

**TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT**  
**Board of Education**  
Regular Meeting – October 24, 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  
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 the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- B. Recognition – First Selectman’s Golf Classic Presentation  
First Selectman Mrs. Vicki Tesoro presented checks from the proceeds from the First Selectman’s Golf Classic which benefit several student organizations listed below:
- Academic Challenge for Excellence (ACE) Foundation
  - 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
  - Tip Off Club- Girls and Boys Basketball

The Administration and Board of Education accepted the donations with gratitude.

- C. Correspondence – Ms. McNamee read the following correspondence: Tara Figueroa wrote to the Board to request a policy regarding kindergarten enrollment.
- D. Public Comment  
The following person spoke: Christopher DeCruze addressed the Board regarding the educational needs of his child.

E. Superintendent Report

- Dr. Semmel would like to thank Vicki Tesoro and all those who contributed to the First Selectman's Golf Classic held at Tashua Knolls Golf Course, proceeds have been distributed to several TPS student organizations.
- We thank the Rotary Club for sponsoring the Read Aloud program to benefit our elementary school children.
- Our food service program is in full swing this October with new recipe choices that have been well received by students and staff. Two Elite students have joined our TPS staff and we appreciate their hard work.
- We continue to assess the new kindergarten law that was passed by the Connecticut Legislature that is affecting all families with 3- and 4-year-old children. Students now must turn 5 by September 1<sup>st</sup> in order to enroll in kindergarten. TPS administration is working on determining best practices with the goal of adhering to the law and attending to the needs of our Trumbull families.

F. Board Chairman Report

Mrs. Timpanelli attended the Agriscience Fair last weekend. Board members participated in the Read Aloud event in our elementary schools which focused on science. We are looking forward to the Professional Development day on November 7 as it strengthens teaching and learning. There will be opportunities for teachers to explore artificial intelligence and the Vision of the Graduate. THS is preparing for the upcoming NEASC evaluation.

G. Teacher BOE Representative Report

Mr. John Congdon reported that elementary teachers were pleased to meet with one sister school in the District. Several TPS staff will have the opportunity to attend: an artificial intelligence workshop, CEA/CAPSS/CABE "Rekindling Joy in Schools", professional development and education committee meetings and the middle school bell schedule committee. Teachers have concerns regarding the lack of substitutes in TPS.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes

Minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of October 10,2023 were presented.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 10, 2023 Board of Education as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel presented one certified resignation/retirement:

Billington, Jane; grade 3 teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 1999, retiring effective June 30, 2024.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Bandedcchi) to accept the above certified resignation/retirement. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Dr. Semmel presented one non-certified resignation/retirement:

McNamara, Michele; Secretary to the Principal at Hillcrest Middle School since May 2012, retiring effective December 1, 2023.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (McNamee) to accept the above non-certified resignation/retirement. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Approval/NEASC Surveys

THS Principal Mr. Todd Manuel and House Principal Mr. Chris Siano presented the NEASC survey which the Curriculum Committee at their September 29, 2023 meeting recommended that the Board of Education approve. The NEASC survey is administered to grades 9-12, families, and staff members as part of Trumbull High School's decennial accreditation process. This is a required part of the accreditation process and will give Trumbull High School's staff members valuable data on the school and community that will be used to complete the self-study report.

The following is a description of the survey from the official NEASC guide:

“The NEASC Commission on Public Schools Opinion Surveys have been developed in collaboration with Tripod Education Partners. The survey items have been aligned with the NEASC Standards for Accreditation and are intended to provide schools with meaningful data on their alignment to the Standards with a focus on the experience of students, families, and faculty in the school.” The surveys are entirely online. The survey tool is very easy to use and works well on a computer, tablet, or phone. “Over 180 schools, including over 100,000 students, have completed the survey. The survey was piloted in 2018 and revised based on a careful analysis of results as well as feedback from schools. Schools can re-administer one or more of the surveys as needed each year to gather comparison data to identify growth over time and identify new opportunities to align with the Standards.”

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the NEASC surveys as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. iReady and Monitoring Student Progress

Dr. Iwanicki presented a summary of the latest iReady data that monitors student progress and how the outcomes provide valuable information in terms of the impact of our curriculum. Procedures, results and impact on teaching and learning were presented. An update on the integration of the Science of Reading was highlighted.

E. Policy Committee Report

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following Policies for First Reading:

- 5141.4/Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect, and Sexual Assault
- 5145.511/Sexual Abuse Prevention and Education Program

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:20 p.m.