

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – October 18, 2011  
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  
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 7:05 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag. At this time, Chairman Lovely noted the passing this year of 4 former district administrators, William Crooks, Len Germano, Jerry McDougall, and Jack Roche. He noted their valued and appreciated contributions to the students, staff and community and extended condolences to their families. Mr. Lovely also commended Trumbull High student, Anna Tantum, who raised monies through a soccer clinic to be used for supplies for students in Grenada.
- B. Correspondence – Mr. Kelly noted an email received from JoAnn Sloan, school nurse at Jane Ryan Elementary School, in support of reinstating elementary school year secretaries to full time. Also received was a letter from several parents of high school students who reside in the Bridle Trail development asking for a bus stop at Bridle Trail and Daniels Farm Road.
- C. Comments – Asvathanarayanan Sridhar, 173 Palomino Pass, representing parents of high school students who reside in the Bridle Trail development, spoke in support of creating a bus stop at the intersection of Bridle Trail and Daniels Farm Road, due to high volume of traffic, narrow sidewalks, and other safety concerns.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – There have been no changes since the last Board meeting.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting –10/4/11— It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to accept the minutes of the October 4, 2011 Board meeting as presented. Vote: 6 in favor (Chory, Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Lovely, Ward) 1 abstention (Wright). Motion passes.

At this time, it was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to take Agenda Items V-A, B, and E out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. Approval/THS Quebec Trip—In accordance with Board Policy, field trips where students miss more than two consecutive days of school or travel outside the United States must be approved by the Board of Education. Ms. Santelli, World Languages Teacher, requested the Board approve a trip to Quebec,

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Canada May 18-21, 2012 to enhance students' study of French, experiencing North American francophone culture, language and historic sites. Students would have opportunity to use the French language. Mrs. Chory noted her concerns about the number of international trips approved and discussion ensued including costs, affordability, scholarships and fundraising. Mr. Wright noted that these trips enhance student learning, expose them to global learning, and would like more opportunities for students. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Labella) to approve the trip to Quebec, Canada 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. Vote: unanimous in favor.

- E. Approval/THS European Cities Trip—Mrs. Guadagnoli noted that the Board originally approved a summer trip to Eastern European cities for the Summer 2012. However, due to increased costs, the advisors looked into alternative itineraries. Both Mrs. Guadagnoli and Mrs. Rubano reviewed an alternative trip where students would visit Amsterdam, Belgium, London and Paris and would conduct fundraisers to offset costs. Following discussion, it was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to approve the trip to European cities 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. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- B. Approval/Curriculum Guides—Dr. Paslov noted there were 10 curriculum guides that needed Board approval. Mrs. Steinberg reviewed Academics for Life for Grades 6 to 8 and 9 to 12, a new course designed for students with autism which links academics to life skills. Mrs. Herbst thanked her for her efforts in creating the course and Superintendent Iassogna noted his appreciation for Dr. Paslov's and Mrs. Steinberg's efforts in developing curriculum to meet the needs of the special education student. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to approve Academics for Life Grades 6-8 and Academics for Life Grades 9-12 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Iaccarino reviewed Basic Automotive and noted that it is new curriculum. Mrs. Owen noted that the course does not have a text book and many technology courses do not have text books as technology is changing so rapidly and many resources are garnered through the internet. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Wright) to approve Basic Automotive as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mrs. Basbagill reviewed Honors Pre-Calculus/Calculus A and Honors Geometry. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve Honors Pre-Calculus/Calculus A as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve Honors Geometry as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mrs. Perusi reviewed Italian Culture and Conversation I, Italian Conversation and Culture II, Italian Conversation and Culture III and noted that these courses are more for conversation and exploring the culture verses Italian I, II, III, and IV which focus more on proper grammar usage. Any student can take these courses along with studying other foreign languages. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve Italian Culture and Conversation I, Italian Conversation and Culture II, Italian Conversation and Culture III as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mrs. Perusi reviewed Spanish Culture and Conversation I and noted it was similar to the Italian courses. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve Spanish I Culture and Conversation as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mrs. Perusi also reviewed AP French Language and Culture and noted the curriculum was revised as recommended by the College Board and AP. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to approve AP French Language and Culture as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Superintendent Iassogna noted the excellent dialog regarding curriculum.

### Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- B. Approval/Financial Reports as of 9/30/11 – Mr. Sirico presented financial reports for the 3 months ended September 30, 2011. It was noted that legal fees are high because of two special education court cases and the substitute account was affected due to the loss of elementary interns. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Board of Education Expense Report for the 3 months ended 9/30/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Sirico briefly reviewed the Cable TV grant. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to accept the Grant Expense Report for the 3 months ended 9/30/11 as

presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Sirico noted the School Lunch account was in deficit but not unusual since it is the beginning of the school year. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Consolidated Financial Statement as of and for the 3 months ended 9/30/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Sirico noted that it was too early in the year to know what the status of these accounts will be at the end of the year. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to accept the Board of Education Programs Detail Report as of 9/30/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Sirico noted that these accounts should remain the same over the next 3 to 5 months. Mr. Wright and Mrs. Chory discussed setting up a meeting to review the accounts needed to move through Probate Court. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Labella) to accept the Expendable Trust Detail Report as of 9/30/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Iassogna clarified the difference between Pay to Participate waivers for sports and music where the fee is waived and scholarships which are given to students for field trips/activities and the money is taken from the General Student Activity Account. Discussion ensued regarding scholarships and the use of this account and how it is funded. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to accept the Board of Education Student Activity Detail Report as of 9/30/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- C. Approval/Finance Committee of the Board of Education Transfers— Mrs. Chory noted that the Committee met on July 12 and September 28, 2011. It was noted that there were several transfers that needed Board approval. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Labella) to approve July transfers 1383x and 1388x and August transfers 1401x, 1402x, and 1403x as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### Agenda Item IV—Reports

- A. District Enrollment Report – Mr. Iassogna reviewed current enrollment as of October 1, 2011 and noted that these figures are considered official and will be forwarded to the Connecticut State Department of Education. Also noted is that this year’s figures are 6 students below projections and the total enrollment figure is exactly the same as October 1, 2010 with less staff for the same number of students; Frenchtown’s afternoon kindergartens are above guidelines and paraprofessional support has been provided; and enrollment projections are being calculated for the 2012-13 school year.

#### Agenda Item V – New Business

- C. Board of Education Meeting Dates— In accordance with Section 10-218 of the CT General Statutes and the By-laws of the Trumbull Board of Education, the Board shall adopt a meeting schedule for the ensuing year. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Labella) to approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates for the calendar year 2012 as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- D. Preliminary Discussion 2012-13 Budget—Mr. Iassogna gave an overview of the preliminary budget for 2012-13 noting a new budget format where he will present a core budget and then add through Board discussion established priorities, restorations, and new initiatives/mandates. He noted that this new format has been discussed with administrators and division heads and asked them to review all current programs and make recommendations to retain/remove based on their success. He also noted that he would provide a list any current programs to be removed from the core budget recommendation for 2012-13. The Superintendent noted that he does not want to focus on budget reductions, but to be positive and move forward. Considerable discussion ensued regarding establishing full/extended day kindergarten for 2012-13 with options for full and/or extended day programs, and the costs associated with this initiative and Mr. Kelly noted that he would like a decision to be made soon so parents can prepare instead of waiting for the Town approved appropriation in April. Discussion continued concerning restoring lost positions/programs and new initiatives and mandates and Mr. Iassogna asked for the Board’s input (verbal, notes, email and/or public discussion at Board meetings) in preparing the budget. He reminded the Board that he would present his 2012-13 budget recommendation at their December 6, 2011 meeting and from that the Board can review, discuss and finally adopt a budget request for the First Selectman. Mrs. Labella asked that funding in the curriculum area be addressed including restoring curriculum items previously cut. Mr. Kelly noted

his concern with health insurance monies and its impact on the budget. Mr. Iassogna noted that the Town has been in contact with him to have several Board members be part of a joint Board/Town committee to review the merging of Town/Board employee health insurance with Mr. Wright and Mrs. Herbst serving on that committee. Mrs. Chory asked that TAG be restored to the operating budget. Mr. Kelly suggested that in the interest of being transparent, an open dialog be established with other Town Boards and invite Board chairs and members to BOE budget meetings and Mr. Iassogna noted that this has been done in the past and will continue. Discussion ensued regarding the costs for full/extended day kindergarten program and several Board members asked the Superintendent to bring forth for their November 15, 2011 meeting preliminary costs for full/extended day kindergarten and costs for employee salaries and benefits. Mr. Wright noted that he would like the position of Data Resource Specialist (proposed several years ago and would work with Information Services) to be placed in the budget. Discussion ensued regarding reconfiguration of the elementary/middle schools and included surgical shifting of students (from one school to another, i.e. Frenchtown to Middlebrook) to alleviate overcrowding at one school, reconfiguration models—K-2, 3-5 with sister schools, educational value and costs associated with reconfiguration. Mr. Iassogna noted that Educational Consultant Wayne Verderber, who did a study for the Board in February 2010 regarding full/extended day kindergarten and provided the Board with an opinion on school reconfiguration in February 2011, noted the following: reconfiguration should be only considered when there is an educational reason to support it; there would need to be an in-depth study on grade levels, i.e. K-2, K-4, Gr. 5-8; enrollment numbers in Trumbull would not support it at the middle school level; there may be increased costs (i.e. Transportation) associated with reconfiguring schools with a sister school model; it would disrupt many students/families; and may have no educational value. Also noted was that in 2005 a committee investigated reconfiguration due to the middle schools' enrollment and it was decided at that time there was no additional educational value, but it was recommended to redo boundary lines for students at Frenchtown for attending the middle schools. Mrs. Herbst noted that reconfiguration should have been reviewed more closely before building Frenchtown since it is now overcrowded and reconfiguration, if educationally sound and good for the students, should be explored as there may be cost savings with the allocation of resources, staff and programs. Mr. Iassogna noted that an in-depth study was done when the decision to build Frenchtown was made and that enrollment projections have held steady for all the schools except Frenchtown. It was noted that when the study was done, Avalon Gates was not included in projections. Mr. Iassogna further noted that the district did address allocation of resources to be more cost effective and that to reconfigure schools for the 2012-13 school year would not be feasible as there are many issues to consider and review before a decision can be made. Further discussion ensued regarding surgical shifting involving all elementary schools and Mr. Iassogna noted that he would consider a recommendation to shift students from Frenchtown to Middlebrook.

#### Agenda Item VI—Old Business

There was no old business this evening.

#### Agenda Item VII – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

#### Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:48 p.m.