

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Board of Education
Regular Meeting – June 4, 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 - online
L. Nuland – Secretary
C. Bandecchi - online
T. Gallo
J. McNamee
M. Petitti
A. Squicciarro

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. At this time, it was moved (Norcel) seconded (Gallo) to discuss the Superintendent’s increase and increases of non-affiliates and Food Services contract. The Superintendent and Attorney Chris Henderson were invited to be a part of the discussion.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Executive Session began at 6:03 p.m.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Norcel) to come out of Executive Session at 6:33 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- B. Recognition – Board of Education Student Representatives – Isabel O’Brien & Grace Schober
Trumbull High School seniors Isabel O’Brien and Grace Schober are commended for their contributions to the Board of Education and the community as Board of Education student representatives throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

The administration and Board recognized Isabel O’Brien and Grace Schober for their contributions and presented them with a gift.

C. Recognition – Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Leadership Awards
 The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Awards program gives local Boards of Education the opportunity to recognize student achievement and potential. The following students received this award:

- ❖ Grace Schober - THS
- ❖ Isabel O'Brien – THS
- ❖ Katelyn Stanley – Hillcrest Middle
- ❖ Thomas Simon – Hillcrest Middle
- ❖ Anthony Baratta – Madison Middle
- ❖ Zuri Flemming– Madison Middle

The administration and Board of Education commended the students and presented them with a certificate.

D. Recognition – Presidential Scholar Award – Cy Pavlov, Class of 2024
 Cy Pavlov of the Class of 2024 is a recipient of the Presidential Scholar Award, one of the nation’s highest honors for graduating high school seniors.

The administration and Board commended Presidential Scholar Award Winner Cy Pavlov and recognized him with a certificate.

E. Recognition – THS Baseball FCIAC Champions
 Congratulations to the Trumbull High School Baseball team for their decisive 7-1 victory over Wilton on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 to win the 2024 FCIAC Championship.

2024 Varsity Baseball Roster:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Angel (AJ) Albaladejo | Ryan Paine |
| Henry Berrien | Ben Parente |
| Andrew Colucci | Trevor Schuelke |
| Jason Costello | John Shannon |
| James Delaney | Aiden Stewart, Captain |
| Kaiden Escobar | Andrew Valentino |
| Brandon Fowler | Daniel Vidal |
| Gavin Grashow | Garrett Wood |
| Sean Haight | Matthew Wood |
| Scott Harvey | Phil Pacelli, Head Coach |
| Jake Hull, Captain | Tim Tvardzik, Assistant Coach |
| Brayden Jagoe | Buddy Bray, Assistant Coach |
| Ryan Johnston, Captain | Gene Cellini, JV Coach |
| Russell Katragadda | Ryan Hart, Freshman Coach |
| Samuel Kubie | Olivia Mokhtar, Manager |
| Jack Larkin | Kayla Rolka, Manager |
| Ryan Leonzi | Lauren Ryan, Manager |

The administration and Board of Education commended the team and recognized each member with a certificate.

F. Recognition – Retirements
 The Administration and Board of Education honored this year’s retirees and presented them with a gift for their service.

Daniels Farm Elementary	Douglas Ebert
Hillcrest Middle School	Michelle Mitchell
Jane Ryan Elementary	Jane Billington

Jane Ryan Elementary	Kathleen Ebert
Long Hill	Dave Cote
Middlebrook Elementary	Mary Michaels
Tashua Elementary	Claire Weitzman
Tashua Elementary	Margaret Wyckoff
Trumbull High School	Joanne Connon
Trumbull High School	Andrew Durfee
Trumbull High School	Janina Kyc
THS - Agriscience & Biotechnology	Pamela Berlekovic
THS - Agriscience & Biotechnology	Thomas Vrabel

G. Introduction of Director of Operations

Dr. Semmel introduced the new Director of Operations, Mr. Kevin Dion, who will assume his role on August 1, 2024. Mr. Dion comes to TPS with an impressive resume and stated that he is honored to be selected and looks forward to working at TPS.

H. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland read the following correspondence: Bree Ann Prezioso wrote with concerns regarding the Hillcrest PPT process; Cindy Nigro, Kristin Frank, Elva Ma, Kelly Ryan Ouimette, Kavita Gada, the Citarella family all wrote asking why an indoor pool is not included in the proposed master plan for Hillcrest; Kimberly Lerner-Diamond thanked the Board for responding to a concern regarding the student athlete insurance policy.

I. Public Comment - there were no sign ups for public comment this evening.

J. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel

- Congratulations to the Teacher of the Year, Kelly Ascone, and Paraeducator of the Year, Keysha Evans.
- Please register your kindergarten age child now to be enrolled in the fall semester. Also, please visit our website to register your child for our summer enrichment programs.
- The Board of Finance will meet to discuss the Hillcrest project on June 13, 2024 and the Town Council will take the next steps in July and August. We remind the public that the Hillcrest project will be funded at 44% and it will be up to Trumbull voters to pass the referendum on the Hillcrest project.
- We look forward to THS Graduation on June 10, 2024 with 534 THS students. Dr. Semmel extends his best wishes to the Trumbull community for a happy and safe summer.

K. Board Chairman Report

Mrs. Timpanelli reported on the Senior Class Fly Through; congratulations to our AgriScience award recipients. We look forward to our Stepping Forth ceremonies and THS Graduation on June 10, 2024. Mrs. Timpanelli thanked the Board for their tireless support of all school initiatives and the Superintendent and Long Hill staff for their dedication to TPS and especially to our students. The Board wishes everyone a happy, healthy and restful summer.

L. Teacher BOE Representative Report - John Congdon

The TEA would like to thank all the teachers and administrators for their work on the new evaluation plan and reported teachers are busy with year-end grading and preparing to teach

summer school; we send thanks to our student reps for a job well done and congratulations to all our retirees and lastly, the TEA wishes everyone a wonderful summer.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/FFA Youth Organization Trip to Indianapolis, Indiana

Ms. Pam Berlekovic presented the trip to the National FFA Convention which will be held in Indianapolis, Indiana from October 22 to October 26, 2024, and will require students to be out of school for four days plus a Saturday. Students will attend convention sessions and compete in the Food Science Career Development Event.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the trip to the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana from October 22 to October 26, 2024, as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Bargaining Unit/Contract Approval – Food Services

The bargaining unit contract for Food Services employees through United Public Service Employees Union, Local 424, Unit 76, School Lunch Program Employees from July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2028, was presented.

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the contract for Food Services employees through United Public Service Employees Union, Local 424, Unit 76, School Lunch Program Employees from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2028 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Approval/Superintendent and Non-Affiliates' Increases

At this time of the year, the Board of Education reviews and approves the non-affiliated salary increases and/or adjustments for those employees not in a bargaining unit. The non-affiliated positions are listed with an alignment to corresponding bargaining unit positions. Although each position is unique and has its own distinctive responsibilities, the alignment provides for an appropriate comparison. It has been the intent of both the Administration and the Board to provide these employees with fair and reasonable compensation. The Board attorney presented all contracts.

Non-Central Office

- a. OT/PT (Therapists) (teachers)
Grant these positions an increase of 2.00%.
- b. Behavior Analyst (teachers)
Grant these positions an increase of 2.00%.
- c. Cafeteria Aides (paras)
Grant these positions an increase of 2.00%.
- d. Parking Lot Attendant (paras)
Grant this position an increase of 2.00%.
- e. Trumbull Public Schools Webmaster (teachers)
Grant this position an increase of 2.00%.

Central Office/Non-Affiliates

- a. Grant the Payroll & Insurance Manager an increase of 2.75%.
- b. Grant the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent an increase of 2.75%.
- c. Grant the Secretary to the Superintendent an increase of 2.75%.
- d. Superintendent of Schools – Grant this position an increase of 4.0% as presented.
- e. Assistant Superintendent – Grant this position an increase of 2.75% as presented.
- f. Business Administrator – Grant this position an increase of 2.0 % as presented.
- g. Director of Human Capital & Talent Development – Grant this position an increase of 5.5% as presented.
- h. Director of PPS – This position was changed from a TAA member to a non-affiliate position with a starting salary of \$191,000.

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Nuland) to approve central office non-affiliates increases as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Minutes

The minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of May 21, 2024 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of May 21, 2024 as presented. Vote: Abstain-Gallo, Norcel. In favor-Timpanelli, Nuland, McNamee, Bandecchi, Petitti, Squicciarro. Motion passes.

E. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified/unaffiliate appointment:

Dion, Kevin; (\$150,000 unaffiliate position) Director of Operations at the Long Hill Administration Building, effective August 1, 2024.

The above was received and filed by the Board.

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations:

Benson, Anne; district BCBA since September 2016.

Branyan, Rachel; district art teacher (.8) since September 2021.

Dawson, Krystina; District Supervisor of Mental Health since August 2022.

DiDonato, Jennifer; reading teacher (.6) at Hillcrest Middle School since February 2023.

Hilser, Catherine; school counseling department chairperson at Trumbull High School since August 2003.

Stebbins, Samantha; grade 1 teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 2016.

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

F. Policy Committee Report

Mr. Gallo reported that the Policy Committee of the Board of Education met for a regular meeting on May 13, 2024. Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policy for a second reading:

- Policy 3542.43/Food Charging

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Policy 3542.43/Food Charging as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. School Climate Update

Director of PPS, Mr. Dean Catalano, presented the district-level school climate survey results and discussed how the results will begin to inform the district's next steps regarding school climate initiatives. It is a Board priority to improve the climate at our schools and this year's results are encouraging and are a direct result of the diligent work of our administrators and staff.

H. Financial Committee Report

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on May 30, 2024. Mr. Hendrickson presented the financial reports as of March 31 and April 30, 2024.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the financial reports as of March 31 and April 30, 2024, as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:41 p.m.