

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – November 8, 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:

Edward Lovely, Chairperson
Deborah Herbst, Vice Chairperson
Thomas Kelly, Secretary
Loretta Chory, Board Member
Lisa Labella, Board Member
Michael Ward, Board Member
Stephen Wright, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 7:00 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments – Michele Genuario, 16 Green Street, commented that a Trumbull school bus was bringing students to a Stratford elementary school and she was concerned that tax dollars were used to transport these students and asked the Board to investigate the situation. Mr. Iassogna clarified that the bus vendor absorbs the cost for the personal use of buses by their drivers and has been past practice.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Iassogna noted there was one resignation and one appointment of a .5 Intervention Specialist for Madison Middle School. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to accept the resignation of Joseph Gaudiana, Automotive teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2010, resigning effective October 20, 2010. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At this time, Chairman Lovely thanked the Take Down Club for their donation of \$12,000 for the purchase of a wrestling mat. He also noted the following student accomplishments: Mock Trial team placed 1st along with Bethel in the Yale Mock Trial Invitational Competition and will move on to the State competition; Jeffrey Liu and Alexander Mark were named National Merit Scholarship semifinalists and the following students were Commended: Heather Dahlin, Daniel Foster, Maxwell Gottschall, Peter Hage, Julianne Norton, Brian Passeri, Andrew Rentz, Amisha Sisodiya, Leo Veres, and Megan Zhou; and 22 students were accepted into the Greater Bridgeport Youth Symphony Orchestra. Mr. Lovely also congratulated Mrs. Norcel for the well received Democracy Day and noted that Brian Boecherer, Associate Director of UCONN's Early College Experience program had sent a letter stating that Trumbull High School's ECE program was one of the strongest in the State.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting –10/19/10 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

- B. Approval/Financial Reports as of 9/30/10 – Mr. Sirico reviewed financial reports for September 2010 and noted that the current budget is 96.6% spent. Discussion followed including substitute and consultant budgets, and exceeding the amount budgeted in the teacher account. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Board of Education Expense Report for the 3 months ended 9/30/10 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Labella) to accept the Grant Expense Report for the 3 months ended 9/30/10 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Consolidated Financial Statement as of and for the 3 months ended 9/30/10 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Chory) to accept the Board of Education Programs Detail Report as of 9/30/10 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Expendable Trust Detail Report as of 9/30/10 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. Approval/Finance Committee of the Board of Education Transfers— Mrs. Chory noted that the committee met on October 6, 2010 and reviewed financials. There was 1 transfer for September that required full Board approval. Following discussion, it was moved (Chory) seconded (Labella) to approve September transfer 1215x as recommended. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Old Business

A. Policies—Second Reading/Approval

1. Staff Health and Safety—This policy was presented to the Board for a first reading on October 5, 2010. Ms. Damato noted the wording changes made to the policy. A brief discussion ensued. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to approve this policy as presented with the addition of the word “their” before “possessions and lockers” in second paragraph, and removal of the words “may also” in the same paragraph. It was moved (Chory) to amend the motion to change “possible” in second paragraph to “reasonable.” The motion received no second. Vote on original motion: 6 (Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Lovely, Ward, Wright) in favor 1 (Chory) opposed. Motion passes.
2. Student Health and Safety— This policy was presented to the Board for a first reading on October 5, 2010. Ms. Damato noted the wording changes made to the policy. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to approve this policy as presented with the addition of the word “their” before “possessions and lockers” in second paragraph, and removal of the words “may also” in the same paragraph. Vote: unanimous in favor. Mrs. Chory noted that she would have liked the word “possible” in the second paragraph to be replaced with “reasonable.”
3. Student Possession and Use of Electronic Devices—This item was not presented as the PAC Student sponsors of this policy were not available this evening. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Labella) to table this agenda item. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V—Reports

- A. Underage Drinking Prevention Grant Update—Ms. Campbell noted that Trumbull is the only school district in Connecticut to receive this continued grant funding. She noted that the district first received the grant in 2006 and just obtained a renewal for 4 years. The district partnered with the community to form TPAUD (Trumbull Partnership Against Underage Drinking), to understand why students drink and to formulate ways in which to combat this growing problem. Ms. McGarry gave a power point presentation on the status of the grant and included were the 2007 and 2010 student and parent survey results; accomplishments; and plans for the future. It was noted that results from the 2010 survey showed a decrease in student drinking across all grade levels from the 2007 survey. The survey also inferred that parents are not communicating the dangers of underage

drinking to their children and that students think their parents accept underage drinking. TPAUD will focus on educating parents and the community through outreach activities, such as workshops for seller of alcohol, dissemination of information to parents through emails and website links. Also noted was that education on the dangers of underage drinking begins in grade 6 with a booklet given to students to review with their parents. Chairman Lovely thanked Ms. Campbell and Ms. McGarry and noted the work of TPAUD to be a great benefit to the community.

- B. Academic Challenge for Excellence (ACE) Foundation—Dr. Cialfi noted that the Foundation began in 2003 as a Trumbull High School initiative to financially support competitive academic teams, and since 2007 has been supporting academic competitive teams on the middle and elementary level as well. He noted that the core values of the academic competitive teams are in direct alignment with the expectations of 21st century learning and reinforce the importance of developing skills and applying these skills to solve problems through critical and creative thinking, collaborative learning, and effective communication. Mrs. Donahue reviewed a power point and noted that the Foundation has funded over \$90,000 for 52 teams with many teams reaching finals in competitions. It was noted that these teams give students a chance to engage academic activities at levels not available in regular classes, and also provides students additional opportunities to participate in school life.
- C. Seward and Monde Report—In response to a Board directive, Seward and Monde, CPA and Consultants, were hired to do an independent audit of Board of Education program accounts and address guidelines and protocols to be utilized. Mr. Patrick Trotta of Seward and Monde reviewed the report which focused on Trumbull High School Athletics and Elementary Strings/Band programs. He noted that it was not a full audit but concentrated on pay to participate fees and related expenditures for those programs. The report reviewed current procedures for both programs and recommendations including risk assessment, developing a written policy and procedure manual for the accounting and administration of student activity funds, a policy on handling waiver of fees, accounts receivable system, purchasing procedures, separation of duties among personnel, and program budgets. He noted that the staff interviewed for this audit were most cooperative and readily provided his team with requested information. Discussion ensued including waiver approval, recordkeeping and the need for district-wide procedures for handling all Board of Education program accounts.
- D. Board of Education Programs Review—Superintendent Iassogna noted that an ad hoc committee was created to review Board of Education Program accounts, particularly THS Athletics, THS Musical, Continuing Education and Elementary Band/Strings, simultaneously in conjunction with the Seward and Monde audit. He noted that the focus was on these four activities because of fees charged and that they consistently run in a deficit, requiring Board support from the operating budget. This committee met on three occasions, extensively examining and dialoging on these specific activities, focusing on strengthening the viability and stability of those programs, and assessing the feasibility of becoming revenue neutral. He noted that change is needed for these programs including increasing Board operating budget support, increasing pay to participate fees, and curtailing program offerings. Mr. Iassogna further reviewed his addendum to the report concerning the issue of the approximate \$60,000 deposit for athletic pay to participate fees, insurance and fundraisers. He noted that this deposit was delivered to the Business Office from an unknown source and significant discussion took place with the parties involved, and concluded that it was impossible to determine what actually transpired. A lengthy discussion ensued. Athletic Director Michael Herbst noted that pay to participate fees were instituted approximately 20 years ago and to date there are no guidelines or procedures for administering the program. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Wright) to send the Seward and Monde Report and the Board of Education Programs Review to the Board's Finance Committee to review and bring back to the Board a recommendation/plan for Board

discussion/approval on policies and procedures to be implemented with those programs by the Board's second meeting in January 2011. Vote: Unanimous in favor

Agenda Item VI—New Business

- A. Approval/2011-12 Calendar—Dr. Paslov reviewed the calendar for 2011-12, noting that the first student day would be Thursday, September 1, 2011 with the last day for students scheduled for Monday, June 18. Also 4 snow/weather makeup days would be added to the end of the year and additional makeup days if needed would be taken from the April vacation beginning with Friday, April 20th. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to accept the school calendar for 2011-12 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- B. Approval/Curriculum Guide—Dr. Paslov reviewed a curriculum guide for grades 3 and 4 on Internet safety and noted that the program is based upon many Internet safety programs including i-Safe and Cyber Smart. Mrs. Montagnino noted that the program was piloted at Daniels Farm School in 2009-10 and is being implemented at all six elementary schools this year. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Ward) to accept the curriculum guide for “Trumbull Heightens Internet Safety” as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- C. 2011-12 Initial Budget Discussion—Mr. Iassogna asked the Board for input into the 2011-12 budget as to what areas they would like addressed. He noted that he and Assistant Superintendent Dr. Cialfi are meeting with principals and division heads to review their budget proposals. Discussion including impact of current budget on schools, funding cliff, raising pay to participate fees, including Elementary/Strings in operating budget, implementing fees for high school clubs, NCLB mandates, full/extended day kindergarten, auditorium manager, and cutting staff.

Agenda Item VII – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:16 p.m.