

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – January 6, 2009  
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, Chairman

M. Ward, Vice Chairman

J. Tyborowski, Secretary

L. Chory, Board Member

D. Herbst, Board Member

L. King, Board Member--arrived at 9:00 p.m.

L. Labella, Board Member--arrived at 8:55 p.m.

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 8:08 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.

B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence reported this evening.

C. Comments and Questions – Jackie Bruni, Natasha Cooper, Meredith Chamberlain, Kevin Chamberlain, Yolanda Soto, and Barbara DiStinti, whose children are students at TECEC, spoke in favor of adding ABA therapy to their children’s educational program. (Written comments are available in the Superintendent’s Office). Caron Simon, not a Trumbull resident, identified herself as a parent advocate and also spoke in favor of Trumbull providing ABA therapy to children with autism. Tony D’Aquila stated he was surprised the budget came in so low and asked the Board to review the budget to be forwarded to the First Selectman. He asked the Board to make a decision as to whether they are an advocate for the student or the taxpayer.

Agenda Item II - Personnel

A. Personnel – As no Board action was required, this item was received and filed.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Approval/Minutes –Regular Meeting December 9, 2008 - By consent of members present and voting at the January 6th meeting, the minutes were unanimously approved.

It was moved (Herbst) second (Chory) to take Agenda Item VI, Old Business, A 1, 2, 3 and 4, out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

A. Policies – Second Reading/Approval

1. Drug Free Workplace – Policy Code 4118.231/GB – Dr. Vespe recommended that this policy reading be treated as a first reading because of language changes and asked the Board to review it again. It was noted that this policy is an expansion of the federal law concerning drug free workplace. Attorney Dugas clarified that federal law deals with the reporting of convictions related to drugs and the Board would like language to reflect arrests also. Also noted was that the policy should contain language referring to the reporting of arrests/convictions on drug related matters that occur outside the workplace. Much discussion ensued and no action was taken. The policy will be returned to the Board for approval.

2. Field Trip Policy – Policy Code 6153/IICA – Dr. Vespe and Mr. Pijar reviewed revisions to the policy. It was noted that a new, separate policy will be developed regarding use of private vehicles for student transportation for field trips. Also discussed was the student behavior contract (not part of the policy) which will return to administration for modification. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to approve this policy as presented and to include reference to the new Board policy on use of private vehicles for student transportation on field trips. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
3. Finance Review Committee – Policy Code 9130/BCE – Dr. Vespe introduced this policy. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to approve this policy as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
4. Budget Transfer Policy – Policy Code 3160/DBJ – Dr. Vespe introduced this policy. It was noted that language be revised under Emergency Expenditures to read: The Superintendent in consultation with the Board Chair is authorized to approve non-budgeted expenditures..... Discussion ensued. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Ward) to approve this policy as presented and to reflect the above noted language. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to take Agenda Item V, New Business, A 1, 2, and 3 out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### Agenda Item V – New Business

It was moved (Ward) seconded (Labella) to table Agenda Item A 2, High School Attendance—Policy Code 5113/JEDB. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### A. Policies—First Reading

1. Bullying—Policy Code 5131.911/JFCC—Dr. Vespe introduced PAC’s Student Representative Seth Nigrosh, who reviewed this policy, which has been updated to reflect a clear definition of bullying, revisions to the law and state mandates. Discussion ensued, notably regarding what constitutes an act of bullying, who decides if the incident is bullying, the discrepancy of location of incidents between definition and regulations (on and off school grounds/school sponsored activities) and bullying incidents that occur outside of school. Mr. Pijar noted that all cases of bullying must be verified and documented and that a bullying log exists that is available for public perusal. It was further noted that administrators attend workshops on identifying incidents and intervention methods on bullying which is shared with pertinent staff. Further noted was that students are made aware that they can report bullying incidents anonymously. Also noted was that disciplinary action against the perpetrator should be taken when an act of bullying is verified. PAC will revise policy and return to the Board for approval.
2. High School Attendance—Policy Code 5113/JEDB—Item tabled.
3. Parent Organization/Booster Clubs—Policy Code 1230—Dr. Vespe introduced this new policy that was developed with input from PTA members and the Athletic Director. It was noted that each parent/booster organization must be incorporated as or affiliated with a legal nonprofit entity such as 501-C3 and must provide a copy of the organization’s annual IRS filing to the Superintendent/Board. Also noted was that language under Regulations, II, should reference the Board of Education Policy, Gifts to School District. Discussion ensued and PAC will revise and return policy to the Board for approval.

It was moved (Ward) seconded (Tyborowski) to take Agenda Item V New Business, B, out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

### Agenda Item V – New Business

B. Approval/CILU Supervisors Agreement – Mr. Floyd Dugas, Board Attorney, presented the 4-year agreement that was recently negotiated with the CILU Supervisors unit. This agreement, which runs from 7/1/08 to 6/30/12, includes pay raises of 3.25% in each of the 4 years. Two positions, Manager of Transportation and Food Service Director, are receiving a parity adjustment, bringing them up to levels with comparable positions in other districts. Co-pay of employee health insurance premiums reflects an increase of 2%. Also included is the option to reopen discussion regarding employee contributions to the pension plan. Following discussion, it was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve the Board/CILU Supervisors 4-year agreement as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

A five-minute recess was called for at 10:10 p.m. Meeting resumed at 10:15 p.m.

### Agenda Item IV – Reports

A. THS Renovation Update—Mr. Barbarotta reviewed the status of the THS Renovate as New Project and noted that he will be bringing the final drawings to the State in March for approval. He also noted that final drawings will be given to O&G Construction so they can provide estimated costs for construction. Mr. Barbarotta further noted that the Superintendent’s Ad Hoc committee of the architects and high school staff continually meet to review design specs. Architect Jeff Elliott reviewed the drawings for the auditorium and the layout for the new main office space, the pool building, the change in the auxiliary gym being added to the existing Trumbull High building instead of the pool building and timeline for completion of the project. He noted at the next Board meeting, schematics and cost estimates would be available. Mrs. Chory asked the Board to consider, because of the state of the economy, not moving forward with the “Renovate as New” project for the high school, that perhaps a less costly renovation could be undertaken. Discussion took place regarding the merits of “renovating as new” versus a scaled down project and the consensus of the majority of the Board felt the project should move forward as planned. Mr. Barbarotta reiterated that the State has already committed \$20,000,000 reimbursement funds for a “Renovate as New” project and that funding would be lost if the scope of the project is changed. Mrs. Labella further noted that the Town Council approved the project which is moving forward and it is not a decision for the Board to make regarding downscaling the high school renovation.

B. RYASAP Report—Superintendent Iassogna reported that because the meeting was changed from Tuesday, January 6 to this evening, Robert Francis, Executive Director of RYASAP was not available and stated that Mr. Francis will present at the January 20<sup>th</sup> Board meeting.

### Agenda Item VI – Old Business

B. 2009-10 Budget Approval – Mr. Iassogna is recommending the 2009-10 total budget request of \$84,142,628 be adopted by the Board and forwarded to the First Selectman. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded(Labella) to approve the budget as presented. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to amend the budget to add \$35,000 for a portable classroom for Booth Hill School. Discussion ensued. Vote: 2 in favor (Ward, Wright), 5 opposed (Chory, Herbst, King, Labella, Tyborowski). Motion fails. Vote on original motion: Unanimous in favor.

At this time a moment of silence was observed for Amanda Osberg, Trumbull High School senior who passed away on Tuesday, January 6.

### Adjournment

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