

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – December 12, 2023

The Trumbull Board of Education met for a Regular Meeting at the Long Hill Administration Building.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – There was an Executive Session held at 6:00 p.m. regarding Pending Litigation: Deming v. Trumbull Board of Education.

In attendance:

Lucinda Timpanelli
Jackie Norcel
Julia McNamee
Tim Gallo
Lisa Nuland
Marie Petitti (on phone)
Alison Squicciarro

Absent:

Chris Bandecchi

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. At this time, it was moved (Norcel) seconded (McNamee) to discuss Pending Litigation: Deming v. Trumbull Board of Education. The Superintendent and Attorney Bryan LeClerc were invited to be a part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Executive Session began at 6:02 p.m.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Nuland) to come out of Executive Session at 6:52 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Members present:

L. Timpanelli – Chairman
J. Norcel – Vice Chair
J. McNamee - Secretary
C. Bandecchi
T. Gallo
L. Nuland
M. Petitti - online
A. Squicciarro

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- B. The Board of Education held their election of BOE Officers – Dr. Semmel

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to nominate Lucinda Timpanelli as the Chairman of the Board of Education. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Nuland) to nominate Jackie Norcel as the Vice Chairman of the Board of Education. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to nominate Lisa Nuland as the Secretary of the Board of Education. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Correspondence – Ms. McNamee read the following correspondence: Brenda Windsor spoke in support of funding reading and math specialists; Elizabeth Klepack was concerned with the substitute staffing agency; Jamie Molgard noted an issue at Hillcrest and a concern regarding a student survey.

D. Public Comment

Meredith Bagley spoke of her dissatisfaction with a student survey.

E. Superintendent Report – Dr. Semmel

- We have been hard at work to develop a thoughtful budget with the priority of keeping staff positions to include literacy and math specialists. We plan to complete our budget documents that will be available for the public on our website prior to winter break.
- We learned that our Science of Reading waiver was only partially approved. We are disappointed that our District will be forced to pivot from exceptional teaching practices in order to purchase a required program and begin all over again. We will be reaching out to the State Department of Education for further review and discussion.
- Dr. Semmel hopes everyone has the opportunity to enjoy the upcoming winter break to enjoy the things that make you happy.

F. Board Chairman Report

Mrs. Timpanelli reported it was a pleasure to visit the revitalized planetarium on December 6. Plans will continue to upgrade for future student presentations. Mrs. Timpanelli, Dr. Semmel and Mrs. Petitti attended the legislative meeting at CES on December 8. Congratulations to the current BOE members who won the election, and to all members for their dedication to TPS. The BOE wishes the Trumbull community a happy holiday season.

G. Teacher BOE Representative Report

Mr. John Congdon reported: the November Professional Development featured staff members that presented modules on artificial intelligence, ML, math and reading topics; the last minute cancellation of two field trips due to lack of bus drivers/bus availability; the lack of substitute teachers at all building levels; and the TEA is eager for the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee to meet to develop a new evaluation plan for teachers for next year. The TEA wishes everyone a healthy and happy holiday season.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/THS Model UN Club to Philadelphia, PA

Advisor Mr. Jack LaBarca presented the THS Model UN Club trip to the Ivy League Model UN Conference in Philadelphia, which is scheduled for January 25, 2024 through January 28, 2024 for students to engage in debates on world issues in an academic world-renowned model United Nations conference. Funding for this trip is provided through parents, fundraising and a grant.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the THS Model UN Club trip to Philadelphia, PA as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/THS Model UN Club to Washington, DC

Advisor Mr. Jack LaBarca presented the THS Model UN Club trip to WAMUNC – Model UN Conference, Washington DC which is scheduled for March 21, 2024 through March 24, 2024 for students to engage in debates on world issues in an academic model United Nations conference. Funding for this trip is provided through the student/grant.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the THS Model UN Club trip to Washington, DC as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Approval/Minutes

Minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of November 14, 2023 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 14, 2023 Board of Education as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations:

Berti, Matia; grade 5 teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School since August 2016, resigning effective December 22, 2023.

Hunter, Vanessa, math teacher at Madison Middle School since September 2015, resigning effective January 5, 2024.

Kunschaft, Jennifer; literacy consultant at Tashua Elementary School since August 1999, resigning effective December 22, 2023.

A motion was made (Nuland) and seconded (Norcel) to accept the above resignations as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Dr. Semmel presented the following requests for Leave of Absence:

Noyes, Mariah; Social Worker at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2021 (currently on child rearing leave) is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay from December 1, 2023 through the end of the 2023-24 school year. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

Pia, Jennifer; World Language teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2015 (currently on an unpaid personal leave of absence) is requesting an extension of this leave from December 31, 2023 to January 31, 2024. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

A motion was made (Bandecchi) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the above requests for Leave of Absences as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Update on MTSS/PBIS

Dr. Iwanicki, Mr. Catalano and Ms. Dawson presented the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) which uses individualized instruction, leverages collective knowledge and begins with teacher assessment. Goals, how this system addresses behavioral and emotional supports, implementation and DESSA and PBIS next steps were discussed.

F. Curriculum Committee Report

Mrs. Petitti reported that the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education met on November 30, 2023 and reviewed the following curriculum guides and texts:

Trumbull High School (Curriculum Guide):

- American Indian History 9-12
- Wood Technology I, Grades 9-12
- Percussion Ensemble, Grades 9-12
- Introduction to Piano, Grades 9-12

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

Trumbull High School (New Texts):

- Forensics--Saferstein, 2022. *Forensic Science: An Introduction*, 4th Edition High School Edition, MyLab Crime with Pearson eText.
- Astronomy-- Franknoi, A., Morrison, D, and S. Woff et al. 2022. *Astronomy2e* x/Rice University eText.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the new texts as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Approval/Donation to ELITE Program

Dr. Semmel presented the donation of \$5,000 from Mr. Peter DiNardo to support the ELITE Program.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Norcel) to accept the \$5,000 from Mr. Peter DiNardo with gratitude for the ELITE Program as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

H. Financial Committee Report

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on November 16, 2023 which included the review of the financial reports through October 31, 2023. Mr. Hendrickson presented the details.

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

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:26 p.m.