

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – March 17, 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, Chairperson
M. Ward, Vice Chairperson
J. Tyborowski, Secretary
L. Chory, Board Member
D. Herbst, Board Member
L. Labella, Board Member

Members absent:

L. King, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 7:03 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- D. Recognition – Hillcrest Pops Orchestra – Last year, the Board of Education and audience had the pleasure of hearing the Hillcrest Pops Orchestra perform several selections. Once again, under the direction of Jennifer Winschel, Hillcrest orchestra teacher, this ensemble delighted all those present with several choices from their repertoire.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments and Questions – There were no comments or questions this evening.

As March is Board Member Recognition Month, members were recognized and presented with plants grown by Trumbull High School Agriscience students. Additionally, Superintendent Iassogna presented Chairman Wright with a certificate from Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) recognizing him as a nominee for the prestigious *Friend of Public Education* award.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to take Agenda Item V-A, Approval/THS Choir – 2010 Austria/Czech Republic Concert Tour, out of order.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. Approval/THS Choir – 2010 Austria/Czech Republic Concert Tour – Per Board policy, all trips in which students miss more than two consecutive days of school and/or travel to a foreign country must be approved by the Board of Education. Trumbull High School Choir Director Anne Tornillo requested approval for the High School Concert Choir Singers to travel to Austria and the Czech Republic to perform in some of the historically significant venues throughout the countryside. Students participating in this trip will leave April 15, 2010 and return on Thursday, April 22, 2010. Following discussion that included fundraising opportunities, it was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Chory) to approve the trip to Austria/Czech Republic 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 and with the stipulation that the Board can rescind approval at anytime depending on the security situation. Vote: unanimous in favor.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to take Agenda Item VI –A, Policies – Second Reading/Approval, out of order.

Agenda Item VI- Old Business

- A. Policies – Second Reading/Approval–Parent Organization and Booster Clubs, Policy Code 1230 – This policy came before the Board at their last meeting for a Second Reading/Approval; however, further recommendations were made. Following Mrs. Cantafio’s review of these incorporated recommendations, it was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to approve the policy as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – A Revised Personnel Agenda was distributed. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to accept the resignation of Colleen Jacques, (.4) mathematics teacher at Hillcrest Middle School (currently on personal leave of absence) since August 1999, resigning effective June 30, 2009; Barry Kerster, reading teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2007, resigning effective June 30, 2009; Christopher McCarthy, mathematics teacher at Hillcrest Middle School (currently on personal leave of absence) since August 2000, resigning effective June 30, 2009; and Lori Smith, teacher of the deaf at Middlebrook School since August 2007, resigning effective June 30, 2009. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting –3/3/09 – By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.
- B. Approval/Financial Reports – Following discussion, it was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Board of Education Expense Report as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Chory) to accept the Grant Expense Report as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to accept the Consolidated Financial Statement as presented. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to accept the board of Education Programs Detail Report as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Mr. Iassogna noted that approved use for monies anticipated to be received from the Connecticut State Department of Education Stimulus Act to support education are still unclear; however, as details become available, the Board will be updated.

- C. Approval/Finance Committee of the Board of Education Transfers – Mrs. Tyborowski noted that there were five January transfers and ten February transfers that needed full Board approval, and gave a brief explanation of each transfer. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Ward) to approve the January transfers as recommended. Vote: unanimous in favor. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Labella) to approve the February transfers as recommended. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV Reports

- A. Oral Reports – 1. Teacher Board Representative – Darlene Ference reported that during the month of March, CMT, CAPT and the end of the first trimester all took place. On March 23, teachers will participate in professional development; Kindergarten registration has been scheduled for the Class of 2022; staff are proud of the academically, musically and athletically talented students and are appreciative of the support of the Board, Superintendent and administration. 2. Student Board Representatives - Jaclyn Testani noted that the undergraduates were grateful that the CAPT testing was over; the THS Marching Band performed in Bridgeport’s St. Patrick’s Day Parade; and the middle school *We the People* team met for a trial run with the high school team as their judges. Christopher Romano noted that both the boys’ and girls’ basketball teams made it to the State Tournament level; students are very excited about the high school renovation; the Sports’ Banquet will be held the high

school tomorrow evening; and the THS Mock Trial practice will be held on Friday evening, March 20, in the Town Hall Courtroom.

It was also noted that the high school musical, *Pirates of Penzance*, begins Thursday evening and runs through Sunday.

Also, it was announced that Student Board Member Jaclyn Testani has been accepted and will be attending Columbia University.

- B. Hiring Practices Committee Final Report – A subcommittee of the Board of Education has been meeting to review our district’s hiring practices. Recommendations formulated by this group include 1) an online application process, 2) a district-wide rubric for evaluation of teacher candidates, 3) clarification of the Superintendent and Board’s role in interviewing candidates for administrative positions, and 4) correction of the 2007-2011 TEA contract regarding credit for years of service. Mr. Iassogna noted that he fully endorsed the recommendations and suggested for Recommendation 3 that the Board interview for the administrative positions of Categories I, II and III of the Board/TAA Agreement (Directors and Principals), as well as those of Central Office positions of Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Business Administrator. Following discussion, it was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to approve the Hiring Practices Committee recommendations as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

A brief discussion ensued regarding possible grade reconfiguration or redistricting. Superintendent Iassogna noted that this subject will be an agenda item at a Board meeting in the near future.

- B. Non-Renewals of Non-Tenured Staff - Each year, prior to April 1, the Board of Education is asked to non-renew contracts of non-tenured staff whose employment may not continue. Such reductions fall within the scope of the statutory teacher employment and tenure provisions, Section 10-151 of the CT General Statutes. Non-renewal recommendations are applicable to non-tenured teachers and Long Term Replacement teachers. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Ward) that pursuant to the CT General Statutes 10-151, the Trumbull Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of the following staff at the end of the 2008-09 school year as recommended by the Superintendent: Long Term Replacements Heather Domurad, Monica Kelly, Jo-Anne Kershaw, Donna McCarthy, Kelly McGovern, Robert Pitzschler, George Romano, Marion Sperry, and Rachel Stratford, and further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests which may be forthcoming from these teachers or their representatives pursuant to CT General Statutes 10-151. 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 8:33 p.m.