

**REVISED 8/2/11**

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – July 19, 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:

E. Lovely, Chairperson  
D. Herbst, Vice Chairperson  
T. Kelly, Secretary  
L. Chory, Board Member  
M. Ward, Board Member  
S. Wright, Board Member (arrived at 7:23 p.m.)

Members absent:

L. Labella, 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 – Tom Kelly reported that several emails were received from parents supporting the reinstatement of computer para-professionals (paras) in the elementary schools.
- C. Comments and Questions – Nancy Fisher, Cook Circle, spoke about the new proposed freshman course and its impact on the scheduling of physical education classes and student schedules. Larry Stowe, 35 Gilbert Drive, computer para at Frenchtown, asked the Board to consider requesting additional monies from the Town to support the reinstatement of computer paras at the elementary schools. He noted that students and teachers will have no support in their use of computer labs and that technology may not be fully utilized which may put students at a disadvantage with 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills. Cindy Altman, Riverbend Road, computer para at Daniels Farm, noted that teachers and students rely on the support of the computer para with many activities and asked the Board for its plan for technology without paras. Annie McDonald, Wallingford, Field Organizer for the Para-Professional bargaining unit, spoke in support of the return of computer paras. Allison Yao, 26 Westwood Road, spoke in support of the computer paras and asked the Board to consider using monies reserved for Freshman sports to reinstate these positions. Josie Magnotti, Frenchtown 5<sup>th</sup> grader, spoke in support of retaining Mr. Stowe at Frenchtown and the VBrick Club. Helen Samoskevich, 32 Indian Road, Madison 6<sup>th</sup> grader spoke in support of Mr. Stowe and his work with students (VBrick Club) and asked the Board to restore him to his position at Frenchtown. Michelle Doris and daughter Erin, 5 Arrowhead Road, spoke in support of computer paras, the VBrick Club at Frenchtown, and noted that technology will go unused without those positions. Laura Palinkas and son Eric, Colony Avenue, spoke in support of computer paras and retaining Mr. Stowe at Frenchtown, the VBrick Club and noted that the PTA has had many fundraisers to support technology purchases. Trish Welch, 294 Putting Green Road, spoke in support of Mr. Stowe and noted that the PTA and Fathers' Club invested thousands of dollars in technology equipment that may go unused. She asked the Board to reconsider putting the computer paras back in the elementary schools and consider raising Pay to Participate fees for sports to free up monies that could be used to restore these positions. Superintendent Iassogna noted that he would follow up with Dr. Tremaglio and Mrs. Luby regarding scheduling of high school courses.

At this time, Mr. Iassogna noted that he had learned today that the Board of Finance (BOF) was in violation of Town Charter when they voted to add \$35,000 to the Board of Education's (BOE) supplemental appropriation request of \$477,056 at the BOF's meeting on July 14, 2011. He also noted that the BOF has called a special meeting to take place on July 21, 2011 to re-address this request and noted that they would be voting again on

this item. If approved, the request will then move forward to the Town Council for action at their meeting on August 1, 2011. He also noted that the BOF voted in favor of transferring the \$1,074,000 in insurance monies to the BOE's operating budget.

- D. Recognition—Family Circle Magazine Award—Mr. Iassogna noted that Trumbull has been voted by Family Circle Magazine as the 7<sup>th</sup> Best Town in America for families, the community should be extremely proud of this recognition which emphasizes the strong quality of life, exceptional schools, and community offerings. He noted the integral role the Trumbull Public Schools played in receiving this award, as it received a score of 9 out of 10 for its excellence in education underscored by our student performance on standardized testing, program offerings, academic achievements and active parental support. Chairman Lovely thanked the Superintendent, Dr. Gary Cialfi and Dr. Linda Paslov for the extensive material they gathered and submitted to the magazine for consideration for this award and noted the district should be proud of the students' performance on CMT and CAPT testing. Dr. Cialfi noted the quality of education in Trumbull is excellent and contributed to the Town's earning this award.

#### Agenda Item II – Personnel

- A. Personnel – A Revised Personnel Agenda was distributed and Mr. Iassogna noted he was very pleased with the quality of the staff that has been hired. As no Board action was required, this item was received and filed.

At this time, it was moved (Herbst) seconded (Wright) to take Agenda Item V-B out of order. Vote: unanimous in favor.

#### Agenda Item V – New Business

- B. Approval/New Course—Dr. Paslov and Mrs. Luby presented a new course, *Freshman Foundations: A Cross-Disciplinary Literacy Experience* which would run one quarter year earning one quarter credit. The course would prepare students for success across the disciplines and would be comprised of four major units: Literature Circles, Mini Research paper, Student ePortfolios, and Study Skills. Mrs. Luby noted that Jennifer Pacelli, Colin Neenan, Jodi Netting and Felicia Holohan were involved in the development of this interdisciplinary course which will address the literacy skills students need to be successful in high school. Mr. Lovely noted his support of this course and thanked the above noted staff for their efforts in creating it. Discussion ensued regarding heterogenic grouping of students, piloting the program, NEASC requirements, scheduling of PE classes, communicating to parents re scheduling and PE changes. Mr. Ward noted that the high school staff saw the need for this type of course and brought the idea forward to the Board and applauded them for their efforts. It was noted that this course would further build skills for students to work with more complex materials and supplements what students learned in middle school. Further discussion ensued regarding piloting the program for its impact on students and scheduling **and continuation of program would be based on data received after one year of implementation**. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to approve the new course as presented. Discussion ensued and it was noted that periodic updates assessing the program should be given to the Board. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes-Regular Meeting– 6/22/11 – By the unanimous consent of the members present at that meeting, the minutes were accepted as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. Special Meeting – 6/27/11 – By the unanimous consent of the members present at that meeting, the minutes were accepted as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- B. Approval/Financial Reports – Mr. Sirico reviewed preliminary reports for the year ending 6/30/11 and noted that he expects to have final numbers by mid-August; and at this time, there should not be much change in the numbers when finalized in August. Following discussion, it was moved (Chory) seconded (Ward) to accept the preliminary Board of Education Expense Report for the 12 months ended 6/30/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Sirico noted that most grants ending

6/30/11 were fully spent and that the Board usually receives approximately \$2,000,000 yearly in grant monies. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to approve the preliminary Grant Expense Report for the 12 months ended 6/30/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Sirico noted that the school lunch program operated evenly despite the loss of the hot lunch program at the high school due to construction. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to approve the preliminary Consolidated Financial Statement for the 12 months ended 6/30/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Sirico noted the Interdistrict Account surplus was low (\$30,000) but based the 2011-12 budget on a \$60,000 surplus and the account may end in a loss for 2011-12. Discussion ensued regarding the effect on budgeting for 2012-13. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to accept the preliminary Board Of Education Program Details Report as of 6/30/11 as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. Discussion ensued regarding bringing restricted trusts with lost contacts through Probate Court so that funds can be released to use for scholarships. Mr. Wright noted that he would follow up on providing information on costs associated with this initiative. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to accept the preliminary Expendable Trust Detail Report as of 6/30/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

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

#### Agenda Item VI—Old Business

B. Student Activity Detail Follow Up—Mr. Iassogna briefly reviewed his recommendation for consolidating and streamlining student activity accounts. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve the Superintendent’s recommendations for consolidating and streamlining Student Activity Accounts as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### Agenda Item III—Consent Agenda

- B. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Ward) to accept the preliminary Student Activity Detail Report as of 6/30/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. Approval/Finance Committee of the Board of Education Transfers— A copy of the June 13, 2011 minutes of this Committee was included in the Board packet for this meeting. The committee also met on July 12, 2011. Mrs. Chory noted that there were 2 transfers for June that required full Board approval. Following discussion, it was moved (Chory) seconded (Wright) to approve June transfers (1389x and 1393x) as recommended. Vote: unanimous in favor.

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

#### Agenda Item V – New Business

##### A. Policies—First Reading

1. Green Cleaning, Policy Code 3524.2—Ms. Damato noted that this policy is being presented for a first reading as the State of Connecticut has enacted legislation that all districts must have a green cleaning program in place by July 1, 2011. The green cleaning program involves products, chemicals and cleaning materials used to clean schools. Mr. Iassogna noted that Plant Operations Department has been phasing in the program and the vast majority of mandates have already been implemented. Mr. Wright noted that this was another example of an unfunded mandate and discussion ensued regarding the implementation of the program, costs of replacing old products with green ones, after school activities that involve clean up, and sanitary wipes used in the classroom. The policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading/approval.
2. Administration of Medication, Policy Code 5141.21—Ms. Carter noted this policy is being presented for a first reading to comply with new state regulations. The PAC committee worked with School Nursing Director Judy Locke and Dr. Kunkel in updating this policy. Discussion ensued

regarding who can administer medication, and student self-administration. The policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading/approval.

#### Agenda Item IV – Reports

- A. Professional Development Plan for 2011-12—Dr. Cialfi gave an overview of the professional development activities planned for the 2011-12 school year. Activities include Standards Based Report Cards for grades 3 through 5 and Assured Performance Based Assessments (APBA) for grades 6 through 12, and reflects multi-year initiatives and promoting alignment of curriculum for all grade levels (i.e. Standard Based Report Cards for middle school and APBA for elementary level). Also noted was the importance of aligning curriculum for 21<sup>st</sup> century learning and integrating social and academic expectations.

#### Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. Supplemental Appropriation Update—Mr. Iassogna again noted that the Board of Finance violated the Town Charter when they voted to approve the Supplemental Appropriation of \$477,056 and increasing it by \$35,000 at their meeting on July 14, 2011 and have called a special meeting on July 21, 2011 to correct the situation by voting on the original request of \$477,056. If approved, the request would move to the Finance Committee of the Town Council, and then to the full Council for action to accept/reject at their meeting on August 1, 2011. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the use of these monies if they are approved. Discussion included using some monies for items not identified in the original request and the importance of computer paras at the elementary level. Mrs. Herbst noted that some items cut from the budget should be re-prioritized and possible use of the supplemental appropriation for items not identified in the request. Mr. Iassogna noted that considerable discussion took place with principals, staff and the para-professional union leadership regarding cutting the computer para positions at the elementary level. He also noted that if the Board chose to use the supplemental appropriation for items not identified in their request, the integrity of the Board may be questioned, but also noted that it is the Board's right to the use of these monies at their discretion. Mr. Ward noted that the elementary principals should devise a plan for use of the computer labs. Mr. Kelly inquired as to how other districts handle elementary computer labs and supports going to the Board of Finance for an additional supplemental appropriation to fund the reinstatement of the elementary computer paras. Mr. Wright also voiced his support for an additional supplemental appropriation and discussion ensued regarding requesting this item be added to the BOF's special meeting agenda. Mr. Iassogna again noted that he felt the \$477,056 should be used as noted in the request to the BOF, and if the Board changed the items to be implemented, they may lose credibility with the Town. Mr. Lovely also noted that changing what would be funded from the supplemental appropriation may impact the integrity of the Board. Both Mr. Kelly and Mr. Wright felt from what occurred at their meeting on July 14, 2011, the Board of Finance would be amenable to giving additional monies to the BOE for the computer paras. Further discussion ensued regarding the importance of the elementary computer paras and plans for the use of the labs without the para. It was moved (Kelly) seconded (Wright) to seek a supplemental appropriation from the Town for \$193,000 to restore the six elementary computer paras. Mrs. Chory and Mrs. Herbst stated they would not support the motion. Vote: 3 in favor (Kelly, Ward, Wright) 3 opposed (Chory, Herbst, Lovely). Motion fails.

#### Agenda Item VII – Receive And File

These items were received and filed.

#### Adjournment

Board Members present gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:52 p.m.