

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – March 14, 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: student Sudiksha Gadiraju wrote a letter to the Board; Sonia Beri and Alpa Mamidanna requested Diwali a holiday; Mehreen Seyal sent the Norwalk holiday calendar; Mike Pastore thanked Jane Ryan custodians and food service staff for their hard work; Linda Zwickler, Jane Flanigan and Stephanie Renna wrote regarding parking issues; nine letters were received supporting the Muslim holidays and Lara Foligno Walden wrote in support of the Superintendent’s budget.
- C. Public Comment
The following people spoke: Mehreen Seyal, Kalim Jan, Olivia Plonski, Aaron Muthana, Shan-Ali Ahmed, Feras Hantash, Abdel Rahan Aboukowaya, Khaled Elliethy, Uswah Khan requested the EID holiday be added to the school calendar; Ellen Karandisecky spoke in opposition to adding another holiday to the school calendar and TEA President Nick Banks spoke in support of the Superintendent’s budget and encouraged the Trumbull community to voice their opinions to the Board of Finance.
- D. Superintendent Report- Dr. Semmel
- Our proposed budget increase request of 4.9% was reduced by the First Selectman to 3.3%. Complicated by challenging economics and rising inflation, a 3.3% increase would necessitate cutting existing staff and programs. We strongly encourage the Trumbull community to voice their opinions to the Board of Finance. There are 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.
 - We have been listening to all of the Trumbull residents’ opinions regarding the school calendar. All requests will be heard by the District Calendar Committee that has been in

- place for many years that receives all requests, state mandates and information in order to coordinate the school calendar.
- The next Master Building Committee meeting will be held at Madison Middle School on 3/22/23 from 6-8 p.m. We invite the Trumbull community to attend this meeting to allow your voice to be heard that will impact the future of our buildings.
- E. Board Chairman Report – March is Board of Education appreciation month and Mrs. Timpanelli would like to thank the Trumbull BOE members for all their hard work and dedication to our students.
- F. Student Representatives Report – Student Reps Elizabeth Steeves and Matthew Wich reported at Daniels Farm- One School, One Book; March Madness; Read Across America week; Heart Challenge; Superbowl drive, Ben’s Bell Kindness assembly Booth Hill- spring book fair; March madness, Heart Challenge; ROARS Middlebrook- Eli Whitney museum visit; world reading week; Urban Air Frenchtown- Read Across America week with virtual visit with Aya Khalil and Denver Broncos cheerleaders Jane Ryan- Read Across America week, fruit and vegetable challenge, spirit week Tashua- Read Across America, read-a-thon, we are so lucky to have you luncheon Hillcrest-Say Something Week, student led conferences, women’s history month, Fair Trade posters, rock climbing, Rotary student of the month Madison- SAVE club, panthers love to play day, performance of *Annie* THS- French students Quebec trip; winter sports; world language honor society field trip; transition to high school night; math team qualified for states; DECA competition; junior SATs; *42nd Street* musical; marching band to perform at Bridgeport St. Patrick’s parade; scholarship bulletin is live; Model Congress and Model UN trips and Bicen fundraiser.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes:

Minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of February 28, 2023

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

B. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel reported no changes since the last meeting.

C. Approval/Trumbull Day 2023 Special Request

The Trumbull Day Commission would like to use Hillcrest Middle School on Friday, June 30, Saturday, July 1, and Sunday, July 2 (rain date) 2023. The Trumbull Day Commission is requesting that the Board of Education waive its Policy 133, Use of Public School Buildings and Sites for three (3) days to allow for an alcohol concession on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High Schools. If approval is granted, all other provisions of the Board Policy must be adhered to and alcohol distribution and consumption must be properly monitored and controlled by the Trumbull Police Department, First Selectman’s Office, and Trumbull Day Commission members, to ensure that this concession is regulated in a responsible and appropriate manner.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the waiver for the Town of Trumbull to allow alcohol concession booth on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High School in conjunction with Trumbull Day on Friday, June 30, Saturday, July 1, and Sunday, July 2, 2023(rain date) as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Middle School SAVE Promise Club trip to Sandy Hook Promise National Youth Summit in Cleveland, Ohio

Ms. Michaela Durand presented the Middle School SAVE Promise Club trip to Sandy Hook Promise National Youth Summit in Cleveland, Ohio. This conference will provide successful violence prevention strategies to which the attendees can bring back and share with their schools and communities. The trip will be funded through the Sandy Hook Promise Organization.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the above Middle School SAVE Promise Club trip to Sandy Hook Promise National Youth Summit in Cleveland, Ohio as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Using Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) to Support All Learners

Dr. Iwanicki, Mr. Catalano, and Mrs. Dawson presented MTSS that is creating a new process for the success of all TPS students. Team leaders spoke of the multi-tiered systems of support that are in place to foster improvements in students social emotional, academic, behavioral health and attendance. Best practice for school based mental health supports and plans to strengthen our district wide intervention process as well as creating professional development practices for staff and families were discussed.

F. Policy Committee Report

The Policy Committee met on March 7, 2023 and reviewed the following policies for First Reading:

- 5113.1 Attendance Grades K-8
- 5113 High School Attendance and Credit Loss
- 5144.4 Physical Education and Discipline of Students

It was unanimously agreed to bring these policies back to the Board for full approval.

G. Financial Committee Report

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on March 9, 2023 and reviewed financials through January 31, 2023.

Mr. Hendrickson would like to thank all those who attended the recent Board of Finance meeting and voiced their support for the Superintendent's budget. Mr. Hendrickson reviewed the financials and responded to the Board's questions.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the financial reports through January 31, 2023 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:42 p.m.