

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – October 5, 2010
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:

T. Lovely, Chairperson
D. Herbst, Vice Chairperson
L. Chory, Board Member
T. Kelly, Secretary
L. Labella, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member
S. Wright, 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 – There were no public comments this evening.

At this time, Chairman Lovely commended the Golden Eagles Marching Band for their outstanding performance at the Annual Band Classic and also commended Band Director Peter Horton, his staff and parents for their efforts in creating an excellent program. Mr. Lovely also commended the PTA Council, especially Lainie McHugh, Cory DeWeese and Lisa Labella, as a parent, for the outstanding job they did on the “ABC’s of the Trumbull Education Budget” which was presented at the PTA Council meeting on October 4th, and noted that he forwarded the booklet to State Representatives T.R. Rowe and Tony Hwang, and Congressman Jim Himes. He also commended Trumbull High School senior Amisha Sisodiya, one of 9 students in the country who was honored in Washington D.C. for her essay in the Martin Luther King “Kids for King” program. Superintendent Iassogna introduced and welcomed Rita McDougald-Campbell, new A-House Principal at Trumbull High School. He also noted that Craig Breslow, Trumbull High and Yale University graduate, and a major league pitcher for the Oakland A’s, was named the smartest and wisest current athlete in all sports by Sporting News Magazine, and is being considered for the Roberto Clemente Humanitarian Award for founding the Strike 3 Foundation which raises monies for childhood cancer, and congratulated him for his success.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – Mr. Iassogna noted that there was one resignation. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to accept the resignation of Amy Williams, TAG Teacher/Team Leader since October 2005, resigning effective October 14, 2010. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting –9/21/10 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda Item IV – Reports

- A. Oral Reports -- Mrs. Ference, Teacher Board Representative, noted that the student photos have been scheduled; Back to School Nights went well for both staff and parents; staff attended an anti-bullying workshop that was well received with good information provided; elementary open houses where parents can visit classes during the school day and observe classroom activities will take place during October; and the staff looks for the continued support of the Board. Michael Smith, Student Board Representative, reported that Spirit Week (Sept. 27 – Oct. 1) was the earliest ever and promoted a lot of school spirit which can be built upon during the year; club sign up day was done so that students could go to the media center during their lunch periods to review clubs in addition to being available after school; Mrs. Spillane’s AP English class did an extra credit project on “Banned Books Week”; and the varsity football team is off to a great start, 3-0. Patrick Curtin, Student Board Representative also noted that this was the first Spirit Week ever where there were no disciplinary problems.
- B. THS Post High School Plans – Mrs. O’Connell reviewed the summary comparing data for the Classes of 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010, noting that 93% of the Class of 2010 is attending higher education. She noted that applications to the most competitive schools were down slightly from 2009 as more students were applying to state schools, most likely due to the economic environment. Mrs. O’Connell further noted that the application process has become easier as most applications are done online and that students who take ECE courses are more readily accepted at UCONN.
- C. SAT Report – Dr. Tremaglio noted that 88% of the Class of 2010 took the SAT’s as compared to 84% of students in Connecticut and 47% of students in the nation. Scores rose over 2009 results, most notably math increased 14 points and critical writing 10 points. Both he and Mrs. O’Connell noted that colleges are looking at the “whole picture” with student acceptances, that in addition to grades, schools are looking at student involvement in their school, i.e. sports, clubs, community service, and work experience. Both Mr. Lovely and Vice Chair Deborah Herbst commended the teaching staff at the high school for their contributions to improved test scores and Mr. Lovely also noted that a 10 point increase in writing scores is impressive. Mrs. Labella noted that the two reports on college acceptances are helpful to parents and students involved in the college application process. Dr. Tremaglio also noted that the ECE courses and courses available through Housatonic Community College have given the students an advantage in the pursuit of higher education.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. Approval/UCONN Model UN Conference—Ms. Boland noted that 16 students will participate in the Model United Nations Conference to take place at the University of Connecticut November 4 through 6, 2010. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve the UCONN Model UN Conference as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellation for any reason. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Policies—First Reading, 4139/Staff Health and Safety and 5139/Student Health and Safety—Ms. Damato noted that the original policy, Staff and Student Health and Safety, is being rescinded and is now being separated into two distinct policies. She noted it is the same policy with some minor wording changes and an added appendix of safety procedures during lightening storms. Discussion ensued including expanding the wording on searching lockers to include bookbags, purses, backpacks and requesting a legal opinion on such.

C. Superintendent's Evaluation Process and Timeline—Mr. Lovely noted that several Board members had requested having a goal oriented evaluation for the Superintendent. He reviewed the outline which was based on a mode from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE). Mr. Lovely noted that he wanted to invite a CABE staff member to meet with the Board regarding Board self-assessment and the Superintendent's evaluation process and suggested this could be done in an executive session before a Board meeting. Mr. Iassogna shared that the Board of Education Programs Committee Report and the Seward and Monde audit of those programs is 85% completed and will be shared with the Board at the next meeting or no later than its November 8th meeting. He also noted that the report will contain protocols for all programs and could evolve into Board policy.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

Agenda Item VII – Other

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:08 p.m.