

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – November 14, 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. Correspondence – Ms. McNamee read the following correspondence: The Correll family wrote in support of a later school start time. Gilda Kumtas-Oral wrote to emphasize the importance of the specialist and consultant positions at Daniels Farm.
- C. Public Comment
The following people spoke: Christine El Eris thanked the Rotary Club for sponsoring the Read Aloud Day and thanked Dr. Iwanicki for the theme selection. Alanna Stein asked the Board to reinstate the gifted program. Gilda and Oya Kumtas spoke in support of the gifted program and all positions of the reading and math specialists at Daniels Farm school.
- D. Superintendent Report
- Dr. Semmel reported on the new Connecticut Public Act 23-208, enacted July 1, 2023, that stipulates: to start kindergarten in the 2024-25 school year, your child must turn 5 on or before September 1, 2024. If your child does not meet the new entry cutoff date, they may still be admitted into kindergarten upon (1) a written request from the parent or guardian, and (2) an assessment. The district will provide a self-assessment for parents to complete electronically online that will be available soon on the TPS website. Our goal is to provide maximum flexibility to accommodate our younger learners.
 - Congratulations to all 6 of our elementary schools that were recognized by the State Department of Education as Schools of Distinction and to both middle schools that showed strong improvement. THS has also been recognized as a school of distinction as we saw progress in reducing the achievement gap. We are proud of our students, staff, parents and literacy and math specialists for all their hard work.

E. Board Chairman Report

Mrs. Timpanelli thanked Mrs. Rubano for an amazing Veterans Day program. Congratulations to all elementary schools and Trumbull High School that were chosen as Schools of Distinction by the Connecticut Department of Education.

F. Student BOE Representatives Report

Isabel O'Brien reported: **TECEC**- Halloween Bash; **Booth Hill**- Scholastic Book Fair, Veterans Day assembly; **Daniels Farm**- K social studies, grade 5 writing; **Middlebrook**- has been ranked 5th place in the state wide accountability report, "Zombiebrook," grade 3 art project; **Frenchtown**- K and grade 1 sock hop; **Jane Ryan**- pajama day and the "Gotcha Board," **Tashua**- Halloween parade and Socktober; **Hillcrest**- girls cross country team placed second in the state championship; **Madison**- KARE held the annual cold weather drive, makerspace for grade 7 students interested in coding; **THS**- pep rally that included the spirit contest, fall play *The Alibis*, junior cotillion at the Waterview, boys varsity soccer won FCIACs, girls varsity volleyball will be competing in the state semi-finals, Ag's FFA competed in the FFA National Convention with several students receiving medals, Veterans Day assembly sponsored by Mrs. Rubano, THSGEMB and the color guard held their final performance at the USBANDS National Championship at MetLife Stadium and thanks to Mr. Manuel for fostering a sense of community at THS.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Donation from the Class of 2023 for THS Senior Lounge

Dr. Semmel presented the donation of \$2,500 from the Trumbull High School Class of 2023 for the THS Senior Lounge upgrade. This funding includes a digital display to be mounted in the space with speakers and other audio capabilities.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to accept the \$2,500 donation to apply to the THS Senior Lounge upgrade as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/Minutes

Minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of October 24, 2023 were presented.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Bandedcchi) to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of October 24, 2023 Board of Education as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel presented the following staff members who will be retiring effective June 30, 2024:

Berlekovic, Pamela; department chair and agriculture science teacher at the Trumbull Agriscience and Biotechnology Center since August 2001.

Connon, Joanne; English teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2002.

Durfee, Andrew; science teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2003.

Michaels, Mary Doyle; special education teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School since August 1992.

Vrabel, Dr. Thomas; agriculture science teacher at the Trumbull Agriscience and Biotechnology Center since August 2006.

Weitzman, Claire; grade 4 teacher at Tashua Elementary School since August 2004.

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

D. Approval/Middlebrook Elementary HVAC Improvements Project

Director of Operations Mr. Dave Cote presented the Educational Specifications document which requires Board of Education approval as per the Department of School Construction of the Connecticut State Department of Education. Authorization for the Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services for a School Construction Grant was given by the Trumbull Town Council on November 10, 2022. Funding for the Town's share of the Roof Replacement project was approved as part of the 2022-2023 Capital Improvement Plan by the Board of Education and Town Council.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the Middlebrook Elementary HVAC Improvements Project as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Approval/2024 Board of Education Dates

Dr. Semmel presented the proposed 2024 Board of Education Meeting dates for approval.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the 2024 Board of Education dates as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Artificial Intelligence (AI) Cohort Update

Mrs. Christina Hefele gave an overview of the work done to date by the teacher AI cohort group, the process used, and our professional development plans. This team was created to conduct research and provide professional development in support of our district goal of communicating ways in which A.I. can be navigated and used as a benefit to TPS teaching and learning K-12.

G. Policy Committee Report

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following Policies for Second Reading:

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

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the Policies for Second Reading as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

H. Financial Committee Report

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on October 26, 2023 which included the review of the July 31, August 31, and September 30, 2023 financial reports. Mr. Hendrickson presented the financial reports as of September 30, 2023.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the three financial reports as of September 3, 2023 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:25 p.m.