

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – July 11, 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 (virtual)
J. McNamee - Secretary
C. Bandecchi
T. Gallo
L. Nuland
M. Petitti

Members absent:

A. Squicciarro

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Ms. McNamee read the following correspondence:
Kristen Frank wrote in support of teacher Samantha Hartson and Alice Ospina wrote in support of teacher Grace Ferguson. Teachers Amy Oman, Robert Devine, Morgan Mancini and John Mastrianni and social worker Meredith Barton wrote in support of keeping Kelly Curry at Madison. Hosam Afifi wrote in support of including Eid holidays in the district calendar. Sixteen residents wrote in opposition to the budget cut moving Dave Turechek from his present position. The following people are in support of Mr. Turechek remaining in his current position and of the music program: Sara Hoefler, Amy LaFond, Penny Ploski Judy Weaver, Lianna Weaver, Donna Horton, Alan Amendola, Sarah Carroll, Aileen Delaney, Sue Yellen, Chris Coulter, Brandee Gilmore, Nick Wildason-Ferreri, Amy Congdon, Lisa Bhagirathy and Mary Jo Vasquez.
- C. Public Comment
The following people spoke:
Student Leah Cohen spoke in favor of having free menstrual products in all bathrooms. Khalid Elliethy, Fatima Muthana, Musa-Ali Ahmed, Mehreen Seyal, Uswah Khan, Olivia Plonski, and Ahmed Mofadal spoke in support of adding Eid holidays to the district calendar. Amy Lafond Scot Kerr, Lara Walden and JC Cinelli spoke in support of the music program and Dave Turechek.
- D. Superintendent Report
Dr. Semmel wished everyone a great beginning of summer and reported on the custodial/maintenance projects that are going forward over the summer such as deep cleaning at all schools, the Middlebrook roofing project, Jane Ryan paving and work at Tashua

Elementary. He commented that the summer ESY program is off to a great start as well as the summer enrichment program headed by Terry Buckingham. He reported good progress on the hiring of open staff positions. With regard to the emails inquiring about the music program moves, he cited tough decisions were made to find efficiencies due to budgetary reasons after a \$1.95 million cut to the BOE adopted budget. He reiterated that in 2022-2023 there were 2.45 FTE's dedicated to Band/Strings and in 2023-2024 there are 2.50 FTE's dedicated to Band/Strings so no reduction was made. He noted that elementary classroom teachers teach 1,635 minutes per week and elementary music teachers teach 1,380 minutes per week leaving them enough prep time.

E. Board Chairman Report

Mrs. Timpanelli wished all students and staff a happy, relaxed and relaxing summer. She reported that the Board will be meeting with Tecton Associates regarding a plan for restoration of buildings. She congratulated again the Class of 2023 and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes

Minutes of the following:

- BOE Regular Meeting of June 6, 2023
- BOE Special Meeting/Executive Session of June 14, 2023

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the minutes of June 6, 2023 Regular Meeting as presented. Vote- In favor: Timpanelli, Norcel, Bandecchi, Gallo, Nuland, Petitti. Abstain: McNamee. Motion passes.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the minutes of June 14, 2023 Special Meeting/Executive Session as presented. Vote- In favor: Timpanelli, Norcel, McNamee, Gallo, Nuland, Petitti. Abstain: Bandecchi. Motion passes.

A motion was made (Nuland) and seconded (Gallo) to move up in the order Agenda Item III-D - Approval District Calendars 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 to this portion of the meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/District Calendars 2024-2025 and 2025-2026

Dr. Semmel reported that the District Calendar Committee met on May 16, 2023. Dr. Iwanicki was the chair and with input from administrators, teachers, students and community members, the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 calendars were drafted and are hereby presented for Board approval.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Gallo) to approve both the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 District Calendars as presented.

A motion was then made (Bandecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to amend the approval of the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 District Calendars to include on the district calendars both federal and religious holidays as Christmas, New Years, Good Friday to be included. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The Board voted unanimously in favor to approve the amended 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 District Calendars.

Mrs. Nuland reminded everyone of the listing of holidays that currently appears on the TPS website. Mr. Bandecchi encouraged a formation of a policy for considering holidays.

B. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel reported three certified resignation/retirements:

Hills, RayQuiner; special education teacher Madison Middle School since August 2022, resigning effective June 26, 2023.

Huffman, Cathy; elementary TAG teacher since September 2008, retiring effective August 1, 2023.

Stone, Megan; grade 2 teacher at Daniels Farm Elementary School since August 2018 resigning effective June 30, 2023.

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

Dr. Semmel reported two non-certified resignation/retirements:

Barrett, Lisa; Administrative Assistant in the Transportation Department since May 2000, retiring effective July 28, 2023.

Hackett, Jeffrey; Manager of Technology since January 1998, retiring effective August 4, 2023.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Bandecchi) to accept the above non-certified resignation/retirements as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. District Improvement Plan (DIP) 2023-2024

Dr. Semmel presented the 2023-2024 District Improvement Plan (DIP). This plan serves as the goals for Trumbull Public Schools and will be reviewed again mid-year and end of year and will be posted on the TPS website.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the 2023-2024 District Improvement Plan (DIP) as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. 1:1 Insurance Fees

Policy 5143.2/Student One-to-One Device Insurance Program states that each year the Board of Education shall approve the fee amount prior to the start of the school year. Mrs. Christina Hefele presented the amended request that the Board of Education set the 1:1 insurance fee for the 2023-2024 school year as recommended by the BOE Finance Committee as follows:

- Grades 5-8 1:1 Program - \$25
- THS Device Loaner Program - \$45

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the above 1:1 device insurance fees as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Teacher Evaluation Update

Dr. Iwanicki and Mr. Chella shared updates based on information from the Connecticut State Department of Education and Jonathan Costa of Ed Advance regarding the future requirements of Teacher Evaluation Plans. The presentation provided an overview of recommended non-negotiables and best practices for implementation in the 2024-2025 school year. They discussed E-Systems being considered by our Professional Development and Evaluation Committee (PDEC) to compliment the process. Dr. Iwanicki commented that the State will continue to look at Administrator Evaluations in the future similar to this. Mrs. Norcel requested updates.

G. Curriculum Committee Report

Mrs. Petitti reported the Curriculum Committee met on Thursday, June 15, 2023.

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following Science Curriculum Guides:

- *Grade 10 Biology*
- *Grade 11 Chemistry*
- *Grade 12 CP Physics*
- *Grade 12 ACP Physics*

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

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following English Curriculum Guide:

- *Grade 9 English*

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

H. Financial Committee Report

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on July 6, 2023 which included the review of the May 31, 2023 financial reports. Mr. Hendrickson gave a presentation with a newly revised format of the May financial reports for approval.

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

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:47 p.m.