

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – October 13, 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:

Members absent:

S. Wright, Chairperson
M. Ward, Vice Chairman – arrived at 6:26 p.m.
J. Tyborowski, Secretary
L. Chory, Board Member
D. Herbst, Board Member – arrived at 7:35 p.m.
L. King, Board Member
L. Labella, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 6:04 p.m.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to move to Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation and contract and the current status of negotiations with the secretarial bargaining unit and to invite the Superintendent if needed. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to move to adjourn the Executive Session and return to the Public Session at 7:25 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.

D. Recognition— Dr. Armand Fusco conveyed that The Federation of Connecticut Taxpayers' Organizations (FCTO) honored the Board of Education and Central Administration with the Platinum Award of the Honor Roll Hall of Fame at their annual meeting on October 3, 2009. He presented this award to the Board for its continued cooperation with the Citizens Review and Advisory Committee (CRAC) in promoting increased transparency, accountability and efficiency, also noting that the Trumbull district has become a leader in this area. The FCTO also commended Steve Sirico for all his efforts in going above and beyond to provide CRAC with the information necessary to complete their review. He also noted that Trumbull's posting their check register on their website, Connecticut has become the 33rd state to join in this endeavor. Dr. Fusco also provided information on the Malcolm Baldrige Quality Award which he feels the district could win and noted the application and other related fees would amount to approximately \$2,500. Chairman Wright noted that the Board may move forward to apply for this award. Chairman Wright also recognized Tim Ryan and members of CRAC for their volunteering their time and efforts to promote transparency. He also commended Mr. Iassogna, Mr. Sirico and the TPS administration for their cooperation with CRAC in an effort to make the district better.

It was moved (Chory) seconded (Tyborowski) to take Agenda Item II-A, Personnel, out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item II – Personnel (out of order)

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

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to take Agenda Item III-A, Approval/Minutes—Regular Meeting, out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda (out of order)

A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting –9/15/09. By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

It was moved (Labella) seconded (King) to take Agenda Item IV-A, District Enrollment Report October 1, 2009, out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports (out of order)

A. District Enrollment Report October 1, 2009—Mr. Iassogna reviewed actual enrollment as of October 1, 2009 with a district total of 7,062 students, which will be forwarded to the State. That total includes preschool, special education and out of district placements and reflects an increase of 84 students above the actual enrollment on October 1, 2008, and 109 students above projections. He noted that these numbers confirm a growing student population that must be taken into consideration when planning for the future and is investigating employing a service to do enrollment projections and an expanded analysis of future needs. Mr. Iassogna further noted that he will be meeting with Wayne Verderber of Applied Data Services, who has done similar work for other Connecticut districts and who comes highly recommended. Discussion ensued, including class size and Board Member Ward asked the Superintendent to provide the Board with information of class size at the middle and high school level.

Agenda Item I –Preliminary Business

C. Comments – Board Member Herbst stated that she would like to give additional comments regarding Trumbull High CAPT scores and the presentation made at the last Board meeting. She noted that since then, she has received additional information and data regarding CAPT and had a very productive meeting with TEA Co-Presidents Roger Smith and Tammy Baillargeon and Superintendent Iassogna to clarify her remarks (at the 9/15/09 Board meeting). Mrs. Herbst stated that she continues to be frustrated with the scores but her comments were not intended to cast doubt upon the teaching practices presently utilized by high school staff. She noted that she respects all of the efforts of the teachers and administrators employed by the Trumbull Public Schools and especially respects the efforts of the (high school) department chairs who came forward at the last Board meeting to comment on the efforts their respective department employ (to increase achievement on CAPT). Mrs. Herbst further stated that this was no easy task given the minimal gains realized and their willingness to do so demonstrates their commitment to improving student achievement. Chairman Wright added that the Board has great admiration and respect for the high school teachers and the way they deliver curriculum to the students. He further noted that the success of the schools is not only measured by CAPT but other means such as graduation percentage (99%) and the pursuit of higher education (95%). TEA Co-President Tammy Baillargeon commented that we (TEA co-presidents) appreciate the time you (Mrs. Herbst) gave to meet with us on October 8th. As a result, we know that you know teachers work tirelessly to meet the needs of the students. We feel strongly that we need to work together in collaboration for the students of Trumbull. TEA Co-President Roger Smith commented that he appreciated the comments from Chairman Wright and Mrs. Herbst and stated that the high school staff would also appreciate them. Mr. Smith stated that the TEA looks forward to working with the administration and Board in all possible ways to insure a continued high level of education in Trumbull. He noted that the 4 major (academic) departments at the high school have made fairly consistent progress on CAPT, noting that there are differences from year to year. Mr. Smith noted that the real issue came from Trumbull's ranking in their DRG this year and CMT and CAPT scores becoming the only measure of a district's success because of the intense publicity given them. He noted that literature encourages a broader view of education, rather than limiting it to a one-day test. Mr. Smith further stated that because the professional community in Trumbull looks only to scores to measure the success of TPS, teachers are constantly being pressured to teach to the tests and feels students have suffered because of this emphasis on

test results. He asked the Board to continue to support the TPS teaching staff and look for additional means to recognize achievement and reduce the pressure to continually improve scores. John Nigro, 237 Edison Road, commented on the portables at Frenchtown School as he has a daughter whose class is in the portable. He noted that the portables were not fully ready at the beginning of school, including lacking white boards, storage for students personal items, and a canopy to the main building. He also noted safety concerns, felt the communication to parents was not sufficient and asked the Board and Superintendent to address his issues. Superintendent Iassogna stated that since the decision was made to add portables to Frenchtown, Mrs. Norcel has communicated with parents whose children would be in those classrooms. He noted that Mrs. Norcel had a special meeting for those parents a few days before school started and that he joined her at that meeting. Mr. Iassogna also noted that Mrs. Norcel reports that most of the parents have been pleased with how the situation has been handled. He also noted that Mrs. Norcel has had a number of contacts with the Nigros and that he would be happy to meet with them to address their concerns. Dawn Cantafio, 72 Tait Road, commented that it must be remembered that CAPT is a measure of a student's abilities throughout their entire school career and not just what they have learned in 9th and 10th grade. She noted that the administration and teaching staff of the high school continue to be committed to having all students do their best, not only on CAPT but in all program areas. She commended the entire staff of the high school for doing a great job and thanked them all for encouraging our students to grow in our community and inspiring them to do better for themselves. Liz Polzello, 74 Roosevelt Drive, Hillcrest PTA President-elect, commented that she is appreciative of the efforts to address safety concerns with the use of the Hillcrest pool by community members during the school day. She noted that she and many parents are happy with the new location for entrance into the pool area and having a para stationed in the locker room when both students and community members are using it at the same time. Ilene Feuerberg, 9 Green Haven Road, Hillcrest PTA President, also commented that she is happy that steps have been taken to rectify the security concerns on the use of the Hillcrest pool by community members during school hours.

Agenda Item V - New Business

A. Policies – First Reading

1. Staff Network/Internet Policy—Katherine Stevens and Laura Guadagnoli reviewed the policy which has been updated to reflect new language and technologies. Discussion ensued, several changes were suggested and the policy will be brought back to the Board for final approval.
2. Academic Integrity Policy—Anthony Pijar reviewed the policy, whose name has been changed from Academic Honesty to Academic Integrity Policy. It was noted that the Academic Honesty Committee is no longer needed as the Trumbull High Leadership Team will oversee the implementation of this policy. A lengthy discussion ensued and it was noted that several areas need clarification, such as what constitutes plagiarism, the appeal process, and parent role in appeals. Also noted were concerns regarding what is considered cheating. The Board suggested changes which will be brought back to the Policy Advisory Committee for revision and return to the Board for a second reading and approval.

- ##### B. Approval/Final Plans and Specifications Phase 2 Trumbull High School Renovate as New Project—
- Mr. Barbarotta updated the Board on the status of the THS Renovate as New Project and gave a brief overview of the final plans and specs for Phase 2, as Board approval is needed to move the project forward to the State Facilities Unit. Mr. Steve Burgess of JCJ/Wiles and Mr. Brian Holmes of O & G Industries gave a project status report, focusing on Phase 1, and reported that the project is proceeding as scheduled. They summarized the design plans and specifications for Phase 2. They further noted that the Trumbull High Building Committee received a similar presentation on Wednesday, October 7, 2009, and endorsed submission to the State once Board approval is received. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Chory) to approve the final plans and design specifications for Phase 2 of the THS Renovate as New Project. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to authorize the Superintendent and Board Chairman to sign the State ED042 form for Phase 2

of the THS Renovate as New Project which will be presented to the State Facilities Unit. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- C. Approval/Head Start Food Service Agreement—Mr. Iassogna reviewed the annual agreement between the Trumbull/Monroe Head Start program and the Trumbull Board of Education Food Services Department for which Board approval is needed to be in compliance with Child and Adult Care Food Program. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Tyborowski) to approve the Head Start Food Services Agreement. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- D. Superintendent's Evaluation and Contract – The Superintendent's evaluation and contract were discussed in Executive Session. Chairman Wright expressed that the Board is very pleased with the Superintendent's performance and accomplishments and noted the district is running quite well under his leadership. He further noted that Mr. Iassogna indicated earlier in the year that he would not be seeking a raise for the 2009-10 school year. Mr. Wright thanked Mr. Iassogna for being fiscally responsible under trying economic times and noted that we are lucky as a community and Board to have him as our Superintendent. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Tyborowski) to renew the Superintendent's contract for another three years (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2012). This contract will include a zero percent increase over the 2008-09 fiscal year compensation. Discussion ensued including Board Member Chory asking for clarification of fringe benefits including accumulated sick/vacation time, required physical exam, and whether the Superintendent had use of a Town owned vehicle. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At this time, Superintendent Iassogna thanked the Board and stated that he appreciates their confidence and support of his leadership and that of a very talented staff whom he respects and enjoys working with cooperatively to make the district a success.

Agenda Item VI - Old Business

There was no Old Business this evening.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:15 p.m.