

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – November 15, 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 7:03 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.

At this time, Vice Chairwoman Herbst noted that this evening's meeting was Chairman Lovely's last and on behalf of the Board thanked Mr. Lovely and noted their appreciation for his efforts and many years of service to the Board, the Trumbull school district and community. Superintendent Iassogna also thanked Mr. Lovely for his conscientious and skillful efforts as Board Chair and noted his appreciation for Mr. Lovely's years of service to the Trumbull Board of Education as a teacher, House Principal, Principal, Curriculum Director and Assistant Superintendent. Chairman Lovely thanked the voters who elected him to a seat on the Board and noted that it was an honor to serve on the Board and thanked fellow Board members for working together for the good of students.

B. Correspondence – Mr. Kelly noted that a letter was received from Veronica Lenzen in support of full day kindergarten.

At this time, Chairman Lovely noted and congratulated the following: THS Marching Band are the 2011 Musical Arts Champions, winning most major awards in the competition; Frenchtown Democracy Day Program was excellent and thanked teacher Joe Fiore and Principal Jackie Norcel for their efforts; Veteran's Day Program at Trumbull High was wonderful both for the students and veterans in attendance and a meaningful learning experience; Trumbull High was named to the AP Honor Roll for promoting AP courses; and FFA students who placed well in competition at the National FFA convention.

C. Comments – Veronica Lenzen, 52 Woodhaven Drive, spoke in support of full day kindergarten. Marty Iassac, 50 Skating Pond Road, spoke against full day kindergarten because of the costs and possibility that other programs may be cut to support it, and noted his appreciation for the district to further the initiative of anti-bullying as there have been bullying incidents at the high school that have gone unpunished. Cindy Penkoff, 101 Columbine Drive, spoke in support of full day kindergarten, said that the BOE budget is not understood by the average person and stated that the Board needs to do things in a different way, both financially and productively. Lainie McHugh, 132 Fresh Meadow Drive, PTA Council President, noted that the public should remember that the charge of the Board of Education is

to do what is best for its students. She also asked the Board to review the budget carefully and have a discussion as to whether now is the best time to implement full day kindergarten in light of unfunded mandates and costs associated with them. She also thanked Mr. Lovely for his efforts and service to the students and Trumbull community. Lucinda Timpanelli, 5 Wildfire Lane, THS C-House Principal, thanked Mr. Lovely for his dedication to ensuring students came first in education and for his guidance in her career and noted the district was fortunate to have him as an educator. Diane Pomposello, 44 Woolsley Avenue, spoke in support of full day kindergarten. Susan LaFrance, 45 Woolsley Avenue, stated that the Board does not give facts when presenting their budget request, parents do not understand the budget, and asked the Board to hold everyone accountable. Mr. Iassogna noted that anyone who is interested in understanding the budget and its transparency should attend the Board Budget meetings on December 6, 8, and 13, 2011 when the budget process will be reviewed. Nickie Satin, 51 Briarwoods Terrace, thanked Mr. Lovely for his commitment to the students, thanked the Superintendent for being transparent and stated she does not support full day kindergarten.

At this time, it was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to take Agenda Item VI-A out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

A. Approval/Custodial/Maintenance Agreement—Attorney Dugas noted that the duration of this agreement is 4 years from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2014 and covers approximately 68 FTE Board funded personnel, primarily custodians and maintenance employees. He also noted that the contract was negotiated during the summer of 2010 and an agreement was reached in the Fall of 2010. However, for various reasons, the membership did not ratify the contract until November 5, 2011. Several changes were noted including: wage increases (0% for 2010-11, and 2.5% in each of the following three years); increase in cost sharing of annual insurance premium and the conversion to the teacher plan as of July 1, 2013; and increase in contribution to the Town Pension Plan. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve the agreement between the Trumbull Board of Education and the Trumbull Custodial/Maintenance Employees effective July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2014 as modified in the above summary as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

A. Personnel – Superintendent Iassogna noted that there was one resignation received that needed Board action. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to accept the resignation of Judy Klein, Staff Development Associate at Long Hill Administration since January 1993, retiring effective December 9, 2011. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Approval/Minutes –Regular Meeting – 10/18/11 – It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2011 regular meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/Financial Reports as of 10/31/11 – Mr. Sirico reviewed financial reports for the 4 months ended October 31, 2011. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the following: “salaries—other” which includes tutors, security guards, lunch aides, OT/PT positions; “salaries—teachers” including degree changes, leaves of absence, curriculum writing, teacher extra time; substitute account; equipment; legal services; and transportation services. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Board of Education Expense Report for the 4 months ended 10/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Grant Expense Report

for the 4 months ended 10/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Consolidated Financial Statement as of and for the 4 months ended 10/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Sirico noted that monies go in and out of these accounts during the year and will not know final figures until year end. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Labella) to accept the Board of Education Programs Detail Report as of 10/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Expendable Trust Detail Report as of 10/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mrs. Chory requested back up details for Student Activity General Account no. 20550. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Student Activity Detail Report as of 10/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports

At this time, Mr. Lovely thanked the teacher and student representatives for their service to the Board.

A. Oral Reports

1. Teacher Representative Karen Rodrigues noted that the elementary schools are piloting a new Grades 3 – 5 report card; parent conferences are going well; reviewed programs each school presented with regard to Veteran’s Day and noted all programs were well received and very meaningful for students, especially the ceremony at Trumbull High School. She also thanked Mr. Lovely on behalf of the teachers for his years of service and commitment to the education of Trumbull’s students.
2. Student Representative Emma Connolly reported that the media center has become an excellent resource for students including doing research, Academic Decathlon Team and peer tutoring; Spirit Week was successful; Veteran’s Day program was well received and students were moved by the Veteran’s presentations. Student Representative Patrick Curtin reported that Dean of Students Anthony Pijar has been conducting seminars on bullying for various staff members and noted that Trumbull High School continues to have problems with the renovation project including lack of heat in B-House for several days and no accommodation for the disabled at the main entrance to the building. At this time it was noted that Patrick Curtin serves on the State Student Council on Education, comprised of 20 students from around the State who meet bimonthly with the Commissioner of Education.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. Approval/Curriculum Guides—Dr. Paslov and Mrs. Owen reviewed the following curriculum guides to be used by the Business Department at Trumbull High School, written with funds from the Perkins Grant. **Advanced Accounting Honors CCP** is a full year, one credit course for students considering a business or accounting career and is the second year of a two year program which provides a deeper understanding of complex accounting topics. It was noted that students can receive college credit from Housatonic Community College. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Labella) to approve **Advanced Accounting Honors CCP** as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. **Business Concepts** is a half year/half credit project-based course on several business topics including marketing, accounting, communications, banking, finance and investing and will provide the connectivity between classroom learning and real world applications. Discussion ensued regarding class size limit and it was noted that class size is limited to the number of computers available in the computer lab. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve **Business Concepts** as presented and with the deletion of the last sentence referring to class size limit. Vote: Unanimous in favor. **Personal and Business Recordkeeping** is a full year, one credit course designed to build knowledge of personal and business records and their applications in everyday consumer matters, with an emphasis on tasks and business forms associated with entry-level recordkeeping positions. It was

moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve *Personal and Business Recordkeeping* as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Policies/First Reading

1. Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy—Dr. Cialfi reviewed this policy which is presented to the Board for a first reading because of changes in State Public Act 11-232 as of July 2011, “An Act Concerning the Strengthening of School Bullying Laws” and the establishment of a Safe School Climate Plan. It was noted that the policy is directly linked to legislation and is another unfunded mandate. Discussion ensued including cyber bullying, staff training, parent and community involvement, FERPA, make up of District Safe School Climate Committee, District Safe School Climate Coordinator, Safe School Climate Plan and costs involved in implementing this mandate. It was noted that those costs will be incorporated into the district’s operating budget for 2012-13. Several questions were posed including the legality of language regarding electronic devices, confidentiality regarding parent involvement on the Safe School Climate Committee, the determination of the seriousness of a bullying and when to involve the police, anonymous reporting of incidents, the determination of who will service as the district coordinator and building specialists. It was noted that the questions will be brought back to the attorney for clarification and this policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading.

C. Positive Behavioral Interventions and Support (PBIS)—Dr. Cialfi noted that PBIS is a decision making framework that guides the implementation of the best evidence-based practices to strengthen school climate and student responsibility and reduce negative student behaviors and will be a tool to support the State’s recently passed Anti-Bullying legislation. It was noted that this program is similar to SRBI framework and will be mandated by July 2012. Also noted the middle schools have PBIS programs, with plans developed and lessons given to students as part of a 3 year program. School social workers Ms. Barton and Ms. Caratini reviewed the programs at both Hillcrest and Madison middle schools, noting the programs have been well received by and very positive for students.

D. Student Success Plan (SSP)—Dr. Cialfi noted that through Public Act 11-135, all Connecticut public education students in Grades 6 through 12 will be required to have a Student Success Plan in place beginning July 1, 2012. SSP is an individualized student driven plan that will be developed to address middle and high school students’ needs and interests in an effort to help them connect with teachers and programs and to achieve post secondary educational and career goals. It was noted that the core components of SSP are academic development, career development and social/emotional development. Also noted that a student’s guidance counselor is recommended to be the point person for this program and the district is reviewing a program through Naviance to facilitate this initiative. It was noted that the district is reviewing the purpose of the program to better understand how best to implement for each student.

E. Burden of Proof Resolution – Superintendent Iassogna noted that State officials are considering modifications to Connecticut’s Special Education regulations and one of the key issues to be determined is whether to modify the current regulation adopted in 2000 that places the burden of proof in all special education due process hearings on the district. Various Connecticut Boards of Education have indicated strong support to change Connecticut regulations and this year Cooperative Educational Services (CES) has asked member districts to sign on to a resolution regarding Burden of Proof. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to adopt the Burden of Proof Resolution as presented to be forwarded to State officials. Vote: 6 in favor (Chory, Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Lovely, Ward), 0 opposed, 1 abstention (Wright). Motion passes.

F. Superintendent's 2011-12 Goals – Mr. Iassogna noted that the BOE's Superintendent's Evaluation sub committee of Chairman Lovely, Mrs. Herbst, Mr. Wright and Mr. Iassogna met on several occasions to identify areas of focus and are recommending two goals as the areas of emphasis for 2011-12. The first goal, in conjunction with the State's emphasis on "Closing the Achievement Gap," is to review Trumbull students' academic status, with particular focus on identification of students at risk and potential interventions and offerings to reduce performance gap issue(s). The second goal is to review current grade organization (K-5, 6-8, 9-12) to ensure it continues to meet the instructional and operational needs of the district; and present to the board a recommendation on continuation or possible modification of present model. Mr. Lovely noted that "Closing the Achievement Gap" is a big focus and important goal and noted the committee recommends both goals for the Superintendent. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Wright) to approve the recommended committee goals for 2011-12 for the Superintendent as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mrs. Labella thanked the committee for their efforts and support in this initiative. Mrs. Chory questioned action plans for the goals and Mr. Iassogna noted he will prepare a written report on his second goal.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

B. Continuation of 2012-13 Preliminary Budget Discussion—Mr. Iassogna noted his proposed format would begin with an initial CORE budget which includes two TAG teachers in the operating budget. From there he will make recommendations for adding to the CORE budget which includes established initiatives, restorations, and new mandates and/or new requests. He noted that to implement Full/Extended Day Kindergarten would cost approximately \$872,000 and the costs for salaries and benefits for all employees totals approximately \$70,830,000. Also noted was the established initiatives include full/extended day kindergarten, 3-year technology plan and 10-year NEASC Accreditation; restorations include 2.0 elementary secretaries, 6.0 elementary and 2.0 middle school interns, 1.0 custodian, 6.0 computer paras, .6 THS Music teacher, .6 THS English teacher and additional monies for curriculum; and new mandates and/or new requests include District Safe School Climate Coordinator, 1.0 ELL teacher, 2.0 ELL paras, and the following for Trumbull High: 1.0 guidance counselor, 1.0 PE teacher, .4 Technology teacher, 1.0 Math specialist, .5 Technology technician, 1.0 English teacher, 1.0 Science teacher, 1.0 World Language Teacher, 2.0 THS security personnel, and a turf field/scoreboard. Mr. Iassogna noted that he reviewed all requests from administrators and division heads and that his final recommendation to be presented on December 6, 2011 would not include everything listed in established initiatives, restorations and new mandates and/or new requests.

Agenda Item VII – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:59 p.m.