

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – March 4, 2008
Long Hill Administration Building
Lorraine R. Smith Assembly Room

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

Members present:

S. Wright, Chairperson
M. Ward, Vice Chairperson
J. Tyborowski, Secretary
D. Herbst, Board Member
L. King, Board Member
L. Labella, Board Member

Members absent:

L. Chory, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 7:06 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments and Questions –Anthony D’Aquila, 29 Valley View Road, commented on the CAPT scores and inquired as to supporting and substantiated data for the reasoning behind these scores. Student Board member Lauren Dahlin noted that the CAPT is taken very seriously at the high school and there is much preparation related to CAPT. She also noted that each class has its own student base with a different set of difficulties to deal with. It was also commented that if students have difficulties in the primary grade levels, they most likely will also have trouble further on in school. Mr. D’Aquila also commented that he believes the primary grades should be reorganized so that the teachers are certified in the core curriculum of math, science and reading. A discussion ensued.

Joann Tyborowski, Board Secretary, gave accolades to the Trumbull High School students who volunteered their time and efforts when the high school hosted the Class LL wrestling championships.

Superintendent Iassogna also gave thanks to the Taccone family, who, on behalf of their late daughter, who donated monies and hosted a musical program at the high school, which student Board member Lauren Dahlin reported was a good time for all.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Tyborowski) to accept the resignation of Alicia Bacon, World Language teacher at Trumbull High School since September 1973, retiring effective June 30 2008; Amy Benedetto-LaMaine, Guidance Counselor at Madison Middle School (currently on personal leave of absence), resigning effective June 30, 2008; Merrill Galer, History/Social Studies teacher at Trumbull High School since September 1971, retiring effective June 30, 2008 and Pedro Ortiz, Spanish teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since September 197., retiring effective June 30, 2008.
Vote: unanimous in favor.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to take Agenda Item V – New Business, out of order.

Agenda Item V – New Business (out of order)

- A. Approval/THS Color Guard Winter Competition Trip and THSGEMB Trip – Per Board policy, all trips in which students would miss two or more school days must be approved by the Board of Education. Trumbull High School teacher Peter Horton presented a request for Board approval and noted that the Winter Guard Championships, to be held in Dayton Ohio from April 9-13, would enable students to participate in preliminary, semi-finals and finals of this event. Following discussion, it was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Ward) to approve the trip to Ohio as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellations for any reason. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Mr. Horton also requested Board permission for Trumbull High School’s Golden Eagle Marching Band to participate in the Hollywood Santa Parade and Band Competition in Hollywood, California from November 28 – December 3. Following discussion, it was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (King) to approve the trip to California as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellations for any reason. Vote: unanimous in favor.

- B. Approval/Aquaculture Program Trip to South Korea & Japan - John Curtis, Director of the Bridgeport Regional Vocational Aquaculture School, requested Board approval for one of Trumbull’s students who attends that school to participate in a trip to South Korea and Japan. The Aquaculture School provides for collaboration with international communities to expand aquaculture-themed education experiences. Students would voyage from Wando, South Korea to Nagasaki Japan. Students are chosen for this trip based on academic standing and overall performance in the program. No monies are being requested from the Trumbull Public Schools to support this trip. Following discussion, it was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to approve this trip as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellations for any reason. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- C. Approval/New PAC Member – This item was tabled until further notice.
- D. Policies – First Reading – **1.** Disaster Policy, Policy Code EBCA/6114 – No changes were recommended for this policy, which was adopted in 1976 most recently revised in 1991. It was noted that the Town Emergency Operations Plan, as well as the school’s Emergency/Disaster Guidelines, are only referenced in this policy so when they are updated, it is not necessary to update the policy as well. The Superintendent noted that new Emergency/Disaster Guideline flipcharts are currently in production. **2.** Professional Scholarship, Policy Code GCQBA – This policy contained recommended changes for clarification purposes, particularly inventions. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding copyrights, patents, patent methods, ownership of patents, clarification of “during work time,” and monetary benefits. It was also suggested that on page 2 of 2, the three month period noted for the district to take action to seek a patent or copyright should be lengthened. Board Chairman Wright, who is an attorney with some expertise in this area, offered to help the Policy Advisory Committee with this policy. **3.** Visitors to Schools, Policy Code KKAA/1212 and **4.** Volunteers in Schools, Policy Code KKAA/1212.1 – These policies were discussed simultaneously. It was suggested that just as the Volunteers policy begins with the definition of a “volunteer,” perhaps this Visitors policy should begin with the definition of “visitor.” It was also suggested that language discouraging volunteers from bringing in younger siblings be considered. In the Volunteer policy, for language consistency it was noted that on Page 2 of 4, number 6, last line, the word “visitor” be changed to “volunteer.” It was also noted on page 4 of 4, with regard to cell phones, current Board policy should be reflected and followed. It was also noted that on the Volunteer policy that the school volunteer security form should also be available on line as well as at each school and the Personnel Office.

Student Board member Lauren Dahlin, who reverted back to the Disaster Policy, commented on information dissemination and students rights as to what information is received. It was noted that a pamphlet regarding emergency and crisis terminology and guidelines would soon be disseminated to all families.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Public Meeting –2/7/08 – By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

- B. Approval/Financial Reports – Mr. Sirico presented the Financial Reports for the month ending January 31, 2008. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Tyborowski) to approve the Board of Education Expense Report as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (King) to approve the Grant Expense Report as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (King) to approve the Consolidated Financial Statement as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. Mrs. Herbst thanked and commended Mr. Sirico for his fine work, including his presentation at the Board of Finance meeting, and that the Board was in good hands.

Agenda Item IV Reports

- A. Bylaws of the Trumbull Board of Education – The Board of Education’s Bylaws Review Committee has been examining this policy to see if possible changes need to be made. It was noted that several changes have been suggested to reflect alignment with the CT Association of Boards of Education. Also, “weeding out” information not pertinent to this policy, such as the job duties and responsibilities of the Superintendent, was under consideration. By unanimous decision, it was agreed to table Board discussion so that the Board would have further time to review this policy.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:37 p.m.