

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – March 3, 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  
D. Herbst, Board Member  
L. Labella, Board Member

Members absent:

L. King, Board Member (9:50 p.m.)  
L. Chory, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 7:10 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments and Questions – Dawn Cantafio, 72 Tait Road, thanked Food Service Manager Betty Sinko for supplying snacks again this year for high school students during the CAPT. Regarding a budgetary item, Mrs. Cantafio stated that from recent experience, it would be beneficial for a fee to be charged to allow students to participate in a larger variety of clubs as colleges have stressed the importance of involvement in such activities. She also thanked the Trumbull community for their support of the Trumbull High School Renovate as New project.

Trumbull Early Childhood Education parents Claudia Hikade and Carlos Reinoso addressed the Board with concerns for the physical placement of the Head Start program within Trumbull as well as future plans for the program.

Chairman Wright noted that this year an extraordinary number of Trumbull High School students have been named as National Merit Scholarship Finalists for the 2008-09 school year and include Daniel Connolly, Andrew Freeburg, Timothy McEniry, Alexander Rich (who also has been named as a candidate in the 2009 Presidential Scholars Program), and Jaclyn Testani, our Student Board Representative. Also, Daniels Farm 5<sup>th</sup> grader Allie Zannino placed second in the CT Essay Contest, Fourth Congressional District.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Tyborowski) to accept the resignation of James Capella, guidance counselor at Trumbull High School since September 1976, retiring effective March 31, 2009; Ardeth Miller, social worker at Madison Middle School since December 1985, retiring effective June 30, 2009; Janet Jurow, speech pathologist at Tashua School since September 1985, retiring effective June 30, 2009; and Gerald McCloghry, history/social studies teacher at Trumbull High School since January 1973, retiring effective June 30, 2009. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Public Meeting – 1/20/09 – By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to take Agenda Item V – C, Approval/Planetarium Grant Application, out of order.

Agenda Item V – New Business

A. Approval/Planetarium Grant Application – Although there has been interest over the years to reopen the planetarium at Hillcrest Middle School, budgetary restrictions prevented such. Through the labors of Tom Christiano, former State Representative, and Town Councilwoman Mary Beth Thornton, who were recognized and commended by the Board for their efforts, funding in the form of a \$25,000 grant from the Office of Policy and Management have been procured to enable the district to reopen the planetarium and strengthen the grade 5 and grade 8 science curriculum. Following discussion that included funding for the future, it was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to approve the grant application that includes the following:

RESOLVED: That the Trumbull Board of Education hereby adopts as its policy to support the nondiscrimination agreements and warranties required under CT General Statutes 4a-60(a)(1) and 4a-60a(a)1, as amended in the State of CT Public Act 07-245 and sections 9(a)(1) and 10(a)(1) of Public Act 07-142.

RESOLVED: That the Trumbull Board of Education approves the submittal of a grant application to the Office of Policy and Management in the amount of \$25,000 for the reopening of the Hillcrest Middle School Planetarium and that Dr. Gary Cialfi, Assistant Superintendent is authorized to sign grant application and grant award.

Vote: unanimous in favor.

A discussion ensued regarding the education stimulus package and whether or not it would supplement or supplant district budgets.

Agenda Item IV Reports

- A. THS Renovate As New Report – A segment of this item was tabled from the previous Board meeting. Mr. Barbarotta updated the Board on the Renovate as New project and noted that the intent was for the school to be under construction this summer. Mr. Barbarotta distributed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) checklist for the project, which rates the energy efficiency of the design, construction and sustainability of construction. He also noted that reimbursement monies from the State were based upon inclusion of the community pool; however, if the pool did not come to fruition, the monies would not be able to be used for other portions of the project. Discussion ensued regarding costs involved with dismantling the Hillcrest pool as well as costs for refurbishing the space. Following discussion, it was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Labella) to approve final plans and specifications for Phase I Trumbull High School Renovate as New (which includes the auditorium, pool and boiler work) and authorize the Superintendent and Chairman of the Board of Education to sign the State ED-042 grant application for presentation to the State. Mrs. Herbst noted that due to current conditions she had hoped that the renovation would have been scaled back, but respected the Board’s decision and would support it. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- B. Special Education Out-of-District Placement Update – Dr. Vespe, Director of Pupil Personnel, updated the Board on out-of-district placements for Trumbull’s special education students. It was noted that during the current school year, an additional 5 unanticipated families moved into Trumbull with children already attending an out-of-district facility, thus creating an approximate unanticipated deficit of \$414,398 in our budget. Although it was recommended to direct administration to pursue current budget expenditures and then seek appropriation from the Town to cover any unanticipated

special education out-of-district placement costs, the Board felt it was unnecessary to consider seeking Town appropriations at this time.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to take Agenda Item V – B, Approval/New PAC Member, and Agenda Item V-A, Approval/Textbooks, out of order.

#### Agenda Item V – New Business

- B. Approval/New PAC Member – Upon recommendation of the Policy Advisory Committee, it was moved (Herbst) seconded (Tyborowski) to approve Laura Guadagnoli, who has followed the procedure for membership, to serve as a member of that committee. Vote: unanimous in favor. Mrs. Guadagnoli noted that she is a teacher at Trumbull High School, and that her daughter, who attends Trumbull High School, is the Student Representative to PAC.
  
- A. Approval/Textbooks – Before new textbooks are approved for inclusion in the Trumbull Public Schools’ program of studies, the Curriculum Subcommittee of the Board of Education, consisting of Board members Deborah Herbst and Michael Ward, under the coordination of Gary Kunschaft, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, reviews its content and appropriateness and then make their recommendation to the full Board. Following discussion, it was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve *Boom: Talking About the Sixties* for use in the Honors Global Insights course; and *Principles of Archaeology* for use in the Archaeology and Historical Topics course as recommended. Vote: unanimous in favor.
  
- C. Specialized Resource Program Report – In response to recent concerns expressed at a Board meeting, Dr. Vespe and Dr. Wheeler, Coordinator of Preschool, presented the Board with an overview of Trumbull’s current Specialized Resource Program, which follows the State’s edict to provide a free and appropriate public education. A discussion ensued.
  
- D. Tri-State Math Visit – Dr. Cialfi and Mr. Kunschaft presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding: the Tri-State visit process, where the district stands in preparation for the visit, and the best practices that focus on the district’s three driving questions: What do we want our students to learn?; How do we know they have learned it?; and What do we do if they did not learn it?. A discussion ensued.
  
- E. Hiring Practices Committee Final Report – As Mrs. Chory was absent this evening, this item was tabled until the next Board meeting.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Ward) to table Agenda Item VI-A-2, Second Reading/Approval, *Drug Free Workplace, Policy Code 4118.231/GB*. Vote: unanimous in favor.

#### Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. Policies – Second Reading/Approval – 1. Parent Organization and Booster Clubs, Policy Code 1230 – A lengthy discussion ensued regarding this policy that included appreciation for the new color coding procedure; clarification of Regulation 12, page 2 with the suggested deletion of the word “opportunity” and suggested additional language as to who determines financial need; deleting the wording “in excess of \$300” in Roman Numeral II, page 2, of the regulations; assistance for fees beyond those of membership and a means of funding such support; clarification and necessity of a staff member on the Parent Organization or Athletic Booster Club; and exclusion of the words “the Board” in Regulation 5, page 1. Following another review by the PAC, this item will return to the Board of Education for approval.

#### Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:54 p.m.

