

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – July 15, 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 – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments – There was no public comment this evening.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to accept the resignation of Marion Sperry, world language teacher at Madison Middle School since September 1973, retiring effective June 30, 2008; Timothy Huminski, English teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2007, resigning effective July 14, 2008. Vote: unanimous in favor. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to grant a leave of absence without pay for the 2008-09 school year for Jessica Pinter, grade 3 teacher at Booth Hill School since September 2000, and Keri Van Valen, preschool teacher at TECEC since August 2004 in compliance with Policy G CBD, Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting –6/17/08 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented. Special Meeting—6/25/08 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda Item IV – Reports

- A. Tri-State Report—Dr. Cialfi presented a response to two essential questions relating to the participation of the Trumbull Public Schools in the Tri-State Consortium regarding procedures/guidelines and the benefits for the District. He highlighted the pros and cons of participation; reviewed and compared the Math visit of 2005 and the set up for the follow-up visit in the Spring 2009; how Tri-State relates to professional development; and that the Consortium has gone through revision bringing 15 indicators down to 8, eliminating any overlap in the indicators. Also reviewed were the procedures whereby the District establishes their own agenda for their specific needs, which includes scheduling visitations in one subject area at a time, developing an initial self-study reflection through District Articulation Committees, and focusing on areas to help the district better align middle and high school performance based assessments. Dr. Cialfi further reviewed the benefits of participation including addressing “Best

Practices” to support consistencies at each grade level and K-12 curriculum alignment. He further reviewed procedures to implement 21st century skills and expectations so that students will be able to apply what they have learned in order to prepare students for college and the workforce. A discussion ensued.

- B. China Educators Visit Booth Hill School—Mrs. Demkiw reported on her recent visit to Shandong Province of China through a cultural exchange program supported by Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), promoting sister city relationships. She shared artifacts from her visit and also reported that she would like to reciprocate by inviting the Principal and five teachers from “The Primary School Affiliated with Jinan Teachers’ School” to visit the District in late September/early October. It was noted that no funding would be required by the Board of Education. A discussion took place and the Board was in agreement that a visit from the Chinese educators would be beneficial to the District.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. High School Attendance Policy Regulations Modification—Mr. Iassogna reviewed the need to modify Trumbull High School’s attendance procedure in light of the reduction of the proposed 1.0 attendance paraprofessional position. It was noted that only the regulation would be modified. The changes include: inclusion of a few new State Department of Education and THS updates; clarification of absentee explanations; streamlined notification letters will be reduced from three to two and will be received by parents in a more timely fashion; and tardiness will be managed as a disciplinary issue rather than it affecting course credit. Mr. Savo noted that these changes reflected what the high school has been doing over the past few years. Mr. Iassogna and Dr. Vespe both noted that the Administration has the right according to Connecticut State Statutes to change regulations on any current policy without Board consent. A lengthy discussion ensued. Several Board members felt that the suggested wording changes constituted a change in policy and should be sent to the Policy Advisory Committee for review and revision and then brought to the Board for approval. It was decided that the only two changes to regulations in the High School Attendance policy should include the streamlining of notification letters to parents (reduced from 3 to 2) and that tardiness would be managed as a disciplinary issue. All other changes will be given to the Board and then forwarded to PAC for review and revision. It was further noted that parents/students should be advised that this policy is currently undergoing revision and that a future discussion should take place regarding how policies evolve.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Tyborowski) to move Agenda Item VI A, School Lunch Price Increase, to follow Agenda Item V B, Rochelle Group Five Year Service Plan. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- B. Rochelle Group Five Year Service Plan—Mr. Iassogna reported that the Food Services Department has enlisted the services of the Rochelle Group, a recognized leader in the food service industry, to review the capital projects’ portion of their operation. He further noted that Food Services funds are not part of the Board operating budget and that this report is linked to Agenda Item VI A, School Lunch Price Increase. Mr. Halstead, Connecticut representative of the firm, presented a District and school by school analysis of needs, citing strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities and linked it to the district’s Five Year Plan. Discussion ensued. Mr. Iassogna noted that the capital projects/equipment figures were “ballpark numbers” and the capital project monies would come from the Town while Food Services would fund equipment. Mr. Sirico reviewed the school lunch program spreadsheet reflecting five years with no price increase versus the \$.40 increase. Further discussion ensued regarding combining the Food Services Five Year Plan with the price increase for lunches.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business (taken out of order)

- A. School Lunch Price Increase—Mr. Iassogna and Mrs. Sinko asked the Board to re-examine the request for a \$.40 increase per lunch. It was noted that the Food Services Program is self-sustaining, the increase is only the second in the last 15 years, and costs (utilities, food prices, reduction of government subsidies, mandated salaries) have escalated. It was further noted that even with the price increase, Trumbull Public Schools' lunch prices will be \$.15 to \$.25 lower than the average for Fairfield County. A discussion ensued and it was felt that in light of the current state of the economy, a \$.40 increase was too high. It was also noted that school lunch prices should be assessed on a yearly basis. It was moved (Ward), seconded (Labella) to approve a price increase of \$.25 for all school lunches and begin Year One of the Capital Projects/Equipment program for Food Services (as outlined in the Rochelle report).
Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- C. Approval—Beverage Sale—Mr. Iassogna reported that according to State Statute (GCS 10-211q) and separate from the Healthy Food Act, Boards of Education are required to address the sale of beverages on school premises that are not on the State's approved list, contingent upon the following three conditions being met: 1) sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) sale is at the location of the event; and 3) items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Tyborowski) to approve the sale of beverage items after school and/or at school events and activities contingent upon the three conditions as presented.
Vote: unanimous in favor.
- D. Approval – Textbooks – Dr. Cialfi, Mrs. Bourque, Mrs. Maffei, and Mrs. D'Addario reviewed nine textbooks for approval. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve the following textbook as presented: *America: History of Our Nation Civil War*. Vote: unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve the following textbooks as presented: *Weather and Climate; Chemical Building Block; Inside Earth; Human Biology and Health; Earth's Changing Surface; Astronomy; Chemical Interactions; Environmental Science*. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- E. Approval – Curriculum Guide – Dr. Cialfi and Mrs. D'Addario reviewed three science curriculum guides for grades 6, 7 and 8. A brief discussion took place. It was moved (Herbst), seconded (Ward) to approve the curriculum guides for *Middle School Science Grade 6, Middle School Science Grade 7, and Middle School Science Grade 8* as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:08 p.m.