

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – May 4, 2010
Agriscience Building
Meeting Room

The Trumbull Board of Education convened in the Agriscience Building for a Regular Meeting.

Members present:

E. Lovely, Chairman
D. Herbst, Vice Chairperson
T. Kelly, Secretary
L. Labella, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member
S. Wright, Board Member

Members absent:

L. Chory, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 7:00 p.m. followed by a rendition of the Star Spangled Banner lead by the Trumbull High School Chambers Singers.

Commissioner Mark McQuillan and Associate Commissioner George Coleman were invited to the meeting to speak about the Race to the Top program. As a special presentation, the Trumbull High School Chamber Singers, String Trio and Jazz Band performed several numbers for their listening pleasure.

The Board unanimously agreed to take Agenda Item IV-A, Race to the Top, out of order.

Agenda Item IV – Reports (out of order)

A. Race to the Top – Commissioner McQuillan and Associate Commissioner Coleman spoke about the new Revised Race to the Top program, an educational reform plan that fosters competition between states for federal funds.

B. Correspondence – there was no correspondence this evening.

C. Comments and Questions – Barbara Distinti, 15 Pleasant Street, and Magda Lowenberg, 25 Placid Street, spoke in support of maintaining budget funding for students with special needs.

Agenda Item II - Personnel

A. Personnel – A Revised Personnel report was distributed. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to accept the resignation of Susan Berescik, English teacher at Trumbull High School since November 18, 1992, retiring effective June 30, 2010; and Catherine Larson, Information Processing teacher at Madison Middle School and Trumbull High School since September 1, 1975, retiring effective June 30, 2010.
Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Wright) to approve a leave of absence for Bethany Gilman, History and Social Studies teacher at Trumbull High School since August 27, 2007 and Jennifer Grannis, Reading and Language Arts teacher at Booth Hill School since August 30, 1999. Both requests comply with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, GCBD. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 4/13/10. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting held on April 13, 2010. Vote: 5 in favor (Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Lovely, Ward) 1 abstention (Wright, absent from above noted meeting).

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. Athletic Program Fee Structure – Athletic Director Mike Herbst reviewed the sports’ fee structure and price comparison of all FCIAC schools and is recommending a price increase of \$1 for each adult ticket, \$10 for each adult booster pass, \$5 for each student booster pass, and a new family plan booster pass for \$125. It is anticipated that the proposed fee increases will generate approximately \$3,310 in additional funds. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to approve the fee increases as proposed.
Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. Approval/2010-2011 Calendar Revision – As surrounding districts and CES have finalized their school calendars and Trumbull’s previously approved calendar did not include a vacation schedule that was in sync, a revised calendar was presented. This new calendar includes the vacation schedule revision, which would also allow for the move of the last day of school from June 16 to June 15 as Good Friday falls within the vacation week. Snow make-up days, to a maximum of 6, would be added to the end of the school year with additional make-up days to be taken from the April vacation beginning with Thursday, April. 21. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to approve the revised calendar as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- B. 2010-11 Budget Discussion – Mr. Iassogna presented a synopsis of the budget thus far and possible distribution of monies. A lengthy discussion ensued which included unspent monies available for return to the Town; preparation of a list of items that could be pre-purchased; preparation of a list of monies spent on unanticipated expenditures; the funding cliff associated with using the Stabilization funds to supplant rather supplement the budget, and the reduction of sports programs related to Title IX, and the shortfall in the teacher retirement account. For the record, Mrs. Labella stated that budgeting for teachers is in essence a zero-based budget as it is predicated upon current teachers in the system. Discussion also included current deficits in programs such as Pay-to-Participate; work orders that may not have been done in order to reduce spending; special education mandated transportation expenses; and programs subsidized by sources outside of the Board’s operating budget. Mr. Iassogna requested direction from the Board as to the percentage of unspent monies from the 2009-10 budget that would remain unspent and in the Town’s coffers, as well as a consensus from the Board as to using some of those funds. The Board requested the Superintendent to outline a list of those items he deems as a priority.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:00 p.m.