

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – January 17, 2012
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:

S. Wright, Chairperson
D. Herbst, Vice Chairperson
T. Kelly, Secretary
L. Chory, Board Member
R. Seaman, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member (arrived at 7:00 p.m.)

Members absent:

L. Labella, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 6:30 p.m.
- B. Pending Litigation-- It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to move to Executive Session to discuss pending special education litigation matters and invite the Superintendent, the Director of Pupil Services (Dr. Michael McGrath) and Attorney Marcia Moses to be part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:59 p.m. and the Public Session reconvened at 8:00 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- C. Correspondence –There was no correspondence this evening.
- D. Comments – Anthony D’Quila commented on the lack of Board policy on Waivers of Fees (for Pay to Participate) and Pay to Participate (athletics, band, activities) and noted that policies should be developed for those items. Superintendent Iassogna noted that while there is no official policy as yet on Waiver of Fees, he uses a procedure based on family needs/hardship to determine if a waiver should be granted.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Iassogna noted that one resignation was received that needed Board action. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Seaman) to accept the resignation of Steven Culbertson, Middle School Special Education Department Chairman since August 2011, resigning effective January 20, 2012. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

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 (out of order)

- A. Board of Education Insurance Audit—Superintendent Iassogna noted that the Town conducted a Dependent Audit for all Board of Education employees and noted the report reflects that all Board of Education employee dependents are eligible for insurance coverage. Town Internal Auditor Jim Henderson reviewed the procedures involved in the audit and noted there were no problems with eligibility issues. At the request of Mr. Kelly, the Superintendent noted that Business Manager Steve Sirico oversees insurance and Insurance Coordinator Arlene Millbauer handles all paperwork and employee questions/concerns and commended both for their outstanding efforts.

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

Agenda Item V – New Business (out of order)

A. Approval/Curriculum Guides—Dr. Paslov and Mrs. Perusi reviewed several World Languages curriculum guides. *Spanish II Conversation and Culture*, a full year/1 credit course, is a comprehensive, detailed study of the language and culture of Spanish speaking countries and includes products, practices and perspectives of the culture. *Spanish III Conversation and Culture*, a full year/1 credit course, is a continuation of *Spanish II* and includes the study and practice of the language and embedded culture. Discussion ensued and it was noted that these courses were developed as an alternate method to reach students who wished to learn about the culture and conversation of the language with less emphasis on grammar. *Latin IV Honors*, a full year/1 credit course, underscores Latin throughout the ages and includes fables, legends, medieval writings, historical documents, and church Latin. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve curriculum guides for *Spanish II Conversation and Culture*, *Spanish III Conversation and Culture*, and *Latin IV Honors* as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 1/3/12 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Chairman Wright reminded the Board, as initiated at their January 3, 2012 meeting, that a new procedure would be utilized with regard to the Consent Agenda. Anything listed under Consent Agenda would be accepted/approved without discussion, unless any Board member had questions or concerns or wished to discuss topics under this agenda item. If this was the case, Board members could request the particular item be taken off of the Consent Agenda and reviewed. Also noted was each item removed from the Consent Agenda would have to be voted on individually for approval. Mr. Wright suggested that if Board members had questions/concerns, they should make the Superintendent cognizant of any issue at least 24 hours before the Board meeting to give him a “heads up” to provide him time to obtain information on such requests and more fully respond to the query. Mrs. Chory requested that Agenda Item III-B be taken off the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Chory questioned the line item “Due to Others” on the Consolidated Financial Statements page of the financial reports and Mr. Sirico noted that amounts include salaries and staff reimbursements. Mr. Kelly asked about the amount of potential unspent monies in this year’s budget and Mr. Iassogna noted at this time, it was very preliminary to predict an amount due to possible unforeseen expenses, but his best “guesstimate” would be about \$1,000,000 available at the end of the 2011-12 (fiscal) year. Also reviewed were transportation cost savings and it was noted the savings were due to reduced Special Education transportation costs including summer buses and out of district transportation. Also discussed were Repairs and Services and it was noted that budgeted amounts were hard to predict as it is based on need.

B. Approval/Financial Reports as of 12/31/11 – Following discussion, it was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Board of Education Expense Report for the 6 months ended 12/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Grant Expense Report for the 6 months ended 12/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Consolidated Financial Statement as of and for the month ended 12/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Board of Education Programs Detail Report as of 12/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Seaman) to accept the Expendable Trust Detail Report as of 12/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Student Activity Detail Report as of 12/31/11 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV—Reports

A. Oral Reports

1. Teacher Board Representative – Karen Rodrigues thanked and noted her appreciation to the Board for all their hard work and efforts on the budget. She noted that the elementary schools were involved with assessment testing including DRP and math and held discussions about Martin Luther King. She also noted that the middle school staff is most appreciative of the Board’s restoring the reading specialists in the budget as many students were not able to have reading and/or support this current school year. Ms. Rodrigues also noted that Trumbull High School (THS) is preparing for mid-term exams and invited Board members to visit any classes at the schools to see the education taking place and staff would welcome their visit.
2. Student Board Representatives—Emma Connolly thanked the Board for their hard work and efforts on the budget. She noted that Peer Leaders are involved in presenting bullying programs to sophomores and want to present programs to middle school students. She also noted there are programs to help students with study skills and more seniors have applied for early decision with colleges. Also noted was the lunch time may be reduced to provide more instructional time. Patrick Curtin noted recent false alarms due to construction issues at the high school that have been disruptive to staff and students. Mr. Iassogna noted that a faulty sensor was causing the alarm to go off and the Building Committee and contractor have been working together to solve the problem. He noted the unfortunate incidents where students and staff were forced out of the building in extremely cold and inclement weather and that ongoing construction continues to be a challenge. Mr. Iassogna also noted that he will be meeting with the Board Chair, Building Committee members, architect and contractors and is inviting the First Selectman and Town Council members to be part of the discussion to resolve issues involved in the renovation. Patrick also noted that an Ivy League school has asked THS Principal Dr. Tremaglio to encourage more students to apply to their school and more colleges have approached THS to schedule visits.

- B. Finance Committee of the Board of Education Transfers as of 12/31/11— Mr. Sirico reviewed the transfers and noted that 1434x was due to moving a position that was listed in THS guidance account to a PPS account as it more accurately reflects the position. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve December transfer 1434x as recommended. A considerable discussion ensued regarding the manner in which “actuals” for individual line items are reported, including amounts reported on a certain date and those amounts changing when reported after that date and tracking changes. It was noted that the “actuals” for the total budget figure does not change. It was decided that the Finance Committee would decide how they want financial reports presented with regard to line item “actuals”. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Ward) to amend the motion to add the wording “increase the PPS Administration/THS teacher account”. Vote on motion as amended: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Ward) to approve December transfer 1445x as recommended. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Iassogna noted that Mr. Sirico does an excellent job with financial reporting and he would support the Board’s decision on how they want financials to be reported. Chairman Wright noted the importance of several groups, Trumbull Partnership Against Underage Drinking (TPAUD) and Trumbull Parents of Students with Learning Differences (TPSLD) and encouraged Board members to attend their meetings. Mr. Wright also noted the importance of the Superintendent’s Evaluation/Goal Setting process whereby Committee members (Mr. Wright, Mrs. Herbst) meet with the Superintendent to review his progress. He also noted that this process includes Board Self Evaluation through Board retreats and meetings with the Superintendent.

Agenda Item VII – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:18 p.m.