

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – August 19, 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  
L. King, Board Member  
L. Labella, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 6:35 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.

It was moved (Labella) seconded (Tyborowski) to take Agenda Item V-C out of order for preliminary discussion. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V- New Business (out of order)

C. Evaluation of the Executive Assistant to the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Human Resource Specialist, Personnel Support Specialist, Secretary to the Superintendent, Business Administrator and Assistant Superintendent – Each year the Board is requested to approve raises for the aforementioned positions.

It was moved (Labella) seconded (King) to move into Executive Session to discuss the evaluation of the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Human Resource Specialist, Personnel Support Specialist, Secretary to the Superintendent, and Assistant Superintendent. Mr. Iassogna was invited to attend. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Mr. Wright noted that at the last Board meeting a question arose regarding FOI rules and the discussion of individual evaluations and compensation in Executive Session. After researching this subject via Tom Hennick, Public Information Officer of the Freedom of Information Commission, it was conveyed that Executive Sessions cannot be used to discuss the above matters in regard to bargaining units or groups of employees, but only of employees as individuals.

Mr. Wright also noted that as it is his right, the Business Administrator requested his evaluation be discussed in Public Session rather than Executive Session.

By unanimous consent, the Board adjourned this Executive Session at 7:30 p.m. at which time the Public Session resumed.

It was moved (Labella) seconded (King) to grant the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent a 3.25% salary increase (\$1,794) from \$55,193 to \$56,987. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Chory) to grant the Human Resource Specialist a 3.25% salary increase (\$1,979) from \$60,896 to \$62,875. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to grant the Secretary to the Superintendent a 3.25% salary increase (\$1,596) from \$49,096 to \$50,692. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to grant the Personnel Support Specialist a 3.25% salary increase (\$1,554) from \$47,827 to \$49,381. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to grant the Assistant Superintendent a 4% salary increase (\$5,666) from \$141,650 to \$147,316. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Business Administrator Steve Sirico requested his evaluation take place in Public Session. The Board requested Superintendent Iassogna's assessment, and he stated that Mr. Sirico has done an exceptional job and performed above and beyond his duties.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to grant the Business Administrator a 4% salary increase (\$4,074) from \$101,859 to \$105,933. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to amend the motion to grant the Business Administrator a 4.25% salary increase. A discussion ensued. Vote on amended motion: 2 in favor (Ward, Wright) 5 opposed (Chory, Herbst, King, Labella, Tyborowski). Motion fails. Vote on original motion: 5 in favor (King, Labella, Tyborowski, Ward, Wright) 2 opposed (Chory, Herbst). Motion passes.

B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.

Chairman Wright noted that on behalf of the members of the Trumbull Taxpayers Association, he and the Superintendent had received a letter of appreciation from President Rob Cook, for their participation in the Taxpayers Association meeting. Mr. Wright wished it noted publicly that there is a standing invitation to members of the Taxpayers Association to discuss their concerns at any time.

C. Comments and Questions – Tamara Peterson, Booth Hill School's PTA President, and Booth Hill parents John Sembrot, 108 West Lake Road, and Grisselle Gonzalez, 24 Hillcrest Road, petitioned the Board for a portable at Booth Hill School to avoid art or music being taught from a cart.

Carolyn Collins, 56 Red Fox Lane, also spoke in favor of a portable. Mrs. Collins then appealed to the Board for the remainder of funding (\$4,515) to cover the costs involved to send three state competition winning Trumbull Odyssey of the Mind teams to the World Finals. Mrs. Collins also distributed a summary of the costs and balance due (available in the Superintendent's office).

Anthony D'Aquila, 29 Valley View Road, gave kudos regarding the Bylaws of the Trumbull Board of Education policy and suggested a few minor changes including that the Board Chairman should be neutral and only vote to break a tie; delete the Chairman's right to limit or deny time for a speaker; and if they are reluctant to do so, not require the name and address of a person speaking at the Board meeting during public comment.

Cindy Katske, 129 Meadowview Road, advocated for the restoration of monies to support the middle school sports club model listed on the Draft Priority List for items to restore to the Board's budget.

Vicki Tesoro, 133 Beechwood Avenue, advocated for the restoration of monies to support Trumbull High School clubs listed on the Draft Priority List, especially in light of those seniors who include the clubs on their college applications.

John Miolene, 60 Botsford Place, advocated for monies to restore evening and Sunday building use, middle school sports club models, and Trumbull High School clubs.

Frenchtown Father's Club Co-President Mark Gagnon, 23 Maple Street, advocated for the restoration of monies to support the night and Sunday building use.

## Agenda Item II - Personnel

- A. Personnel – It was moved (Herbst) seconded (King) to accept the resignation of Carmen Brown, reading consultant at Tashua School since August 2003, resigning effective August 11, 2008; and Joan Thomas, science teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2003, resigning effective August 8, 2008. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to accept the resignation of Patricia Alessio, school year secretary at Hillcrest Middle School, retiring effective August 1, 2008. Vote: unanimous in favor.

## Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes-Regular Meeting– 8/05/08 - By unanimous consent of Board members present and voting at the August 5, 2008 meeting, minutes for this meeting were approved as presented (1 abstention -Labella absent 8/5/08).

The Board recessed briefly at 8:25 p.m.; the meeting resumed at 8:45 p.m.

It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to take agenda item V-B, Draft/Supplemental Allocation Priority List, out of order. Vote: unanimous in favor.

## Agenda Item V – New Business (out of order)

- B. Draft/Supplemental Allocation Priority List – At a previous meeting, the Board approved not to expend any unspent monies that have not already been encumbered from the 2007-08 budget. These funds will remain in the Town coffers, and then a special appropriation would be requested to fund Board determined district priorities. Superintendent Iassogna reviewed a draft list which the Board could use as a point for review and discussion. Chairman Wright recognized John Annick, who requested the Board include \$5,000 for Channel 17 in their special appropriation request to the Town to accommodate more educational programming. A lengthy discussion ensued that included monies for a modular for Booth Hill. Mr. Iassogna noted that the district has an opportunity to continue leasing our three current moduls and adding a forth for \$10,000, and owning all after a period of three years. It was noted that a bid waiver would be needed from the First Selectman.

It was moved (Ward) seconded (Tyborowski) to approve \$10,000 out of the operating budget to purchase the modular for Booth Hill School. Vote: unanimous in favor.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to discuss Agenda Item III-B, Approval/Financial Reports, prior to concluding the above agenda item.

## Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- B. Approval/Financial Reports – Following discussion, it was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to approve the Board of Education Expense Report as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to approve the Grant Expense Report as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to approve the Consolidated Financial Statement as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to approve the BOE Program Detail Report as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

## Agenda Item IV– Reports

- A. Enrollment/Update/Staffing – An Enrollment Update/Staffing agenda item was distributed. The Superintendent noted that three classes (Daniels Farm Grade 1, Daniels Farm Grade 3, and Frenchtown Grade 4) have exceeded Board guideline recommendations and is recommending that a 1.0 teacher be

added for each of those classes. Additionally, consistent with standard practice, the Superintendent also recommended the addition of a 1.0 specialist (art, music and/or physical education) for every four classes. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Tyborowski) to approve the hiring of 4.0 positions as recommended. Vote: 6 in favor (Herbst, King, Labella, Tyborowski, Ward, Wright) 1 abstention (Chory). Motion passes.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. Approval/RFP – Employee Benefits Consulting Services - A Board/Town committee jointly examined changing the Insurance Broker of Record. Bob Chimini, Town Purchasing Agent, coordinated this process. Ultimately, the Town decided to remain with their current vendor, Lockton Companies of Connecticut. The Board of Education’s subcommittee is recommending that Everett James, Inc. of Ridgefield be hired as the Trumbull Public Schools’ Employee Benefit Consultation Services Provider. Superintendent Iassogna recommended that this item be tabled due to some technical aspects and to allow time to bring this RFP to closure with Bob Chimini. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) that this item be tabled. Vote: unanimous in favor.
  
- B. Draft/Supplemental Allocation Priority List – Continued – Following discussion, it was moved (Labella) seconded (Tyborowski) to approve \$15,664 to restore Trumbull High School clubs. Vote: 5 in favor (King, Labella, Tyborowski, Ward, Wright) 2 abstentions (Chory, Herbst). Motion passes.

It was moved (Labella) seconded (Ward) to direct the Superintendent to request a special appropriation from the Town for reimbursement for 3.0 classroom teachers (\$210,000), monies for restoration of THS clubs (\$15,664), as well as additional monies for restoration of evening/Sunday Building Use (\$41,000), middle school intramurals with a sports club concepts (\$9,000), and monies for Channel 17 (\$5,000). Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. Policies – Second Reading – Policy Code: BBA/9312 – Bylaws of the Trumbull Board of Education – The Board of Education’s bylaws Review Subcommittee reviewed this policy, recommended changes to PAC, and on May 20 it came before the Board for a first reading. Mrs. Labella suggested that on page 3 of 14, Section 3, the word *July* be eliminated regarding evaluation of the performance of the Superintendent as this does not always occur. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to approve the policy with the change noted above. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to take up another agenda item regarding redistricting under *Other*. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to direct the Superintendent to convene a subcommittee to explore possible redistricting and/or grade reconfiguration models for elementary and middle schools. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VII – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 11:00 p.m.