

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – June 22, 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 (arrived at 6:45 p.m.)

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Jane Ryan Principalship—The Public Session began at 5:37 p.m. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to move into Executive Session to conduct interviews with regard to the Jane Ryan Principalship and invite the Superintendent to be part of the process. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to come out of Executive Session at 7:03 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session resumed at 7:03 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- C. Correspondence – Mr. Kelly noted the Board received several emails from parents encouraging the Board to reinstate freshman sports.
- D. Comments – Lainie McHugh, PTA Council President, 132 Freshmeadow Drive, spoke in favor of reinstating freshman sports and seeking a supplemental appropriation from the Town to restore programs and other items cut from the budget. Amber Tey, Social Worker, and JoAnn Sloan, School Nurse both noted their appreciation of the hard work and efforts of the Board and spoke in support of retaining Jane Ryan secretary, Barbara DiDomenico. The following people spoke in support of freshman sports: Linda Clark, Reservoir Avenue; Julie Tuozzoli, Fox Road; Tim Holstrom, 7 Meadow Road; Sue Colon, 3 Crescent Lane; Julie House, 175 Whitney Avenue (on behalf of parents who signed petition asking for reinstatement of freshman sports); Penny Schutz, 74 Pinewood Trail; and student Tom Schutz. Cindy Katske, 129 Meadowview Drive, thanked the Board for their hard work and support of academics, spoke in support of freshman sports, and does not support creating a funding cliff to support programs.

At this time Chairman Lovely commented that THS' graduation ceremony was wonderful, the speeches great, and congratulated the Class of 2011. Also noted two students, Alex Mark and Jeffrey Lui, who is entering the United States Military Academy at West Point, were named National Merit Scholars. Also noted the THS Musical was nominated for 9 awards at the Connecticut High School Musical Theatre Awards and received 3 awards, Best Male Lead Max Gottschall, Best Lighting and Student Achievement in Lighting Alex Mark. Also congratulated were Jeffrey Liu, 1st Place for Fairfield County Military Officers' Association's Young American Award; Madison Middle School 7th graders Kyriaki Marinos, Kristina Vetter, Rose Lisi and Jim McKeon for 3rd Place in American Statistical Association's poster contest which had over 2,000 entries; and THS World Color Guard for 5th place finish at National World Guard Competition. Mr. Wright recognized Board Chair Lovely for his wonderful speech at THS graduation. Student Board Representative Michael Smith was thanked for his efforts and contributions at Board

meetings and it was noted that Student Board Representative Patrick Curtin was named to the Connecticut State Student Council on Education.

Agenda Item II – Personnel

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Iassogna noted that there was one leave of absence that required Board action. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to approve a personal leave of absence without pay for Robin Redgate, Grade 3 teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School for the school year 2011-12 in compliance with the Trumbull Board of Education’s Leave of Absence Policy, GCBD. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 6/7/11 By the unanimous consent of the members present at that meeting, the minutes were accepted as presented. Mr. Kelly abstained as he was not present at that meeting.

It was moved (Chory) seconded (Wright) to take Agenda items V-A, V-B, and VI-A out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. Approval/Textbooks—Dr. Paslov noted that there were 6 textbooks that needed Board approval as these will replace outdated textbooks. Mrs. Perusi reviewed *Allons au-Dela* which will be used in the AP French Language and Culture full year course and will provide students with the opportunity to follow suggested curriculum in preparation for the AP exam. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Wright) to approve the above textbook as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mrs. Rubano reviewed 4 texts for Social Studies including the following: *Contemporary Economics* to be used in the AP/ECE Economics full year course covering Micro and Macro Economics; *Essential of Economics, 2e* to be used in the Honors Economics half year course covering an in-depth study of economic theory and principles; *The Philosopher’s Way: A Text with Readings* to be used in the Great Thinkers/Introduction to Philosophy half year course covering a variety of philosophical theories; and *Understanding Psychology* to be used in the Psychology half year course designed to develop a student’s interest in studying human behavior. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to approve the above textbooks as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. A brief discussion ensued regarding AP courses. Mrs. Gibson reviewed *Environment—The Science Behind the Stories* which will be used in ECE/AP Environmental Science and noted this interdisciplinary course includes the chemical, physical, geological and biological aspects of the environment. Also noted the significant lab work that accompanies this class. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve the above noted textbook as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Approval/Courses—Dr. Paslov noted that at the last Curriculum Committee meeting two new courses were proposed. Social Emotional Learning (SEL) will provide students in Pre K through Grade 8 with an opportunity to practice empathy, and develop problem solving, risk assessment, decision making and goal setting skills and would include bullying. This course will be written and piloted during the 2011-12 school year and fully implemented in 2012-13. Also noted the school psychologists and social workers would deliver lessons from the *Second Step: A Violence Prevention Curriculum* which has been secured through a grant and would also be available for Tier 2 and Tier 3 lessons. Honors PreCalculus/Calculus course will combine one semester of PreCalculus with one semester of Calculus and is designed as a prerequisite for AP Calculus BC. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Ward) to move forward with course writing for SEL. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve the above noted courses as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI-A – Old Business

A. Policy/Second Reading

1. Trumbull High School Performance Standards, Policy Code 6146—Dr. Paslov noted the policy was brought before the Board for a first reading on March 15, 2011 and changes made reflect new State requirements including additional credits for graduation and district expansion of CAPT requirements. Also noted Connecticut State Department of Education graduation requirements will change again within the next few years and the policy will be updated at that time. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to approve the Trumbull High School Performance Standards policy as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- B. Approval/Financial Reports as of 5/30/11 – Mr. Sirico reviewed financial reports for the 11 months ended May 31, 2011 and noted that 99% of the budget has been spent. Discussion ensued regarding amount of available monies, outstanding purchase orders, outstanding bills not encumbered, outstanding legal settlements and effect of 2 ½ month spending freeze. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Board of Education Expense Report for the 11 months ended 5/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Discussion ensued regarding all grant monies spent. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Labella) to accept the Grant Expense Report for the 11 months ended 5/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Consolidated Financial Statement as of and for the 11 months ended 5/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Discussion ensued regarding the use of unspent monies to address deficit in Summer Explorations Program. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Board of Education Programs Detail Report as of 5/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Discussion ensued regarding various permanently restricted trusts whose contacts are lost and moving them through Probate Court to release the funds so they may be used for scholarships. Also noted those scholarship monies would be awarded according to the intent of the donor. The three restricted trusts include the Public Health Nursing Association (\$8,000), Zink (\$10,000) and Sam Dick Electronics (\$10,000). It was noted that an estimate of approximately \$2,500 for each account would be needed for release of those scholarship monies. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Expendable Trust Detail Report as of 5/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Wright) to direct the Superintendent to make an official proposal for three scholarships whose contacts are lost and currently held in permanent trust to seek costs associated with attorney fees and moving through Probate Court. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Iassogna provided the Board with a report on various student activity accounts that are no longer active and his recommendations for consolidating these monies into other student activity accounts. He also noted that he consulted with club advisors and the Board attorney on the issue of closing inactive accounts. His recommendation including transferring those monies into the General Student Activity Account No. 550 with some monies specifically earmarked for various activities. Discussion ensued and it was noted that action may be taken at a future Board meeting. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Chory) to accept the Student Activity Detail Report as of 5/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. Approval/Finance Committee of the Board of Education Transfers— Mrs. Chory noted that the Committee met on June 13, 2011. It was noted that there was one transfer that needed Board approval. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Ward) to approve May transfer 1351x as recommended. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Labella) seconded (Kelly) to take Agenda Item VI-B out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI-B – Old Business

- B. 2010-11 Budget Status/Utilization of 2010-11 Unspent Monies—Mr. Iassogna noted that approximately \$350,000 to possibly \$500,000 may be available in unspent monies for 2010-11. He also noted that the

Board has three options on the utilization of these monies: spend all the monies before the close of the 2010-11 school year to restore programs/positions; return the full amount to the Town; or spend some of the monies and return the balance to the Town. Mr. Iassogna reviewed the budget including cuts that were made from the Board request of 5.38% increase to the Town approved allocation of 2.375% increase. He also noted that some adjustments were made to the 2011-12 budget to accommodate the insurance premium savings. It was noted that a funding cliff will be created due the use of the \$177,000 Federal Jobs Fund grant. Discussion ensued regarding use of unspent monies to restore programs previously cut from the budget, returning the full amount to the Town, reduced Pay to Participate income due to the elimination of freshman sports, importance of teaching positions and activities for students including freshman sports. Mr. Kelly noted that 28.2 district positions were cut from the budget including 8.2 teaching positions, 6 para positions, 5 secretary positions, 3 custodial positions, and 6 interns. Mrs. Labella noted that she supported the return of the full amount of unspent monies to the Town and then seek a supplemental appropriation at least in the amount returned to the Town and asked the Superintendent for a recommendation on how best to utilize any monies received from a supplemental appropriation. Also noted that unspent monies were achieved partially through the 2 ½ month spending freeze, and reduced Special Education tuitions. More discussion took place concerning the reduction in the Athletic budget and the impact of loss of Pay to Participate fees with the elimination of freshman sports and time frame for requesting, receiving and implementing programs if the Town were to grant the Board a supplemental appropriation. Mr. Wright noted that he supported returning all unspent monies to the Town and seeking a supplemental appropriation as it appears to be the most transparent way to handle these monies. He also noted that the Board, when seeking the appropriation, should let the Town know how they intend to use any monies given to them. It was moved (Kelly) seconded (Ward) to return any unspent monies (from the 2010-11 budget) to the Town. Discussion ensued including using some monies to balance Board of Education program accounts and prioritizing the use of a supplemental appropriation. Vote: 6 in favor (Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Lovely, Ward, Wright) 1 abstention (Chory). Motion passes. It was moved (Kelly) seconded (Labella) to seek a supplemental appropriation from the Town for \$477,056 to be used as follows: \$113,556 to restore freshman sports, sophomore football and girls' club ice hockey; \$210,000 for 3 teaching positions; \$96,000 for 2 secretarial positions; and \$57,500 for 1 custodial position. A lengthy discussion ensued including restoring computer paras, and the Superintendent's recommendation composed of restoring 2.6 teaching positions, 4.0 elementary secretarial positions, freshman sports and, if additional monies were available, the 6.0 computer para positions and 2 custodial positions. Mrs. Herbst noted that she supported Mr. Kelly's motion. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Kelly) to split out the items in the motion [so as to vote on each item separately]. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the validity of the motion. Mr. Iassogna reviewed his recommendations (above) and noted that he did not support the return girls' club ice hockey due to limited participants and sophomore football as few schools offer that level of competition. Mrs. Chory called for point of order on her motion, noting the motion should read to divide the question, not split. More discussion ensued regarding Roberts' Rules of Order and the validity of the motion and no further action was taken on Mrs. Chory's motion. Vote on original motion: 5 in favor (Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Ward, Wright) 2 opposed (Chory, Lovely). Motion passes.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- C. Board Meeting Change of Date—Mr. Lovely and Superintendent Iassogna requested that the Board change the meeting date for July. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Labella) to change their meeting scheduled for July 12, 2011 to Tuesday, July 19, 2011. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- D. Approval/Non-Affiliates Salaries— It was moved (Ward) seconded (Kelly) to approve the salary increases for Non-Affiliates in Agenda Item V-D as presented. Discussion ensued. Mr. Iassogna reviewed salary increases for non-affiliated personnel. He noted that per Board direction he linked non-affiliated positions to similar positions in an appropriate bargaining unit. Further discussion ensued regarding the salaries of the Business Manager and Assistant Superintendent. It was noted that their present salaries are below those for

the same position in similar districts. Further discussion included linking those two positions to the TAA contract—Business Manager to TAA Coordinator position and Assistant Superintendent to the highest level [THS Principal/Director of Curriculum] in TAA contract. Upon further discussion, it was decided to vote on Non-Central Office Non-Affiliates salary increases and Central Office Non-Affiliates salary increases separately. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to approve the salary increases for Non-Central Office Non-Affiliates as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Labella) to approve salary increases for Central Office Non-Affiliates as presented. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to amend the motion to increase the salary amount in [Agenda Item V-D, Central Office Non-Affiliates] *item e* (Business Manager) to \$125,000 and to increase the salary amount in *item f* (Assistant Superintendent) to be an equivalent of a 3.85% raise (over 2010-11 salary). Discussion ensued regarding the Business Manager’s and Assistant Superintendent’s increases. Further discussion ensued re: aligning Assistant Superintendent’s position to Category I of the TAA contract and clarifying the wording in Agenda Item V-D, Central Office Non-Affiliates, *item f*. It was noted that the first sentence in *item f* [“Although not an adjustment, the position of Assistant Superintendent will be aligned to the Category I TAA position and be compensated at least \$2,500 above such position.”] would remain the same and the second sentence would read as follows: “The position of Assistant Superintendent is recommended to receive a 3.85% increase (over 2010-11 salary) for the 2011-12 school year.” More discussion ensued regarding the top salary for 2011-12 in the TAA contract and the Assistant Superintendent’s salary for 2011-12 (with 3.85% increase over 2010-11) and it was the consensus of the Board that the Assistant Superintendent’s increase meets the criteria in the first sentence of *item f*. Also discussed was the Business Manager’s proposed salary and it was noted that the increase should not be viewed as a percentage increase but as an adjustment to the 2010-11 salary. Vote on amendment to motion: 6 in favor (Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Lovely, Ward, Wright) 1 opposed (Chory). Motion passes. Mr. Kelly asked Mr. Wright for his rationale for the amount used (\$125,000) for the adjustment (in salary) in *item e*. Mr. Wright responded that the amount was in line with the responsibilities of the Business Manager’s position and noted that Mr. Sirico (Business Manager) has done a wonderful job in renovating the financial reporting, developed software/programs to streamline financials, and is a Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Wright also noted that he felt \$125,000 for the position was still low but a fair adjustment to the Business Manager’s present salary. Mrs. Chory noted that she could not support a 10+% increase for that position in light of the current economic environment. Vote on original motion as amended: 5 in favor (Herbst, Labella, Lovely, Ward, Wright) 2 opposed (Chory, Kelly). Motion passes.

Agenda Item VII – Receive and File

- A. Pending Litigation – These items were received and filed.
- B. Negotiations – These items were received and filed.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:23 p.m.