

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – May 5, 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. King, Board Member
L. Labella, Board Member

Members absent:

L. Chory, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 7:08 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments and Questions – There were no comments or questions this evening.
- D. Recognition—Hillcrest Middle School participated in *We the People-the Citizen and the Constitution* competition, sponsored by the Connecticut Consortium for Law and Citizen Education (an instructional program that enhances students’ understanding of the institutions of American constitutional democracy), on April 1, 2009 and placed first. Team members being honored include: Patrick Adams, Kimberly Arison, David Bruton, Brandon Capece, Michael Cydylo, Grace Forster, Molly Glynn, Carly Goroff, Gabrielle Gotschall, Augustine Haam, Danielle Haight, Paul Leninger, Quinn Lincoln, Christopher LoBosco, Alanna Lynch, Nailen Matschke, Ariana Matz, Erin Moore, Sydney Morrison, Gerard Spiegel, Ben Veres, Alexis Watcke, Nicole Wittstein. Their advisors, Charles Callahan and Brian Hendrickson, were also honored.

At this time, Mr. Wright also recognized the following people: Jessica Remson, 8th grader at Hillcrest and Leanna Waller, 12th grader at Trumbull High, for their award winning designs in the annual RYASAP Anti-Tobacco poster contest; Vicki Tesoro, Trumbull High PTSA President, for being honored with the RYASAP Above and Beyond Award; Hillcrest’s Odyssey of the Mind team (Brooke Hayden, Ellen Carpenter, Aleksey Klimchenko, Max Graham and Jeremy Eckl) who have advanced to the World Finals; FFA Regional Speech Competition award winners Rachael Munoz, Alyssa Zabin, Heather Dahlin, Elizabeth Tomasco, Jana Iparraguirre who are moving on to the State FFA competition; and Jane Marella, who was named FCIAAC Cheerleading Coach of the Year. He also noted that the Trumbull High Marching Band was featured on the front cover of the Spring CABE Journal with a picture showing their participation in the Presidential Inaugural Parade. Lastly, he thanked the Rotary Club for their annual Read Aloud Day for the elementary school students and Terry Buckingham and Judy Klein for their efforts in facilitating this program.

Agenda Item II - Personnel

- A. Personnel – There were no changes since the last meeting on April 21, 2009.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 4/21/09 – By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Tyborowski) to take Agenda Items V-A and V-B out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V- New Business (out of order)

- A. Approval/THS Trip to France – Mrs. Perusi outlined a proposed trip to France for April 15 -23, 2010. This trip will focus on French culture, history, and civilization, with students gaining insights into cultural differences, language barriers, and communication. A brief discussion ensued. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (King) to approve the trip to France 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 reasons. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- B. Three Year Technology Plan—Mr. Kunschafft first gave a brief overview of the Tri-State Math visit taking place Wednesday, Thursday and Friday and invited Board members to attend. He then presented a synopsis of Trumbull’s Technology Plan to be submitted to the State. It was noted that a key piece to this technology plan is the expansion of the Smart Board in all classrooms. It was emphasized that technology must become embedded in the curriculum. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (seconded) to approve the Trumbull Public Schools Three Year Technology Plan as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports

- A. Redistricting/Room Utilization Report—Mr. Iassogna reviewed the topic of declining elementary enrollment and its impact on school room utilization and the possibility of redistricting. Topics reviewed included class size, declining elementary enrollment, overcrowding/under utilization, grade reconfiguration and full/extended day kindergarten. He further noted that these scenarios are predicated on the projected numbers remaining the same. Mr. Iassogna noted that decisions should be made based on what is best academically and advised that nothing should be done until 2012-13 school year. His recommendations include: avoiding “segmented” redistricting; monitoring enrollment; employing an outside firm if considering redistricting; relocating programs and/or using art/music rooms; phasing out portables; continuing with current grade configuration; and a full/extended day kindergarten. A lengthy discussion ensued. Based on discussion, the Board directed the Superintendent to study/investigate these recommendations by surveying area communities and involving district staff, community/parents and elected officials, with the primary focus on full/extended day kindergarten.

Agenda Item V- New Business

- C. RCA Report—Mr. Iassogna reviewed the Regional Center for the Arts and the new tuition schedule. Previously, CES assessed each district tuition for a maximum of 25 students and allowed any students above that number to attend tuition free. CES is now charging for all students who attend and this is impacting the number of students Trumbull will send. At present 46 students wish to enroll. He noted that several options were discussed including a lottery system for the 25 openings; preference to returning students; preference to incoming seniors, juniors, then sophomores, etc; instituting an assessment fee for each student enrolled if more than 25 wish to attend; and an academic requirement for student attendees. Before a final/long term recommendation is made, Mr. Iassogna suggested a one-year alternative for the 2009-10 school year. This proposal allows all students enrolled this past year who wish to continue (31 students) to attend the program with the tuition paid from Board appropriated monies (25 @ \$2,350=\$58,759) and a one-time supplement from our student activity account (6 @ \$2,350=\$14,100). Discussion ensued. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Tyborowski) to

send all students wishing to continue with RCA to the program for the 2009-10 school year and use the student activity account to supplement the tuition for the 6 students above the Board appropriated 25 students. Vote: 5 in favor (Herbst, King, Tyborowski, Ward, Wright) 1 opposed (Labella). Motion passes.

Agenda Item VI—Old Business

A. 2009-10 Budget Discussion—Mr. Iassogna noted that the budget process has been completed and the Board will receive a total budget of \$84,042,628, reflecting a 3.57% increase from last year, as well as a \$100,000 reduction from the Board’s original request. A brief discussion ensued. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to reduce Account Number 01902520-52002, Medical Benefits, by \$100,000 to accommodate the Town’s reduction to the Board’s original request. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At this time, Ms. King shared with the Board her reasons for her absences at recent meetings and also reaffirmed her commitment to serve on the Board and support both the Board Chair and the Superintendent. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Tyborowski) to move into Executive Session at 9:27 p.m. to discuss the secretarial contract and to invite the Superintendent and Business Manager. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (King) seconded (Ward) to move to Public Session at 9:58 p.m. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:59 p.m
