

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – September 7, 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:

T. Lovely, Chairperson
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 7:03 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments – Cindy Katske, 129 Meadowview Drive addressed the Leahy Report, commissioned by the First Selectman, which reviewed the Board of Education’s budgets for the years 2006-07 through 2010-11. (Comments attached).

At this time, Mr. Lovely requested the November Board meeting be changed as the TPAUD Underage Drinking Forum for THS 9th graders is scheduled for the same evening, November 9, 2010. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to change the November Board meeting date from Tuesday, November 9th to Monday, November 8th, same time. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At this time, Mr. Lovely noted that Mary Konecny, who had served as the Superintendent’s and Board’s assistant for the past 12 years, has assumed the Human Resources Specialist position replacing Celeste Jardim. He complimented and thanked Mary for her dedication, kind demeanor and unparalleled service to the Board.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – Mr. Iassogna noted that Rita McDougald-Campbell and Julie Luby will be appointed to House Principalships at THS as they bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to the positions. Their starting dates will be announced shortly. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to accept the resignations of Megan O’Shea, speech teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School since August 2007, resigning effective August 11, 2010; Jennifer Valencia, grade 3 teacher at Booth Hill Elementary School since August 1999, resigning effective August 18, 2010; and Joy Scocozza-Johnson, intervention specialist and psychologist at Madison Middle School since September 2006, resigning effective September 24, 2010. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At this time, Mr. Iassogna noted that the new appointments were replacing staff that recently retired or resigned.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting –8/17/10 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

At this time, it was moved (Wright) seconded (Labella) to take Agenda Item V-B—Approval/Hillcrest Pool Upgrades Grant out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V – New Business (out of order)

B. Approval/Hillcrest Pool Upgrades Grant—Mr. Iassogna noted that the Town secured a grant for approximately \$375,000 to be used for upgrades to the pool and that Board approval was desired to move the grant forward. Chad Ciocci, member of the Town Council and its Education Subcommittee, reviewed the study of the Hillcrest pool commissioned by the committee. He noted the findings on the physical conditions, use and operations, authority over usage, and recommendations. Mr. Nelson reviewed the grant, which is to be used for improvements and safety upgrades for the pool with specific emphasis on lighting, ceiling and pool filtration. Also noted was the State of Connecticut requirement to open the use of the pool to non-residents if the Town accepts the grant money. Discussion ensued, the focal point of which was the Hillcrest Pool Use and Operation Report distributed to the Board that evening (Amended Final Draft Report attached). It was noted that this evening was the first time the Board and Superintendent heard of the Town seeking control over pool usage, possibly hiring an aquatics director, and non-resident use. Mr. Lovely and Mr. Iassogna noted that the pool is used for special education classes and the high school swim teams. Concerns were raised on the following: jurisdiction over pool usage during the school day, responsibility for non-resident use, and safety concerns. While the Board was not opposed to accepting this grant money, they asked for clarification of who controls and is responsible for pool usage, especially during the school day, since the pool is part of a school building. The Board also requested a legal opinion as to Board responsibility before moving forward with approval of this grant.

It was moved (Labella) seconded (Wright) to take Agenda Item IV-C CAPT Report out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports (Out of Order)

C. CAPT Report—Dr. Tremaglio noted that he was very pleased to present the results of the 2009-10 CAPT Test Results as they showed overall growth in all areas and were the highest in the last 5 years, with DRG comparisons reflecting even greater growth. Dr. Paslov presented a PowerPoint on results noting that improvement was due to the joint efforts of Department Chairs such as: introduction of Plato Learning remediation program, development of a writing guide, writing across the discipline tasks, SRBI and Tier II and III interventions, and incorporating CAPT-like activities into the curriculum. Dr. Tremaglio praised Department Chairs for their efforts and success of the improvements in CAPT scores and also took this opportunity to give the Board a brief overview of Link Crew, an orientation program which connects incoming 9th graders to an upperclassman so that 9th graders have a go-to student during their freshman year. He noted that Link Crew has been very well received by the students and their parents.

At this time, Mr. Lovely and several Board members praised Dr. Bob and THS Department Chairs for their many efforts in contributing to the significant growth in CAPT testing scores and expressed their thanks for a job well done.

It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to take Agenda Item IV-B out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports (Out of Order)

B. Connecticut Mastery Test Report—Dr. Paslov gave a PowerPoint presentation of the results of the 2009-10 Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT), which reflected that students in grades 3 – 8 continue to perform very well. Dr. Paslov reviewed programs to improve scores including Foundations, meaningful writing, reading, and SRBI, Tier II and Tier III inventions. A discussion ensued including grade level trends,

cohort gains, vertical scale scores, Trumbull's relative DRG B standing and reading comprehension strands. Mr. Iassogna praised the elementary program leaders and middle school team leaders and instructional chairs for their efforts in being instrumental in the improvement of test scores.

It was moved (Wright) seconded (Labella) to take Agenda Item IV-D out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports (Out of Order)

D. Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Update—Dr. Cialfi reviewed this report which is the result of the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) unfunded mandate and noted that for a district to achieve AYP, the criteria must be met for both the CMT and CAPT by all students and by each subgroup (major racial and ethnic groups, students in poverty, students with disabilities and English language learners). He noted criteria for the 2009-10 school year as follows: (1) 95 percent participation on both the mathematics and reading on the CMT and CAPT; (2) achievement of the AYP target of 82 percent at or above Proficient in mathematics and 79 percent at or above Proficient in reading on the CMT; (3) achievement of the AYP target of 80 percent at or above Proficient in mathematics and 81 percent at or above Proficient in reading on the CAPT; (4) 70 percent at or above Basic on the CMT writing component; and (5) 70 percent or above graduation rate at the high school level. Dr. Cialfi was very pleased to report that all district schools achieved AYP for 2009-10 and this achievement is a credit to the total school community.

Agenda Item IV – Reports

A. Annual Report to the Board of Education/First Selectman—Mr. Iassogna briefly reviewed his 2009-10 annual report, which will be forwarded to the First Selectman upon Board approval. He noted that the district had a very productive and enriching school year with continued growth and numerous accomplishments as students were provided with an array of programs to meet their ever diversified academic and social/emotional needs. Also noted was that each department has made visible strides to augment its operation and the CMT and CAPT scores reflect the enhancement of instructional programs. Mr. Wright noted that this report provides a wealth of information on the district that he would like shared with the public in a more condensed version. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to accept the 2009-10 Annual Report of the Superintendent to be submitted to the First Selectman. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. School Opening/Enrollment-Staffing Update—Mr. Iassogna reported that the 2010-11 school year got off to a good start, particularly noting that Trumbull High was ready for opening day despite being in the middle of the THS Renovate As New Project. Also discussed was the opening days' heat wave and early dismissal decision for Hurricane Earl which was strongly suggested by the Town's Emergency Management Team. He noted at this time, the district is 33 students above projections, although 98 students less than 2009-10. Mr. Iassogna also reported that a .5 teacher has been hired for the Tashua 4th grade (76 students) and are closely watching enrollment for the 4th grade at Middlebrook.

F. Federal Education Jobs Bill—Mr. Iassogna noted that at this time, the Trumbull Public Schools expect to receive approximately \$177,000. He reported that while specific details on acquiring and utilizing these funds have not been finalized, it is understood that these monies are specifically earmarked to save teaching and related jobs that directly affect students. Mr. Iassogna also noted that these monies can be utilized in this school year (2010-11), deferred until the 2011-12 school year, or possibly carried over to the beginning of 2012-13, with his recommendation of using the monies for the 2011-12 budget. Discussion ensued and this item will be brought back to the Board when more specific information is available.

G. Town Charter Revision—Mr. Lovely reviewed the Charter Commission's proposal on the composition and election of members to the Board of Education, including staggered terms, elimination of two-year

terms, and the increase from a 7 member Board to a 9 member Board. Discussion ensued including the number of members, length of term and staggering terms. First Selectman Herbst was present and asked to address the Board on this issue. Mr. Herbst noted that the Charter Commission would like to see a 9 member Board as the Board of Education is responsible for the largest part of the Town budget and there would be more oversight. Mr. Herbst also noted that he was not supportive of a 9 member Board of Education. Several Board members felt it was important to have staggered terms and noted also the importance of the quality of the people serving, not the quantity. Mr. Iassogna was asked to share his opinion on this topic and he conveyed that he was not in favor of a 9 member Board. He believes that such would only be necessary if there were areas that have not been addressed due to lack of Board members, but this has not been the case as our Board of Education has done a superb job in meeting its duties and responsibilities. It appeared to be the consensus of the Board to support staggered terms and the proposed 4 year length of term, but would like more specificity regarding Board membership (from 7 to 9 members).

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. Approval/Head Start Food Service Agreement—Mr. Iassogna noted that each year the Board must approve this agreement to be in compliance with Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to approve the Head Start Food Service Agreement as outlined. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. Leahy Report Discussion—This report to the Town of Trumbull was done by John Leahy, former financial director for Fairfield, who was asked by First Selectman Tim Herbst to review the Board of Education budgets for the years from 2006-07 through 2010-11 and make suggestions for the 2011-12 budget. Both Mr. Lovely and Mr. Iassogna communicated that the First Selectman requested that the Board table this item until Mr. Leahy could be present for the discussion. Discussion ensued including conducting the discussion without Mr. Leahy, and postponing the discussion until Mr. Leahy could be present to address concerns and inaccuracies in the report. Mr. Herbst was asked to contact Mr. Leahy and invite him to the September 21st meeting. Mr. Ward stated that he felt the report was clear and there was no need to have Mr. Leahy present for discussion. Mr. Kelly wanted to go on record saying the district has done a good job finding efficiencies and noted that Steve Kennedy has done a good job putting together the energy budget. Mrs. Labella noted that she had concerns with the report and felt the discussion should not be delayed as the Leahy Report had already been presented to the Board of Finance. She noted since the news story on the Leahy Report appears to give the public the perception that the Board of Education “padded the budget and overtaxed the community”, the report should be addressed by Board of Education in a timely manner. It was moved (Lovely) seconded (Herbst) to not proceed (postpone) with the discussion on this item until Mr. Leahy could be present at a Board meeting. Discussion ensued including who would be responsible for paying Mr. Leahy to attend the meeting. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Wright) to amend the motion to postpone this discussion (of the Leahy Report) to the September 21, 2010 meeting, invite Mr. Leahy to attend this meeting, and to have the discussion take place at that meeting whether Mr. Leahy is present or not. Vote: 4 in favor (Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Lovely) 2 opposed (Ward, Wright). Motion passes. Vote on motion as amended: 4 in favor (Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Lovely) 2 opposed (Ward, Wright). Motion passes.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

Agenda Item VII – Other

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:53 p.m.