

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – April 16, 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
T. Gallo - online
J. McNamee
M. Petitti - online
A. Squicciarro

Members absent:

C. Bandecchi

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 – THS Boys Basketball Team

The Trumbull High School Boys’ Basketball team won the FCIAC Championship beating Staples 70-67 on February 27, 2024. The last time the basketball team won the FCIAC Championship was 1983.

The Board of Education and administration commended and congratulated the THS Boys’ Basketball Team on this outstanding achievement and presented each of them with a certificate.

C. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland read the following correspondence: The Mullins family wrote a letter regarding Booth Hill administration; Dr. Jessica Samuolis thanked the curriculum committee for listening to her request to embed social sciences into the K-12 curriculum and Bree Ann Prezioso has concerns about the PPT process at Hillcrest.

D. Public Comment – There were no public comment sign ups this evening.

E. Superintendent Report – Dr. Semmel

- We hope our families enjoyed their April break as we now look forward to the TPS end of the year activities.
- We are meeting with the Finance Committee of the Town Council on April 18 at 7:00 p.m. in the Town Council Chambers. The Superintendent will share the rationale behind the 2023-2024 school year budget and the need to utilize a portion of the non-lapsing account. We are hoping the Finance Committee of the Town Council will support a 4% budget increase for the 2024-2025 school year.

- Director of Operations Mr. David Cote is retiring this July and we are in the process of looking for his replacement. Mr. Cote will continue to facilitate the Tecton application to the State that is due June 30, 2024.

F. Board Chairman Report

- Mrs. Timpanelli attended the PD day on April 2 on New England Association of Schools and Colleges. THS will be evaluated by NEASC in September 2026.
- Tecton made a presentation to the Town Council on March 19 that included information on the educational specifications needed for completion of our application to the State due June 30, 2024.
- Congratulations to Marie Petitti who was named one of six Connecticut Delegates to the National Education Association of Retired Teachers.
- Mrs. Timpanelli toured a new building at CES that will house their special education program.

G. Student BOE Representatives Report

Grace Schober and Isabel O'Brien visited Middlebrook to meet with students; April is Autism Acceptance Month; at TECEC, students are exploring math; Frenchtown is celebrating students with autism; Booth Hill hosted March Madness teams; Daniels Farm students are learning about changemakers; Jane Ryan is immersed in math activities centered around basketball; Tashua is celebrating Women's History Month; Madison held a production of the *Wizard of Oz*; Hillcrest placed in the State Reflections Arts contest and at THS - spring sports; talent show led by Peer Leaders and the We the People team received a Unit 3 Award at the National Competition in Washington, D.C.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes

The minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of March 12, 2024 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of March 12, 2024 as presented. Vote: Abstain-Gallo. In Favor-Timpanelli, Norcel, Nuland, McNamee, Petitti, Squicciarro. Motion passes.

The minutes of the BOE Special Meeting of March 26, 2024 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the minutes of the BOE Special Meeting of March 26, 2024 as presented. Vote: Abstain-Squicciarro, Gallo. In Favor-Timpanelli, Norcel, Nuland, McNamee, Petitti. Motion passes.

B. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations/retirements:

Angotta, Jill; teacher of the hearing impaired/deaf district-wide since August 2017, resigning effective April 5, 2024.

Barry, Eryn; special education teacher at Madison Middle School since April 2023, resigning effective June 30, 2024.

Guglielmo, Susanne; grade 5 teacher at Daniels Farm Elementary School since August 1998, retiring effective June 30, 2024.

Mitchell, Michelle; special education teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since January 2018, retiring effective June 30, 2024.

Pannese, Jenna; math teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2022, resigning effective June 30, 2024.

Wyckoff, Margaret; grade 2 teacher at Tashua Elementary School since August 2008, retiring effective June 30, 2024.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Nuland) to accept the resignations/retirements as presented.
Vote: all in favor

Dr. Semmel presented one non-certified retirement:

Cote, David; Director of Operations at the Long Hill Administration Building since August 2021, retiring effective July 31, 2024.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Squicciarro) to accept the resignations/retirements as presented. Vote: Abstain-Gallo, In Favor-Timpanelli, Norcel, Nuland, McNamee, Petitti, Squicciarro. Motion passes.

Dr. Semmel presented one Request for Leave of Absence:

McCaffrey, James; English teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2010 is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay for the 2024-25 school year. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the Leave of Absence as presented for James McCaffrey without pay for the 2024-2025 school and in compliance with Trumbull Board of Education Policy 4150 Leave of Absence. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. TPAUD Survey Results

TPAUD, Trumbull's Prevention Partnership is a community coalition funded by a Drug-Free Communities Support Program grant from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy and the Center for Disease Control & Prevention. Melissa McGarry presented the results of the student and parent surveys and responded to the Board's questions.

D. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff/Long Term Replacements

Prior to May 1 of any given year, the Board of Education is asked to non-renew the contracts of non-tenured staff whose employment may not continue. This year, the non-renewal process includes two long-term replacement (substitute) teachers. The long-term replacement teachers were hired for the 2023-2024 school year in a position of fixed duration. It is the opinion of the Superintendent that the non-renewals recommended are within the scope of the statutory teacher employment and tenure provisions, Section 10-151 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and are consistent with provisions of the TEA Agreement applicable to non-renewals of non-tenured and Long-Term Replacement teachers and non-tenured teachers.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Squicciarro) that pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, the Trumbull Board of Education non-renew the teaching contract of the

following two long term replacement teachers at the end of their long-term contract or at the end of the 2023-2024 school year, whichever occurs first, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Long Term Replacements

Isabella Kunze – Middlebrook Elementary School

Aaron Superfin – ELITE/Next Chapter Books

and further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests which may be forthcoming from these teachers or their representatives pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-151. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. IED (Increasing Educator Diversity) Plan

According to the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE), local and regional Boards of Education in Connecticut are mandated to develop and implement an Increasing Educator Diversity (IED) plan. This requirement stems from State legislation, specifically Public Act 23-167, Section 10. Mr. Joseph Chella presented the IED Plan for Trumbull.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve Increasing Educator Diversity Plan as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Policy Committee Report

Mr. Gallo reported that the Policy Committee of the Board of Education met on January 23, 2024. The following policy is presented for Second Reading and Approval:

5113 High School Attendance/Loss of Credit

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Policy 5113 High School Attendance/Loss of Credit as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Curriculum Committee Report

Mrs. Petitti reported that the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education met on March 28, 2024. The following curriculum and texts were presented for approval.

Approval/ Curriculum Texts and Guide Revisions

New Texts:

- a. Kindergarten ELA: Perkins, C. 2017. *Rapunzel*. Simon and Schuster,
- b. Grade 11/12 New Text Approval for the UConn course *If You Love It, Teach It--* A.Ornstein, D.Levine, G. Gutek, and D. Vocke. 2013. *Foundations of Education*, 13th Edition, Cengage Learning.

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

Curriculum Course Revision Proposals:

- a. *12 Grade Creative Writing* for Honors Credit
- b. *12 Grade Physics* for ECE UConn Credit

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the new curriculum course revisions as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

H. Financial Committee Report

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Financial Committee of the Board of Education met on March 28, 2024. Mr. Hendrickson presented the financial reports as of February 29, 2024 for approval.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the financial reports as of February 29, 2024 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:35 p.m.