

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Special Meeting – March 25, 2008
Long Hill Administration Building
Lorraine R. Smith Assembly Room

The Trumbull Board of Education convened in the Long Hill Administration Building for a Special Meeting.

Members present:

S. Wright, Chairman
M. Ward, Vice Chairman
J. Tyborowski, Secretary
L. Chory, Board Member (left 8:30 p.m.)
D. Herbst, Board Member
L. King, Board Member
L. Labella, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 6:40 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (King) to take Agenda Item IV A and B as well as Agenda Item V A out of order. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports (out of order)

- A. Xinyi, China – A Teacher’s Reflection – Jane Ryan teacher Jane Billington shared pictures and reflected upon her trip last year to Trumbull’s Sister City of Xinyi, China. Partially sponsored by the Trumbull Rotary Club and combined with funding encumbered from grants, Ms. Billington spent time teaching English at various Xinyi schools and learning about the city’s culture. She also presented the Board with a gift of a framed Chinese paper cutting.
- B. Risk Solutions Update on the Crisis Management Grant - Trumbull Public Schools was the recipient of an Emergency Response Crisis/Management Grant and has been working with Kelly Maina of Risk Solutions International to implement these monies for providing information regarding school emergency preparedness to students, staff and parents. Scott Corzine, Senior Vice President, also addressed the Board noting that a school emergency information guide had already been distributed to students and staff. Mr. Corzine also stated that classroom emergency procedure flipcharts would soon be distributed as well as a detailed flipchart for administration.

Agenda Item V – New Business (out of order)

- A. Non-Renewals of Non-Certified Staff – Each year, prior to April 1, the Board of Education is asked to non-renew contracts of non-tenured staff whose employment may not continue. Such reductions fall within the scope of the statutory teacher employment and tenure provisions, Section 10-151 of the CT General Statutes. Non-renewal recommendations are applicable to non-tenured teachers and Long Term Replacement teachers. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (King) that pursuant to the CT General Statues 10-151, the Trumbull Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of the

following staff at the end of the 2007-08 school year as recommended by the Superintendent: Non-Tenured Teacher Alcyne Lyon and Long Term Replacements Jamie Bell, Michael Ferraro, Brandon Frashefski, Melissa Giovanniello, Madalyn Kennedy and Marcia Merritt, 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 CT General Statutes 10-151. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments and Questions – Alice Fererra and Stephanie Vaughn addressed the Board regarding budget cuts and urged the Board to use different, thoughtful ideas as how to preserve current programs and resources, and to remember the long term effects of these budget decisions. Dawn Cantafio voiced her concern with the possibility of budget cuts to the high school freshman sports teams and hoped the Board would spread the cuts equitably across all grade levels. Anthony D’Aquila voiced his disappointment regarding cuts to Plant projects, including water seepage issues, duct cleaning, cold rooms due to inefficient windows, and other such problems that have a negative ability on learning. Cheryl Beiling voiced her support for freshman sports and the effect cutting them would have on students, including negative behaviors during time normally spent involved in sports activities.

Agenda Item II – Personnel

- A. Personnel – A Revised Personnel Report was distributed. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Tyborowski) to approve the resignation of Robert Pitzschler, science teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since September 1970, retiring June 30, 2008; Rachel Greenberg, grade four teacher at Tashua School since August 2007, resigning effective June 30, 2008; and John Palmer, grade five teacher at Tashua School since August 2007, resigning effective June 30, 2008. Vote: unanimous in favor. Mr. Iassogna thanked Mr. Pitzschler for his dedicated service not only as a teacher, but also as a Teacher Board Representative for many years.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 3/18/08–By unanimous consent of Board members present and voting at the March 18, 2008 meeting, the minutes were approved.
- B. Approval/Financial Reports – It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to table this item, as well as Item C – Approval/Finance Subcommittee of the Board of Education Transfers, until the next meeting. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- C. Approval/Finance Subcommittee of the Board of Education Transfers – Tabled (See above).

Agenda Item VI—Old Business

- A. 2008-09 Budget Discussion – Chairman Wright stated the Board’s budget was submitted with the intent to achieve specific objectives and meeting mandates, and even with the severity of the budget cuts, the Board’s goal still remains the same. Mr. Iassogna noted three factors still remain uncertain regarding the budget, and they are insurance; services going out for RFPs (legal services, broker of record, transportation); and uncertainty of the Town Council vote on the Board’s budget. Student Board Member Lauren Dahlin voiced concerns regarding reduction or deletion of the TAG program as it had a positive impact on her education. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding budget cuts that could possibly include sports programs, music programs, professional development and cadre days, the Hillcrest pool, the proposed data

technology specialist position, late bus runs, evening activities in schools and full-time kindergarten. Also discussed was the diluting of Plant projects, the 5 Year Capital Plan (which has not yet been implemented), increasing the cost of Pay-to-Participate, teacher salary increase misperception, and the decimation of Curriculum's budget thus far. Mrs. Labella noted for the record that these decisions are very difficult to make and that of concern to her was the wholesale abolition of grade level sports. Athletic Director Mike Herbst noted there were two ways to eliminate sports, either by sport or grade level. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Ward) that the Chairman and Superintendent request that the Town Council reinstate the Board's budget to the status quo figure (6.25%). Board members thanked Mrs. Herbst and vigorously supported this motion. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:10 p.m.