the hard work of our students who participate in the All State Music Festival, We the People Championship, Robotics World Championship, eSports Tournament and the Wrestling Team Championship.
- E. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli reported on a phone conversation with former student, Eman Seyal. At tonight’s meeting, we will be voting on the approval of graduation day at THS.
- F. Teacher Representative Report – Teacher Rep John Mastrianni reported on the support of fully funding the Superintendent’s budget request in order to maintain staffing levels. Please reach out to the Board of Finance and Town Council to voice your support.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes:

- Minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of February 7, 2023

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes of the above noted meeting as presented. Vote: In favor-Timpanelli, Norcel, Gallo, McNamee, Bandecchi, Nuland. Abstain: Squicciarro. Motion passes.

- Special BOE Meeting of February 21, 2023

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes of the above noted meeting as presented. Vote: In favor-Timpanelli, Norcel, Gallo, Squicciarro, Bandecchi, Nuland. Abstain: McNamee. Motion passes.

B. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel reported the following certified appointment:

Pacelli, Kevin; MA/6 (\$62,468) English teacher at Trumbull High School effective February 13, 2023.

Dr. Semmel reported the following certified retirements/resignations:

Flatto, Elizabeth; reading teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since October 2004, retiring† effective December 31, 2022.

Kahn, Ruth; math teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2021, resigning effective February 24, 2023.

Rogalin, Pamela; digital learning teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2003, retiring effective June 30, 2023.

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

C. Approval/Trumbull High School CMEA All State Festival Trip to Hartford, CT

Mr. Joshua Murphy presented the trip to Hartford, Connecticut for the Connecticut Music Educators Association (CMEA) All State Festival from March 30, 2023 to April 1, 2023. The funding for this trip will be provided by students/families and the bus fee will be covered by the Transportation account.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the CMEA trip to Hartford, CT as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- D. Approval/THS We the People trip to the National Finals in Washington, DC
Ms. Katie Boland presented the trip for the We The People team to attend the National Finals in Washington, DC from April 21-25, 2023. The team advances to the finals after winning the State Championship. Funding for this trip consists of parent contributions, fundraising efforts, and BOE support.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the We The People team trip to Washington, DC as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- E. Approval/Robotics First Tech Challenge World Championship trip to Houston, Texas
THS teacher, Mr. Joseph Amaturio presented the proposed trip for the THS ACE Robotics 72 Team to attend the First Tech World Championship from April 18-22, 2023 in Houston, Texas. The team advances to the World Championship after winning the State Championship. Funding for this trip is provided from the ACE Foundation, BEI, Trumbull High School, fundraising and parent contributions.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the above Robotics First Tech Challenge World Championship trip to Houston, Texas as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- F. Approval/THS Graduation Date
Dr. Semmel presented the THS graduation date of Tuesday, June 13, 2023 for Board approval.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the THS graduation date of Tuesday, June 13, 2023 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- G. Donation/Ben's Bells Mural at Tashua Elementary
The Tashua Elementary PTA would like to donate \$4,000 to Tashua to have a Be Kind mural installed at the front entry.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the donation of \$4,000 from the Tashua Elementary PTA to the school for the purpose of installing a Be Kind mural at the entrance of the school. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- H. Donation/Ben's Bells Mural at Daniels Farm Elementary
The Daniels Farm Elementary PTA would like to donate \$4,500 to Daniels Farm to have a Be Kind mural installed at the front entry.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the donation of \$4,500 from the Daniels Farm Elementary PTA to the school for the purpose of installing a Be Kind mural at the entrance of the school. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- I. Facilities Committee Report/Update
Mr. David Cote updated the Board on the recent Facilities Meeting on 2/28/23. Discussed were the Booth Hill and Middlebrook roof projects, long term Tecton planning; new boiler

replacement; THS parking and proposed summer projects that include drainage issues, and gym floor refinishing.

J. New Website Demo to Increase Community Awareness & Communication

Ms. Christina Hefele gave a preview of the new district website set to be launched on March 8, 2023. Our new website will be a great communication tool for parents that will include important information, policies, the latest news, and upcoming events with quick links for easy access.

K. iReady Mid-Year Results and Informing Instruction

Dr. Iwanicki gave a mid-year update on student progress and how do the outcomes provide valuable information in terms of the impact of our curriculum and the strategies used in its delivery. iReady data were examined by meeting standards and making growth goals in reading and math. This data helps inform instructional conversation with the goal of enhancing student learning with increased positive outcomes.

L. Curriculum Committee Report

The Curriculum Committee met on February 8, 2023 and reviewed curriculum texts and guides.

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following for full Board approval:

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Norcel) to add to the New Course Proposals: Grades 9-12 American Indian History. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the above new course proposal as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

New Course Proposals

- Grade 12 Authentic Science Research
- Grade 11 and 12 Astronomy
- Grade 11 and 12 Forensic Science

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the above three new course proposals as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Grade 9-12 Percussion Ensemble
- Grade 11 and 12 Introduction to Piano

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the above two new course proposals as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Grade 10-12 Unified Physical Education
- Grade 12 Story of Self – Exploring the Bridge between Fiction and Non-Fiction

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

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:27 p.m.