

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – August 18, 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 Chairman
J. Tyborowski, Secretary
D. Herbst, Board Member
L. Chory, 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 6:35 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments – Several parents including Kerry Rudich, Kim Johnson, Melanie Rogan, and Helane Marcovici expressed their concerns regarding staffing for Middlebrook Grade 2, Kindergarten, and Tashua Grade 2. Tashua parent Lydia Dunn also commended the Board for having a surplus in the funds the past school year and requested if monies are available in the future to use them to add a teacher. Tashua Cub Master Gerard Agoglia noted that as last year, schools would be open after hours for activities. In response to a parent concern, Superintendent Iassogna reported that he has been in close contact with Patrice Sulik, Trumbull/Monroe Director of Health, regarding the H1N1 virus.
- D. Recognition – The Citizens Review and Advisory Committee (CRAC) has been working with the Trumbull Board of Education to review, streamline and/or enhance their policies and procedures. This evening, Susan Kniep, President of the Federation of CT Taxpayers Organization (FCTO) and Dr. Armand Fusco, author and former educator who initiated the concept of a citizens' audit, recognized and commended Trumbull's school administration with 22 accommodations, and reported that Trumbull is the first school district to be inducted into the School District Hall of Fame for their enthusiasm and cooperation with CRAC. Chairman Wright, Superintendent Iassogna, and Board member Joann Tyborowski, liaison to CRAC, also received individual recognition for their critical support and cooperation. A special commendation from Governor Jodi Rell was also received and presented to the Board of Education. The Governor applauded the school district's cooperative efforts with CRAC to bring taxpayers and public officials together to enhance the policies and procedures of a school district for the purpose of maximizing all school resources. She praised the many hours all participants dedicated to this project and the unwavering commitment of the Board, its administration, and CRAC. A FCTO award was also presented to CRAC. Tim Ryan, Chairman of the CRAC Committee, accepted the award on behalf of the volunteers, who worked cooperative and constructively with school officials to make the system the best it can be.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to take Agenda Item IV – A, Enrollment Update/Staffing, out of order.

Agenda Item IV – Reports (out of order)

- A. Enrollment Update/Staffing - Mr. Iassogna reviewed the enrollment numbers as of August 12, 2009. During previous discussion at Board meetings, it was noted that Booth Hill Grade 1, Jane Ryan Grade 1, Middlebrook Kindergarten and Middlebrook Grade 2 were being closely monitored. An updated enrollment chart was presented, and it was recommended that a decision regarding Booth Hill Grade 1 (possible 1.0/2.0 paraprofessionals), Jane Ryan Grade 1 (possible 1.0 paraprofessional), and Middlebrook Kindergarten (possible 1.0 paraprofessional) be postponed until students are physically counted on September 1. It was also recommended that as each of Middlebrook's Grade 2 classes were over Board guidelines, a 1.0 teacher be added. A discussion ensued. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to approve the additional 1.0 Grade 2 teacher at Middlebrook School and to wait until September 1 before making decisions on the other classes. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to take Agenda Item V-A, Approval/FFA Trip to Indiana, out of order. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V - New Business

- A. Approval/FFA Trip to Indiana - In accordance with Board Policy, field trips where students miss more than two consecutive days of school must be approved by the Board of Education. Chris Allen, Agriscience Teacher, requested the Board approve a trip to the National FFA Convention in Indiana for several Trumbull Agriscience Program students. During this trip, which runs from Tuesday, October 20 to Saturday, October 24, students will participate in the National Prepared Public Speaking finals and several workshop and convention sessions. Following discussion, it was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to approve the trip to Indiana 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 it at any time depending on the security situation. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – A Revised Personnel Agenda was distributed. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Tyborowski) to accept the resignation of Sharyl Cordone, (.5) social worker at TECEC since August 2008, resigned effective June 30, 2009; and Douglas DeGennaro, science teacher at Madison Middle/Trumbull High Schools since August 2007, resigning effective August 26, 2009. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting –8/4/09. By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented (Wright abstained – arrived late at 8/4/09 meeting).
- B. Approval/Financial Reports – Mr. Ward noted that special recognition should be given to Mr. Sirico for his work above and beyond in conjunction with the CRAC committee; and also to Dr. Vespe for the decrease in monies spent on consulting. Mr. Sirico reviewed the Expense Report for the 12 months ended 6/30/09; there were no major changes since his last report. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Chory) to accept the Expense Report as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. Mr. Wright noted that the monies not spent by the Board from the 2008-09 budget were being recommended to be deposited into the Town's pension fund to reduce the deficit. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Chory) to accept the Grant Summary Report as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. Following discussion, it was moved (Labella) seconded (Tyborowski) to accept the remaining Board of Education Financial Reports as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

- C. Approval/Finance Committee of the Board of Education Transfers – Mrs. Labella reviewed the two transfers that were approved by the Committee. Following discussion, it was moved (Labella) seconded (Ward) to approve the transfers as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Mrs. Chory requested that prior to the new budget season, a review of the strings program take place to determine where the program is headed budgetarily, and Board members unanimously agreed.

In response to a question regarding Transfer # 832 to cover a 3.5% increase for the AFBCO contract, Superintendent responded that Mr. Barbarotta notified him that he is declining his raise for the 2009-10 year. Mr. Sirico noted that a reverse transfer had already been done.

Agenda Item VI - Old Business

- A. Policies – Second Reading/Approval – 1. Fire Exit Drill, Policy Code 6114.1/EBCB – This policy was presented to the Board on July 14, 2009, and no changes were recommended. A discussion ensued regarding re-routing of students due to the construction at Jane Ryan and Trumbull High School, and Dr. Vespe noted that had already been taken into consideration at the respective schools. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Chory) to approve the policy as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.
2. Interscholastic Sports Physicals, Policy Code 5141/JHCB – This policy was also presented to the Board at the July 14, 2009 meeting and no changes were suggested. It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Chory) to approve this policy as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- B. ECS Stabilization Monies - Through the government's American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) and the State Fiscal Stabilization Fund (SFSF), Boards of Education will be receiving additional monies. A discussion ensued as to when these funds will be received and how the monies will be reported to our Board of Education. It was reviewed that the State of CT chose to channel the Stabilization funds through the ECS monies, which normally go directly to the Town. It was previously thought that Trumbull would receive \$432,000 over a two year period; however, new information from the State of CT reveals that Trumbull will receive \$432,000 in **each** of the next 2 years. These monies, however, will be taken from the Town's ECS grant and in Trumbull, as in other communities, this grant is counted on as revenue in their budget. As the Board already has agreed to move forward on the REACH facility code update in the amount of \$217,000, it was recommended that, in the context that the Town will be receiving \$615,000 in unspent 2008-09 Board of Education monies, that the Board not spend the remaining balance of the Stabilization monies for the 2009-10 year and revert them back to the Town. Following discussion, it was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to approve the recommendation as noted. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Mr. Wright noted that there had been a minor fire at Trumbull High School due to the renovation; however, due to the cooperation between the Fire Department, Police Department, EMS, Women's Auxiliary, and special assistance from the Shelton Fire Department, all turned out well. The renovation of the high school has brought concerns regarding parking; some minor inconveniences will take place as with any construction project; however, plans are in place and are available for viewing on the district website (www.trumbullps.org). Mr. Iassogna noted that Fire Marshal Megan Murphy has been an invaluable resource during the construction project and, as always, the safety and security of staff and students is paramount.

Agenda Item VII – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:30 p.m.