

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – February 6, 2024, 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

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
L. Nuland - Secretary
J. McNamee - online
C. Bandecchi
T. Gallo
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. Nuland read the following correspondence: The Correl family and Michell Suriani wrote in support of later school start times; Paula Vinci would like the traffic situation to be addressed on Daniels Farm road during school pick up times.
- C. Public Comment
The following people spoke: Gordana Thompson and Marylyn Vogt (via a letter read by Gordana Thompson) stated that parents should be informed of the content in the book, *The Perks of Being a Wallflower*, and feel that the book is not appropriate in a school setting; George Sarris read an excerpt from *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* and said the book is not appropriate in our school; John Congdon informed the Board of an issue with the Durham Bus company.
- D. Superintendent Report – Dr. Semmel
- We are excited to report that our planetarium at Hillcrest and our Middlebrook observatory are both up and running.
 - The State of Connecticut has identified \$4M in funds to support teacher projects called Donors Choose. DonorsChoose is a nonprofit organization that allows individuals to donate directly to public school classroom projects.
 - The mid-year progress report for TPS 2023-2024 goals will be in this month's Superintendent newsletter.

- Hillcrest has been identified as our first school to be created new in our master plan. We are working on the Ed specs with Tecton and Trumbull staff to prepare for our application to the State of Connecticut.
 - We look forward to this evening’s budget discussion and getting final Board approval.
- E. Board Chairman Report - Mrs. Timpanelli reported THS sponsored a successful fundraiser for breast cancer and both our girls’ and boys’ basketball teams beat St. Joseph’s. Lisa Nuland attended the cheerleading competition at THS.
- F. Student BOE Representatives Report
 Isabel O’Brien and Grace Schober reported on events at TPS: **TECEC**- BARK initiative to embrace core values; **DF**: after school enrichment, SOUPer bowl food drive; **BH**- after school enrichment program, Heart Challenge, Pancake Palooza; **Tashua**- spirit week showing TIGERS traits; **Frenchtown**- Soup for Superbowl, CAS celebration of the arts awards banquet; **Middlebrook**- celebration of diversity in honor of black history month; **Jane Ryan**- academic activities and research projects **Madison**- how to avoid stress workshop, boys basketball wins cross town showdown; **Hillcrest**- upcoming musical, Robotics Club; **THS**- new TVs in cafeteria and senior lounge, junior course selection, Color Guard finished second in their competition, girls and boys basketball teams beat St. Joe’s and proceeds went to the Make-A-Wish foundation and the Chelsea Cuhna scholarship foundation, Congratulations to the We the People team for becoming State champions.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. Approval/THS DECA Trip to DECA ICDC, Anaheim, CA
 Ms. Christina Rusate presented the DECA trip to DECA ICDC in Anaheim, CA which is scheduled for April 26, 2024 to May 1, 2024 for qualifying students to participate and compete in the 2024 International Career Development Conference. Funding for this trip cannot be confirmed until March, after the Connecticut State Competition determines how many students will be eligible to compete in California, but an estimate of these costs is provided. The group will be seeking contributions and conducting fundraising.
- It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the THS DECA Trip to DECA ICDC, Anaheim, CA as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Approval/THS Color Guard Trip to WGI, Bethlehem, PA
 Mr. Joshua Murphy presented the THS Color Guard trip to WGI Bethlehem hosted at Liberty High School in Bethlehem, PA, which is scheduled for March 16, 2024 to March 17, 2024 for members of the Color Guard to compete against top groups from the entire east coast. Funding for this trip is provided through the Band parents and families.
- It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Bandedcchi) to approve the THS Color Guard Trip to WGI, Bethlehem, PA, as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. Approval/THS Winter Percussion Ensemble to Percussion Finals, Dayton, OH
 Mr. Joshua Murphy presented the WGI Winter Percussion Finals which is scheduled for April 17, 2024 to April 21, 2024 for students of the THS Winter Percussion Ensemble to compete against top high school groups from across the entire country. Funding for this trip is provided through the Band parents and families.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the THS Winter Percussion Ensemble to Percussion Finals, Dayton, OH as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Minutes

Minutes of the BOE Budget Meeting of January 9, 2024 and January 11, 2024 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the minutes of the BOE Budget Meeting of January 9, 2024 as presented with the following change: delete Bandecchi arrived at 7:15 p.m. because he was on the phone previous to that. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the minutes of the BOE Budget Meeting of January 11, 2024 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified appointments:

Miskella, Lauri; 6/21 (\$118,741) school psychologist at Hillcrest Middle School, effective January 23, 2024

Neufeld, James; 6/16 (\$91,691) math teacher at Madison Middle School effective, January 22, 2024

Waldron, John; BA/5 (\$55,369) grade 5 teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School, effective January 2, 2024

The above appointments were received and filed.

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignation:

Felder, Brittney; school psychologist at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2023, resigning effective January 5, 2024

A motion was made (Gallo) and seconded (Bandecchi) to accept the above resignation as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

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

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 February 1, 2024 to March 1, 2024.

Powell, Stacey; grade 2 teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School since August 2021 is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay from January 26 through June 30, 2024.

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

- F. Approval/Donation from Weller Foundation, Inc. to Trumbull High School
THS Principal Mr. Todd Manuel presented the following donation of \$5,914 from The Weller Foundation, Inc. to Trumbull High School to purchase the following items:
- Ultimaker S3 3D Printer Starter Bundle \$5,019
 - Ultimaker PVA Removal Station \$895

A motion was made (Gallo) and seconded (Bandeccchi) to approve the donation of \$5,914 from the Weller Foundation, Inc. to Trumbull High School as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- G. Approval/2024-2025 Budget Approval
The Superintendent's requested 2024-2025 budget was presented and discussed at the January 9 and January 11, 2024 Board of Education Budget Meetings. The Board of Education will review and vote on the final budget request this evening.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the recommended budget request for \$126,133,448. for a 5.34% increase for 2024-2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- H. Approval/Revised District Calendars for 2023-2024 and 2024-2025
The two proposed district calendar changes are as follows:

2023-2024 District Calendar

Move the March 18, 2024 Professional Development Day to April 2, 2024 due to an upcoming anticipated presidential primary vote. This will provide Professional Development for certified staff without students in the buildings.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Bandeccchi) to approve the recommended changes to the 2023-2024 district school calendar as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor

2024-2025 District Calendar

Change December 20th to a full school day. Eliminate the December 23, 2024 school day and make the last anticipated school day June 10, 2025.

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the above recommended changes to the 2023-2024 district school calendar as presented. Vote: In favor- Bandeccchi, Petitti, Squicciarro, Norcel. Against- Timpanelli, Gallo, Nuland, McNamee. Vote: 4 to 4 - Motion fails.

Change December 20th to an early release day. Eliminate the December 23, 2024 school day and make the last anticipated school day June 10, 2025.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the above recommended changes to the 2024-2025 district school calendar as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- I. Curriculum Committee Report
Mrs. Petitti reported that the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education met on January 10, 2024 and reviewed curriculum guides. A communication of THS's new Long Island Sound School status was provided to the Board.

Curriculum Guide Approvals

- New Curriculum- K-5 English as a Second Language
- Updated Guides- Science: Grades 2, and Science: Grade 3
- Review- Update on THS as an official Long Island Sound School

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

J. Policy Committee Report

Mr. Gallo reported that the Policy Committee of the Board of Education met on January 23, 2024. Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policy for first reading/revision:

- 5113 High School Attendance/Loss of Credit

K. Financial Committee Report

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on December 21, 2023 and January 25, 2024 which included the review of the financial reports through November/December 2023 as well as the semi-annual inter-fund transfers.

Mr. Hendrickson presented the details.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the financial reports as of November/December, 2023 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the semi-annual inter-fund transfers as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:02 p.m.