

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – April 8, 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  
L. Chory, Board Member  
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 7:12 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence –Secretary Joann Tyborowski reported that the Board had been copied on a plethora of emails that had been sent to the Town Council requesting they restore the education budget to at least the status quo level. Mrs. Tyborowski also noted that emails were received criticizing the proposed budget cut list, but that no alternatives were suggested.
- C. Comments and Questions –Trumbull Resident John Karpowich, 29 Ellsworth Street, voiced his appreciation to the Board and administration for the hard work they have done during this tumultuous budget season. He also made several suggestions for recouping some monies usurped by mandates such as having parents whose child is in-school suspension pay a share of the teacher or having parents of in-school suspended students supervise them.
- D. Recognition – Girls’ Soccer Team – The Trumbull High School Girls’ soccer Team, under the direction of Coaches Dan Uhrlass and Lou Monaco, won the CT Division LL State Championship for the second consecutive year. Athletic Director Michael Herbst presented the following Soccer Team members with a commemorative plaque: Crissy Ayala, Christine Larson, Meg Loughman, Colleen Nilan, Lis Bundschuh, Meg Noviskis, Ali Ditolla, Marissa Pearson, Jenn Rose, Kristen Forster, Bianca Reggiano, Kali Stamos, Alissa Cornell, Amy Catanese, Andrea Young, Kara Kepell, Jess Deigel, Celine Vitale, Steph Helfrich, and Rachel O’Sullivan.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

Personnel – A Revised Personnel Agenda was distributed. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (King) to accept the resignation of Maria Breen, grade one teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School since October 2003, resigning effective June 30, 2008; Carol Brennan, reading and language arts teacher at Madison Middle School since September 1968, retiring effective June 30, 2008; Deborah Linane, art teacher at Tashua School since September 1973, retiring effective June 30, 2008; and Joseph Moyer, music teacher at Jane Ryan School since September 1971, retiring effective June 30, 2008. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to take Item IV-A, A Day on the Hill, out of order. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV Reports (out of order)

A. A Day on the Hill – Trumbull High School Social Studies teacher Michael Margonis and several students from his *We the People* class joined Board Chairman Steve Wright in Hartford to interact with Connecticut Legislators at a convention. This yearly convention, sponsored by the CT Association of Boards of Education, brings together local officials and community members to rally for public education.

Mr. Margonis and students Morgan Griffin, Sarah Sweeney, John Scott and Eric Brennan described this hands-on, enjoyable experience to the Board.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Approval/Minutes – Special Meeting –3/25/08 – By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (King) to take Item V-A, Board Committee Appointment, out of order. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V – New Business (out of order)

A. Board Committee Appointment – In addition to serving on the Board of Education, members also serve on a variety of subcommittees. One such subcommittee, the Charter Communications Advisory Committee, changed the schedule of their meetings and now meets at the same time as the Board of Education. As a result Chairman Wright is recommending that former Board member Donna Cassidy be appointed to this committee for a term of two years or until such time she is replaced since she was a member of that group and is knowledgeable in that area. Following discussion, it was moved (Ward) seconded (Labella) to approve Mrs. Cassidy's appointment to this position.

B. Sabbatical Request –Trumbull High School Guidance Counselor James Capella requested a one-half year sabbatical to research and implement a program using Art to help students achieve their fullest potential. According to contract, upon recommendation of the Superintendent and with the approval of the Board, leave may be granted for such requests. In light of budgetary reductions, the Superintendent is not recommending this request to the Board.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (King) to take Item VI-A, Disaster Policy, out of order. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI- Old Business (out of order)

A. Policies, Second Reading/Approval – Disaster Policy, Policy Code: EBCA/6114. This policy was presented to the Board for a first reading on March 4, 2008 and no changes were recommended. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Ward) to approve this policy as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

B. Approval/Financial Reports – This item was tabled from the March 25 meeting. Discussion ensued regarding the Expense Report that included the cost of interns. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (King) to approve the Expense Report as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. Following discussion, it was moved (Ward) seconded (King) to accept the Grant Expense Report for the 8 months ended 2/29/08 as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. In discussion about the consolidated Financial Statement, student Board member Jameson Cherilus noted that the food in the cafeteria at

Trumbull High had much improved. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (King) to approve the Consolidated Financial Statement as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

- C. Approval/Finance Subcommittee of the Board of Education Transfers – This item was tabled from the March 25 meeting. Mrs. Labella noted that three January transfers and five February transfers needed full Board approval. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to approve January transfer numbers 322, 331 and 332 and February transfer numbers 339, 346, 347, 348 and 349 as described. Vote: unanimous in favor. A discussion ensued regarding clarification of consultants, who work with teachers and parents of special education students.
- B. 2008-09 Budget Discussion – As previously discussed, the Superintendent and Board are in the process of reducing the 2008-09 budget request by \$2,383,201. It was noted that the Finance Committee of the Town Council will meet on April 10 to make their recommendation to the full Council, who will meet on April 22. Further discussion ensued this evening including the Board's going out for bid on legal service and the agent of record for insurance services, scheduling of Board work sessions as the Board has final decision of where budget cuts will be made, maintaining a TAG program to service only identified students, OT and PT hours and salaries, the possibility of hiring less experienced teachers at a lower cost, costs of sending students to the Aquaculture, RCA and Six-to-Six Magnet School programs, clarification that the Girls' Ice Hockey Team is a combined Trumbull/Joel Barlow team that is not recognized by the CIAC as a sport and that Joel Barlow pays the same participation fees as Trumbull, but does not contribute to any overhead costs, Title IX as it relates to equality for girls' and boys' teams, and class size.

It was noted that Board work sessions will be scheduled for April 29 and 30 and will be open to the public.

#### Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:00 p.m.