

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – September 16, 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

- B. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 7:12 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- A. Personnel—Superintendent's evaluation. Mr. Wright noted that this agenda item will be addressed in executive session at the October 7<sup>th</sup> Board of Education meeting. At this time, Mr. Iassogna introduced and welcomed Mrs. Darlene Ference, the new Teacher Representative to the Board.
- C. Correspondence – Mrs. Tyborowski reported that she had received the following: numerous letters/emails in support of the Board of Education's request for the supplemental appropriation from the Board of Finance to support various programs/activities that had been cut from the budget; a petition from parents of part-time TLC kindergarteners asking to restore bus transportation on days when their child does not attend TLC; and a thank you note from teacher retiree Pat Tansey.
- D. Comments and Questions – Crista Forstrom, 94 Tashua Road, addressed the issue of mid-day bus transportation for kindergarteners who attend TLC on a part-time basis. At present, kindergarteners who attend TLC on a part-time basis are not provided bus transportation at mid-day on those days when the student does not attend TLC. She feels that Trumbull's procedure is discriminatory and in violation of a student's right to bus transportation to/from school by not providing transportation at mid-day to kindergarteners on their non-TLC days. JoAnn Zimmerman, 4672 Madison Avenue, and Cindy Katske, 129 Meadowview Drive, spoke in support of the Board moving forward with their request to the Board of Finance for a supplemental appropriation which was voted on at the August 19<sup>th</sup> meeting, for middle school sports activities, Trumbull High club monies and especially the restoration of evening and Sunday use of buildings since it has affected the various parent and student groups, such as the PTA's and scouting who use the buildings after hours. Scot Kerr, 12 Lynnbrook Road, Jim Folchick, 20 Brookside Drive, Mark Gagne, 23 Maple Street and Frank Cioffi, 95 Evelyn Street, co-President of Jane Ryan Fathers' Club, all spoke in support of restoring the use of schools in the evenings and Sundays especially for groups such as Father's Club, PTA, and scouting, noting that most activities involve the children and the school community. They feel that the schools are town buildings and such groups should have access to them for meetings/activities. It was suggested that perhaps these groups could pay a fee to support custodial overtime. Cynthia Davis spoke on behalf of her daughter, Stephanie, a THS student, who would like the STAND Club to be restored

at the high school as a separate club and also supported the full funding for high school clubs. Todd Gallo, 150 North Stowe Place, spoke on behalf of the Touchdown Club and asked for the reinstatement of sophomore football, noting that it was the only team not restored and felt it was unfair. He further noted that the only costs involved would be for the coaches as the equipment is available and that he was told by Mike Herbst, athletic director, that every effort would be made to schedule games at home. He strongly feels that this team is needed to give the athletes an extra year to develop, both physically and emotionally, and have the opportunity to play in real games. Robin Diamond, 20 Highgate Road, spoke on behalf of the Pop Warner Cheerleaders asking for restoration of evening school openings so that the teams can practice in a safe environment (gyms with mats). She also noted that no custodial overtime should be incurred since the teams do their own set up and clean up of the gym. Vicki Tesoro, 133 Beechwood Avenue, spoke in favor of moving forward with the supplemental appropriation to the Board of Finance, especially the full restoration of clubs at the high school and middle school sports activities. She further requested that if monies are not restored, the Board consider charging an activity fee to cover the costs of clubs and the middle school sports activities. Tina Barber, 70 Bonnie View Drive, asked the Board to consider having two high schools and noted that her son was forced to take a study hall as there was only one class available to him as an elective. She also supported the supplemental appropriation to the Board of Finance.

Following Public Comment, it was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to add discussion on the supplemental appropriation to the Board of Finance under Agenda Item VIII, Other. Vote: unanimous in favor.

#### Agenda Item II - Personnel

- A. Personnel—Mr. Iassogna noted that no action was needed.

#### Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes-Regular Meeting– 9/02/08 –By unanimous consent, the minutes of the September 2nd Board of Education meeting were approved as presented.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to take Agenda Items V, New Business—A, B, and C out of order. Vote: unanimous in favor.

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

- A. Approval/Curriculum Guides – Mrs. Basbagill reviewed four curriculum guides for mathematics including two UConn courses that each can earn 3 credits at the University of Connecticut, 1 honors course and an SAT prep course. *Algebra II 400* is an honors course offered to students who wish to take *AP Calculus*; *Elementary Discrete Mathematics 400* (UConn) includes topics of problem solving strategies, solutions of simultaneous linear equations, sequences, counting and probability; graph theory, deductive reasoning, axiomatic methods, finite geometrics, and number systems; *Elementary Mathematical Modeling 400* (UConn) includes the use of algebraic and trigonometric functions with technology to analyze quantitative relationships and illustrate the role of mathematics in modern life; and *SAT Math* designed to help students prepare and practice for the PSAT and SAT exams. Following discussion, it was moved (Herbst), seconded (Labella) to approve the curriculum guides for *Algebra II 400 Elementary Discrete Mathematics 400 Elementary Mathematical Modeling 400 SAT Math* as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. Mrs. Rubano, Mr. August and Mr. Monaco reviewed two curriculum guides for social studies electives. *Honors Justice and Law* provides students with an understanding of the major aspects of our legal system; and *Sociology* includes topics on the family as a social institution, status and role, class structure, social mobility, human ecology, deviant behavior, and social/cultural change. Following discussion it was moved (Herbst), seconded (Ward) to approve the

curriculum guides for *Honors Justice and Law* and *Sociology* as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

- B. Approval /Textbook – Mrs. Rubano and Mr. August reviewed *Criminal Law for the Criminal Justice Professional*, a comprehensive basic introduction to the rules and laws that comprise the criminal justice system in the United States, for the *Justice and Law* course which is open to students in grades 11 and 12. It was noted that students taking the course will participate in a Mock Trial Competition. Following discussion, it was moved (Ward), seconded (Herbst) to approve the text, *Criminal Law for the Criminal Justice Professional*, as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- C. Approval/Agriscience Trip/National FFA Convention—Mr. Piekarski reviewed the itinerary/purpose of attending the National FFA Convention. Following discussion, it was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to approve the National FFA Convention 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.

#### Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- B. Approval/Financial Reports – Mr. Sirico reviewed the reports and noted that 87% of the 2008-09 has already been encumbered or spent. (Mr. Iassogna also noted that there is still \$30,000 of unspent monies in the Emergency Management Grant and we are awaiting approval to spend those monies.) Following discussion, it was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to accept the Board of Education Expense Report for the 2 months ended 8/30/08 as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to approve the Grant Expense Report for the 2 months ended 8/30/08 as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to approve the Consolidated Financial Statement for the 2 months ended 8/30/08 as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- C. Approval/Finance Committee of the Board of Education Transfers—Mrs. Labella reviewed the substance of the meetings and noted that one transfer, Benefits—Health Premium Share, needed the full approval of the Board. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Chory) to approve the transfer of \$2,360,000 from the Benefits—Health Premium Share to Benefits—Health and Dental. Vote: unanimous in favor.

At this time, Mr. Wright commented on the TPAUD (grant to address underage drinking) Committee meeting of that afternoon and noted that a brochure was developed by the committee which will be distributed to all middle and high school students.

#### Agenda Item IV – Reports

##### A. Oral Reports

1. Teacher Board Representative—Mrs. Ference reported that the August 25<sup>th</sup> “Welcome Back” meeting went very well as teachers were enthusiastic about returning to school and looking forward to this school year.
2. Student Board Representatives—Jaclyn Testani noted that school opening went smoothly and felt students especially enjoyed the summer reading book discussions that were facilitated by staff, Board and community members. Chris Romano reported that students feel the cafeteria food is better and that students and staff are doing well despite the budget cuts. He also noted that he is looking forward to working with the Board.

- B. District AYP Report—Dr. Cialfi reviewed the District’s Annual Yearly Progress report and the state criteria for achievement at or above proficiency levels on CMT’s and CAPT. He noted that the report indicates that Trumbull schools easily achieved the Adequate Yearly Progress benchmark, with the exception of Hillcrest’s subgroup of students with disabilities who fell short of AYP. It was noted that the benchmarks will remain the same for the next two years and will go up in 2010-11 and that accommodations are available during testing for those students who need it—such as hearing or physically impaired, etc. It was further noted that the success of the AYP is a combination of elements including the size of classes, differentiated instruction, instructional support from program leaders, instructional chairs, and special education resource, and the use of RTI—response to intervention. Discussion ensued.

At this time, Dr. Cialfi introduced Seong Soo Park, an assistant to the Commissioner of Education for the Chinese government, who is visiting our district to study our teaching methods.

#### Agenda Item V – New Business

- D. 2009-10 Budget Format Discussion— In an effort to make the budget more transparent to the public and from discussion that evolved from the recent Board of Education’s Finance Committee meeting, Mr. Iassogna introduced a new budget format and asked the Board for direction as to how they want the budget presented. Mr. Sirico reviewed the new format which is by object/location/department and broken into 8 broad areas: salaries, benefits, professional and technical services, services-property, services purchases/other, supplies, property, and other objects. Mr. Iassogna noted that the new budget format would include the number for FTE (full time equivalent) when reporting salaries. Currently, the budget is by cost center. It was noted that since the Board receives monthly budget reports by object, etc., the consensus of the Board is to use the new format. It was further noted that a workshop or a reasonable facsimile thereof should be offered for members of the Town Council and Board of Finance so that they understand and are familiar with the new format before presenting the budget formally with numbers. Discussion ensued.

#### Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. THS Renovation Discussion—Mr. Iassogna reviewed the THS Renovate as New project and noted that it is a continuation of previous discussions with the Board on the progress of the renovation. He reiterated that the total project’s approved expenditure is \$73,000,000 which includes an addition of 38,627 square feet, 19,000 of which is for the pool (natatorium). The cost of the natatorium is set at \$5,000,000 which must come from the \$73,000,000. Mr. Iassogna further noted that the finalized specs must be approved by the Board before filing the ED049 report with the State of Connecticut, and commented that the final plans/specs should reflect what is needed for the school. Mr. Butkus of JCY/Wiles Architects reviewed the plans, culled from interviews with high school staff, which includes necessary renovations along with a “wish list” and stated that they were very preliminary. He noted that plans/priorities have changed since the project was approved several years ago and is reviewing all information. He further noted that since the project is a “renovate as new”, there were certain State guidelines to be followed in order to obtain State funding. Mr. Wright asked for a timeline for the project and Mrs. Labella requested the final plan document to be more “user friendly.” Mr. Butkus stated that the final plans will be presented to the Building Committee on October 22, 2008 and would include a timeline. He reiterated that direction from the Town Council and the THS Building Committee is that the project must not exceed \$73,000,000, as no additional monies will be given towards the project. He noted that construction should begin the summer of 2009 and continue through the years with a target completion date of summer 2012. Discussion ensued.

#### Agenda Item VII – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

## Agenda Item VIII – Other

- A. Supplemental Appropriation—Mr. Iassogna noted that at its meeting on August 19, 2008 the Board voted to direct the Superintendent to bring before the Board of Finance a supplemental appropriation of \$280,664, comprised of \$210,000 for 3 additional teachers, \$41,000 to restore evening and Sunday use of building, \$15,664 for Trumbull High clubs, \$9,000 for middle school sports activities, and \$5,000 for Channel 17. The Board of Finance meeting will take place on Thursday, September 18, 2008. Mr. Ward suggested decreasing the amount of the request. Mrs. Labella stated that she had talked with several members of the Board of Finance who were not supportive of the appropriation and questioned whether the Board should move forward with their request. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to reduce the supplemental appropriation request from \$280,664 to \$25,000, an amount which covers the costs associated with keeping the schools open on weeknights. Discussion ensued. It was moved (King) seconded (Labella) to amend the motion to include an additional \$9,000 for middle school sports activities for a total of \$34,000. Vote: 6 in favor (Wright, King, Labella, Ward, Chory, Herbst) 1 opposed (Tyborowski). Motion passes. It was moved (Ward) seconded (King) to further amend the motion to include an additional \$15,664 for high school clubs for a total of \$49,664. Vote: 3 in favor (King, Labella, Ward) 4 opposed (Chory, Herbst, Tyborowski, Wright). Motion fails. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Tyborowski) to further amend the motion to include \$17,000 for sophomore football for a total of \$66,664. Vote: 6 in favor (Wright, King, Labella, Ward, Chory, Herbst) 1 opposed (Tyborowski). Motion passes. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Tyborowski) to further amend the motion to include \$5,000 for Channel 17 for a total of \$71,664. Discussion ensued and Mrs. Tyborowski stated that she would vote no on all motions as she felt the full amount (\$280,664) should be brought before the Board of Finance. Both Mrs. Chory and Mrs. Herbst stated that they would be voting in favor of the motions. Vote: 4 in favor (Wright, King, Labella, Ward) 3 against (Tyborowski, Chory, Herbst). Motion passes. Vote on motion to reduce the supplemental appropriation from \$280,664 to \$56,000 which includes \$25,000 for the cost of evening school openings, \$9,000 for middle school sports activities, 17,000 for sophomore football, and \$5,000 for Channel 17: 6 in favor (Wright, King, Labella, Ward, Chory, Herbst) 1 opposed (Tyborowski). Motion passes.

At this time, Mr. Wright asked for a consensus for the Board to meet at 6:30 p.m. on the next meeting date of October 7th for an executive session before the regular board meeting to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation. All were in agreement.

## Adjournment

Board Members present gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:26 p.m.