

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting –September 6, 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. Superintendent Evaluation/Salary Continuation— The Public Session began at 6:18 p.m. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Ward) to move to Executive Session to continue discussion on the Superintendent's evaluation and salary and invite the Superintendent to be part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Executive Session began at 6:18 p.m. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Ward) to come out of Executive Session at 6:49 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to recess until 7:00 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Salute to the Flag – The Public Session resumed at 7:04 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.

At this time it was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to postpone discussion on Agenda Item I-A until after Agenda Item I-D. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Correspondence—Mr. Kelly noted that several emails were received concerning class sizes in various elementary grades.

D. Comments: Fran Pechtoll, 10 Trailwood Lane, Grade 2 teacher at Booth Hill, Julie Rogowski, 30 White Oak Lane, Grade 2 teacher at Booth Hill, Michael Cohen, 17 Vixen Road, Lara Walden, 104 West Lake Road, Jennifer Schairer, 220 North Street, George Cooney, 21 Hemlock Trail, all spoke in support of retaining all sections of second grade at Booth Hill School. Steve Spillane, 27 Cranbury Drive, Grade 5 teacher at Daniels Farm, Lisa Newland, Teller Road, Carrie Hall, 86 Firehouse Road, and Teresa Presson, 76 Firehouse Road, all spoke in support of adding a section of 4th grade at Daniels Farm due to enrollment over Board guidelines.

At this time, Board Member Wright introduced Alex Johnston, Chief Executive Officer of Connecticut Coalition for Achievement Now (ConnCan), a non-profit educational advocacy organization devoted to advocating for state policies to ensure every Connecticut student has access to a good education. ConnCan has recognized the Trumbull Public Schools for their efforts in closing the achievement gap for low income, Hispanic and African American students. Mr. Johnston spoke briefly about reduced funding to

school districts, impact of state policies, student achievement, and offered the services of ConnCan to the Board.

At this time, Chairman Lovely noted the passing away of Leonard Germano, Trumbull educator, who spent his entire career with Trumbull Public Schools and served the district as a business teacher, Assistant Principal, House Principal, Associate Principal and Director of Adult/Continuing Education. He also noted the district lost a great educator in that Len brought a genius with scheduling high school classes and FCIAC games, and business operations of the high school.

- A. Superintendent Evaluation/Salary Continuation—Mr. Lovely noted that the process of evaluating the Superintendent was different this year as the Board adopted the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education's (CABE) system of evaluation. Mr. Lovely read a statement regarding the Superintendent (attached). He noted that Superintendent Iassogna successfully completed his goals and the Trumbull Public Schools is fortunate to have him as their leader. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Kelly) to approve the Superintendent's evaluation for the 2010-11 school year. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Lovely) seconded (Wright) to approve a 3 year rollover extension of the Superintendent's contract effective July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2014. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Herbst noted that there are 2 years left on the current Superintendent's contract and at this time is not prepared to extend it as she would prefer to do so following the second year of a three year contract. Vote: 5 in favor (Kelly, Labella, Lovely, Ward, Wright) 2 opposed (Chory, Herbst). Motion passes. It was moved (Lovely) seconded (Labella) to increase the Superintendent's salary by 4%. Mrs. Herbst noted she supported the increase for the Superintendent and thanked him for all his efforts on behalf of the Trumbull Public Schools. Mr. Wright noted he wanted the public to know that the Superintendent donated his raise three years ago to the Trumbull High School Scholarship Foundation, did not take a raise the past two years as the Superintendent told the Board he did not want a raise, and noted his appreciation for all of Mr. Iassogna's efforts on behalf of the district. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Superintendent Iassogna thanked the Board for their support and confidence in him and stated that he is proud to be the district's Superintendent. He also noted that the district has moved forward in providing diverse and comprehensive Pre-K – 12 academic programs for its students and credited the efforts and contributions of all staff, students and parents in making the district successful.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – Mr. Iassogna noted that 7 appointments have been made and Board action was necessary for two retirements. It moved (Herbst) seconded (Ward) to accept the resignations of Patricia Blank, social studies teacher at Madison Middle School since September 1984, retiring effective October 31, 2011 and Linda Edwards, social studies teacher at Madison Middle School since October 1984, retiring effective October 31, 2011. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting –8/16/11 It was moved (Chory) seconded (Wright) to accept the minutes of the August 16, 2011 Board meeting. Mr. Lovely noted that science teacher Thomas Vrabel is Dr. Vrabel and asked that minutes be corrected to reflect his title. Vote on minutes as corrected: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports

- A. Audio/Video Grant—Mr. Iassogna noted that the district will receive a new audio/video system for the Long Hill Administration Building. Dr. Cialfi noted that Trumbull's Cable Television Advisory Committee received a grant in the amount of \$39,873.66 from the Public Educational and Governmental Programming and Education Technology Investment Account. It was noted that these

monies would be used for an audio-video recording system in the Long Hill Assembly Room and a ceiling mounted projector with a motorized drop down screen for the Town Hall Court Chambers. It was noted that the system at Long Hill will provide for efficient panning, zooming and “switching” between cameras 1, 2 and 3; improve audio quality; and can be used for live and recorded streaming of classroom and event presentations, i.e. professional development programs. Also noted was the projector/screen for Town Hall will enhance the quality of various public, education and government meetings and presentations. Training will be available on the use of the new equipment and Mr. Hackett noted the equipment will enhance the quality of programming and give the ability to video stream into classrooms. Dr. Cialfi also noted that they received support from State Representatives T. R. Rowe and Tony Hwang and State Senator Anthony Musto in obtaining the grant.

At this time, it was moved (Herbst) seconded (Ward) to take Agenda Item IV D out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports (out of order)

D. School Opening/Enrollment-Staffing Update—Mr. Iassogna stated he was very pleased with the opening of school today with only minimal issues and that the extra 4 days delay due to the hurricane was helpful, especially with the high school construction. Mr. Iassogna noted that emails were received from parents regarding class sizes at the elementary level, considered their input and appreciated their concerns. He also noted that he has had extensive communication with principals and staff on class size and that today’s classroom is far different from those years ago. The Board was provided an enrollment report with recommendations (attached and also provided to the public) and it was noted that actual numbers compared to projections were almost perfect as TPS enrollment is only 4 students above projections. Mr. Iassogna asked the Board to review the following five areas of concern and recommendations to address their situations: Tashua Kindergarten whose enrollment is one above guidelines with the recommendation to continue monitoring and if enrollment increases, provide some para time; Daniels Farm (DFS) Grade 1 whose enrollment is at max guidelines with the recommendation to continue monitoring and if enrollment increases, provide some para time and DFS Grade 4 with one above guidelines with the recommendation to add 1.0 teacher; Frenchtown PM kindergarten which is 3 above guidelines with recommendation to possibly shift some students to AM kindergarten with lower enrollment; and Middlebrook Grade 2, with 5 budgeted sections but actual scheduled 4 classes whose enrollment is one below guidelines, to keep 4 classes, and eliminate 1.0 teacher. Considerable discussion took place regarding class sizes at all elementary schools, especially those classes at guideline maximums and those close to them, and the need to add additional teaching staff. It was noted that Middlebrook was budgeted for 5.0 teachers for Grade 2 and since their enrollment was one less than guidelines for 4 classes, the fifth 1.0 teacher could be moved to Daniels Farm for Grade 4. Mrs. Colello noted that there were no significant issues with the current Grade 2 and there was no para-professional support for that grade and that there may be more issues with Middlebrook’s Grade 1. Mrs. Labella noted her concern that because enrollment was close to guidelines that the fifth class at Middlebrook shouldn’t be eliminated since it was already budgeted. Mr. Iassogna noted that the student population at Middlebrook is transient so it is difficult to predict whether more students would enroll. Mr. Lovely noted that he supported the Superintendent’s recommendations. Mr. Wright noted his support for keeping 5 classes for Middlebrook’s second grade and adding a teacher for Grade 4 at Daniels Farm. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Labella) to accept the Superintendent’s recommendations as presented except for his recommendation for Grade 2 at Middlebrook, with Middlebrook retaining 5 sections of Grade 2. Discussion ensued including the impact on students when they are moved due to addition/elimination of a class, and the consideration of other close enrollments at other elementary schools. Mrs. Herbst noted her support for the Superintendent’s recommendations but would like information on retentions and the impact of RTI

inventions. Mr. Iassogna noted that each situation at the schools must be reviewed when deciding on class size and whether to add/eliminate a class. Vote: 3 in favor (Labella, Ward, Wright) 4 opposed (Chory, Herbst, Kelly, Lovely). Motion fails. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Superintendent's recommendations as presented. Vote: 4 in favor (Chory, Herbst, Kelly, Lovely) 3 opposed (Labella, Ward, Wright). Motion passes.

- B. Connecticut Mastery Test (CMT) Report—Dr. Paslov reviewed a power point presentation of CMT scores and noted that the results of these assessments reflect that students in grades 3 to 8 performed extremely well, particularly when cohort scores are analyzed. The presentation included an explanation of CMT's, understanding and defining growth, grade level trends, cohort gains, vertical scale scores, Trumbull's relative standing in DRG B, curriculum, instruction and assessments. Also discussed were professional development for new programs in science, language arts, reading and mathematics, analysis of assessments, new science standards, new curriculum from the State for language arts, mathematics, and kindergarten, standards based report cards for middle school, and curriculum conforming to Common Core State Standards.
- C. CAPT (Connecticut Academic Performance Test) Report—Dr. Tremaglio noted that Trumbull High looks at CAPT as a diagnostic report to track performance and make adjustments to curriculum to improve performance, such as the Board approved new 9th grade skills course to assist 9th graders in adjusting to academic rigors of high school. Dr. Paslov reviewed a power point presentation of CAPT scores and noted that results reflect that Grade 10 students performed extremely well compared to the State on goal. Results were similar to last year, except for Reading which will be a focus for 2011-12. The presentation included an explanation of CAPT, grade level trends, and Trumbull's standing in DRG B. It was noted that between 92% and 97% of Grade 10 students scored at the proficient level in math, reading, writing and science, with 48% scoring at the advanced level in science and 57% at the advanced level in writing. Also noted was that Plato Learning, RTI Studio, Grade 9 skills classes and assessments are used to improve instruction and student performance. Mrs. Herbst thanked Dr. Paslov and noted her appreciation for all Dr. Paslov's efforts in putting together the thorough presentations on both CMT and CAPT. Patrick Curtin, Student Board Representative noted that his was the first class that did well on the CAPT, that Dr. Tremaglio had visited all classes and spoke of the importance of doing well on the test, and that students took Dr. Tremaglio's words seriously and were motivated to do well. Emma Connolly, Student Board Representative, noted she thought the tests were okay, except for reading, and that students were motivated to do well.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. Approval/Head Start Food Service Agreement—Mr. Iassogna noted that this is an annual agreement between Trumbull/Monroe Head Start program and the Trumbull Board of Education Food Service Department, who furnishes the meals for the joint program. Board approval is needed for compliance with Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve the Head Start Food Service Agreement as outlined. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI—Old Business

Agenda Item VII – Other

Mr. Iassogna noted that other districts are discussing revising school calendars in light of the 4 days lost due to the hurricane and that he would bring some suggestions to the Board on this issue.

Adjournment

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