

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – February 9, 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:

E. Lovely, Chairman
D. Herbst, Vice Chairwoman
T. Kelly, Secretary
L. Chory, Board Member
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 7:03 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Tom Kelly, Board Secretary, noted that the Board had received a request from the PTA Presidents and PTA Council Presidents to close Hillcrest pool during school hours for reasons of safety and security. An email with a similar request was also received from Trumbull residents Diana and Dave Chevrette.

Chairman Lovely noted commendations were in order for Trumbull High School teacher Trudy Black and her class as they supplied the Salvation Army with over 2,475 Christmas gifts; and fourth grade students at Booth Hill School, upon hearing of the Haiti disaster, raised \$1,197.35 in one day to aid people in that country.

Mr. Iassogna conveyed that unfortunately, former Trumbull teacher Kathryn Pitzschler passed away. Condolences to her family and husband Bob, also a former Trumbull teacher and Teacher Board Representative.

- C. Comments and Questions – Hillcrest Middle School PTA Co-President Liz Polzello reiterated comments earlier referenced regarding safety and security issues related to the Hillcrest pool. She also noted that it was the hope of the PTA Presidents and PTA Council Presidents that both the Town of Trumbull and the Trumbull Public School System could work together toward a resolution and long term plan for this issue. First Selectman Herbst spoke and noted that a meeting took place at the Hillcrest pool to discuss short term measures. He also noted that long term plans for a community pool, perhaps in conjunction with the Trumbull YMCA, have been discussed. Mr. Herbst addressed the Board regarding the Town's fiscal status including revenue shortfalls and stagnant grand list growth. He reported that he has asked all Town departments to put a freeze on discretionary spending and hoped that the Board and Superintendent would do the same. Mr. Herbst also indicated that if the Board returned monies to the Town as it had in the past few years, some of those monies could be used to mitigate budget cuts, and if possible, the Superintendent and Board could develop a preliminary schedule of current surpluses. Superintendent Iassogna noted that the Board receives monthly financial reports from Mr. Sirico, and that more firm numbers of unspent monies are usually available in March.

With regard to the discretionary freeze, Mr. Iassogna noted that currently the district is in a controlled spending mode (spending according to what was budgeted); the next step would be a discretionary spending mode (no purchases unless cleared through the Superintendent), which could easily be implemented if Board direction is given. Additionally, if projections indicate the school budget is nearing a deficit, a total freeze could be enacted. Board members engaged in discussion that included how a spending freeze could impact day-to-day school activities and the result of prior years' energy and insurance savings.

Mr. Herbst requested that the Board go into a non-meeting to discuss negotiations. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to move into a non-meeting for the purpose noted above and to invite the First Selectman and Superintendent. Vote: 3 in favor (Chory, Herbst, Kelly), 4 against (Labella, Wright, Lovely, Ward). Motion fails. Mr. Herbst noted that he would be leaving for another meeting, but if time permitted, he would return to perhaps meet with the Board after Public Session.

Agenda Item II - Personnel

A. Personnel – As no Board action was required, this item was received and filed.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Approval/Minutes – By unanimous consent of members present and voting at that meeting, the minutes of the January 19, 2010 meeting were accepted as presented.

It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to take Agenda Item V-B, Policies, out of order. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V – New Business

B. First Reading – Policy Advisory Committee, 9132.1 – PAC member and policy sponsor Linda Bartolucci noted that this policy was revised to reflect numerous changes, particularly with regard to membership expansion and streamlined membership application. A discussion ensued that included member term limits, recruitment campaigning, and consideration of a quorum to be one-third of membership rather than a simple majority. This policy will return to the Board for a Second Reading/Approval.

It was moved (Wright) seconded (Chory) to take Agenda Item IV out of order. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports

B. 2009 K-12 Mathematics Tri-State Report – Mr. Kunschaft presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Tri-State Consortium's visit to Trumbull. This report included essential questions and recommendations to assist our district in using student performance data to develop a rigorous framework for systematic planning, assessment, accreditation and continuous improvement. A discussion ensued.

C. BookEnds Report – BookEnds Buying Service is a company that matches our orders for new and replacement textbooks and workbooks with vendors who have like new copies. For the past year, the Curriculum Department has utilized BookEnds services and as a result has saved approximately \$6,380. Mr. Kunschaft noted that the district intends to expand the use of this vendor to increase savings without compromising quality of classroom materials.

A. Demographic Report – Wayne Verderber, President of Applied Data Services, presented the Board with a demographic report summarizing enrollment data and assessment of potential

related action, particularly in exploring the possibility of establishing an all-day Kindergarten program in 2012-13. A discussion ensued that included use of modulars, TLC rooms, full-day Kindergarten as an option rather than a mandate, fluctuating patterns of enrollment, and class size.

- D. CABE Update – Board Chairman Ted Lovely and members Loretta Chory and Steve Wright, who is also an Area 6 Director for the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), reported on a recently held regional meeting. Discussion at that meeting included budget sharing ideas such as participation in oil/gas consortiums, charging of students for parking at high schools and the rising cost of health care.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. Approval/THS Varsity Cheerleading National Competition, South Carolina – In accordance with Board policy, field trips resulting in students missing two or more consecutive days of school must be approved by the Board. For the first time, the Trumbull High School Varsity Cheerleading Team has earned the opportunity to compete at the National Competition in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The students and chaperones will leave after school dismissal on Thursday, March 18 and return on Monday, March 22, 2010. Intense fundraising is anticipated to raise monies to support this trip. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to approve the trip to South Carolina 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.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to take Item V-D prior to V-C.

- D. Proposal/Middle School Girls' Softball Team – As a result of interest expressed via a middle school internet survey and parental input, Athletic Director Michael Herbst presented a proposal for a middle school girls' softball team. A discussion ensued that included cost of the program (approximately \$3,700 per team); Pay-to-Participate cost (\$200), and concerns regarding the possibility of the program running at a deficit. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to approve formation of the Girls Softball Team and the \$225 Pay-to-Participate fee (\$200 plus \$25 insurance). In response to a query, Mr. Herbst replied that if the team runs at a deficit, Board funds would not be used to cover those expenses. Vote: 5 in favor (Herbst, Kelly, Lovely, Ward, Wright), 2 against (Chory, Labella). Motion carries.
- C. Approval/ESEA Federal and State Consolidated Grants – The Connecticut State Department of Education Division of Teaching, Learning and Assessment has provided the following ESEA Federal and State Grants to be spent by June 30, 2011: Title I funds in the amount of \$161, 582; Title IIA funds in the amount of \$87,689; Title IID funds in the amount of \$1,560; Title IIA funds in the amount of \$17,612; Title IV funds in the amount of \$5,544, and Title V funds in the amount of \$14,215. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Kelly) to approve the District Consolidated Application for ESEA Federal and State Grants as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. Policies – Second Reading/Approval – Academic Integrity, 5121 – This policy was presented to the Board for a First Reading on October 13, 2009. Proposals recommended by the Board regarding clarification of plagiarism and elimination of the appeal process were incorporated. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve this policy as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VII – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Mr. Iassogna announced that due to the predicted snow storm, schools and offices will be closed tomorrow. He also noted that the Town Hall would be closed and that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education's meeting would be rescheduled.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:17 p.m.

The Board of Education then convened into a non-meeting regarding negotiations.