

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – February 28, 2011
Long Hill Administration Building
Lorraine R. Smith Assembly Room

The Trumbull Board of Education convened in the Long Hill Administration Building for a Special Meeting.

Members present:

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

Members Absent:

D. Herbst, Vice Chairwoman
L. Chory, 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.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments and Questions—There were no comments this evening.

At this time, Chairman Lovely congratulated THS Advisor Eric August and the Mock Trial Team for their fine showing at recent competitions.

Agenda Item II – Personnel

- A. Personnel – This report was received and filed as no Board action was needed.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes– Regular Meeting – 2/15/11 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda Item IV – Reports

- A. NEASC Report Update—Mrs. Timpanelli and the Steering Committee presented an update on the NEASC Accreditation. She thanked the Board and the Superintendent for their support and Board member Stephen Wright, for his time, guidance and efforts as a member of this committee. She noted that the Mission Committee has been renamed the Core Values, Beliefs and Learning Expectations Committee who reviewed the mission statement and adjusted it to include “We teach 21st century skills necessary for lifelong learning.” She further noted that the mission statement provides the driving force through which curriculum instruction and assessment are designed. Also noted was that the NEASC organization recently revamped all standards for 2011 with the new requirement of analytical school-wide rubrics. The Steering Committee met and crafted 5 new rubrics, with rubrics 1 and 2 given to the faculty for review. The Steering Committee will incorporate faculty input and implement these rubrics beginning in September 2011. The same procedure will be followed for rubrics 3, 4 and 5. Mrs. Timpanelli shared with the Board the 83 commendations from the Visiting Team’s report of October 2003 (attached) and also noted that collaboration time during the school day, master schedule, heterogeneous grouping, adult-to-one student relationships and developing partnerships will become focus points for the next visiting team for the 2013 evaluation. Also noted was concern that with the proposed drastic budgets, the progress made towards this evaluation may be in jeopardy and NEASC would not look favorably on any form of regression as its intent is continuous improvement. Mrs. Labella asked the

committee to share their report with the Board of Finance. (A copy of this report to the Board can be found in the Board Packet for the February 28, 2011 meeting.)

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. Approval/THS Academic Decathlon Trip – Mr. Pelligra, advisor to the THS Academic Decathlon Team, noted that since this team, composed of 9 students, placed first in the State, they have been invited to the National Competition in Charlotte, North Carolina, which will take place April 27th through 30th. He also noted that the team is comprised of a cross section of students in grades 10 through 12 and this is only the second year the team has competed. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Labella) to approve the THS National Academic Decathlon Competition Trip as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellation for any reason. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Approval/THS Winter Guard and Percussion Trips—Mr. Horton reviewed trips to Dayton, Ohio for the Winter Color Guard and Percussion competitions. He noted that the championships would enable students to participate in preliminary, semi-finals and finals of the national Winter Championships as well as observe other winter guard and percussion programs from across the country. Mr. Horton also noted that Trumbull High’s ensembles are the only ones from the East Coast competing at this level. It was moved (Kelly) seconded (Labella) to approve the Winter Color Guard trips to Ohio as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellation for any reason. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Kelly) seconded (Labella) to approve the Winter Percussion trip to Ohio as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellation for any reason. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. Policy/Second Reading/Approval—Policy 3513.1 Energy Management—Dr. Vespe noted that this policy had one minor wording change. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Kelly) to approve this policy as stated in the Board packet and as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Continuation of 2011-12 Budget Discussion – Mr. Iassogna briefly reviewed what was discussed at the Board’s Special meeting on Friday, February 25, 2011 and noted that the Board did an excellent job drilling down the many topics on the potential cuts list. He reviewed the following points: with the potential elimination of the TAG program, the Board has \$177,000 to utilize for other positions as the Federal Jobs Program monies were originally earmarked for TAG; health insurance negotiations reflect a possible \$200,000 in savings; preliminary discussion with Wayne Verderber, President of Applied Data Services, noted that administrative and operational savings would be realized if a school was closed and grade reconfiguration would not achieve substantial savings and may incur increased transportation costs; Athletic Director confirmed that he was in agreement with the possible elimination of 9th grade sports and pay to participate monies would be used for all other sports; possible staff reductions include 15.5 teachers, 5.0 secretaries, 2.5 custodians, 6.0 para-professionals, 6.0 elementary interns, reductions to administrator work year. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the different levels of possible reductions to the budget. Topics included class size guidelines and increasing class size; impact on closing of an elementary school on class sizes and re-allocating students to different schools; number of positions that would be lost to cuts; reducing course offerings at the high school; and providing the best education possible with the monies allocated to the Board. Mr. Iassogna noted that Trumbull Public Schools (TPS) are in good hands with the Board, administrative staff and supportive parent community. He also noted that he responded to various requests from the Board of Finance and would hope they may restore some monies to the BOE budget. Mr. Iassogna also noted that he respects the

budget process and if the Town cannot commit the full amount of monies requested by the Board, then TPS will accept what is given and do the best it can. Mr. Wright noted that significant reductions to the budget will not produce the same education students now have. Mr. Kelly also noted that students will be impacted by the budget reductions and does not support increasing class size. Mrs. Labella requested that all sports reductions be placed together in the 4.00% level and to move the teachers and advisor stipends into the level below (3.5%). Mr. Ward noted the Board should look at cutting full programs, such as elementary strings/band, as opposed to cuts to various accounts and also noted that he felt the Board of Finance was asking the Board to do their work. Mr. Iassogna noted that the list is preliminary but that most cuts would be incorporated if the budget is significantly reduced. Mr. Kelly felt providing a potential reductions list to the Board of Finance may help them to understand how the district would be impacted. Mr. Wright noted that the Board has been transparent in all in financial matters and feels the Town thinks the Board can make do with less monies. Mr. Lovely noted that the potential reductions list, which was requested by the Board of Finance, is transparent, is not intended to be a threat, and he will stand behind this list if the reduction to the budget is significant. It was the consensus of the Board to provide this list, with the changes noted (moving all sports to the 4.00% level and moving those teachers and stipends in the 4.00% level to the 3.5% level), to the Board of Finance (attached).

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:47 p.m.