

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – February 7, 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:

Members absent:

S. Wright, Chairperson
D. Herbst, Vice Chairperson
T. Kelly, Secretary
L. Chory, Board Member
L. Labella, Board Member
R. Seaman, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 7:15 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Mr. Kelly noted that the Board received a letter from Craig Breslow asking them to consider naming the Trumbull High School soccer field in honor of his father Abe Breslow, a retired teacher and soccer coach for the high school.
- C. Recognitions—Dr. Paslov noted that the Long Hill Garden Club recently donated trees to each elementary school as part of their Native Tree Project and will continue this initiative on a yearly basis. The first graders at each school were involved in the planting of the trees, as they journal a tree’s seasonal changes as part of the first grade science curriculum. Dr. Paslov presented a plaque to club members Cheryl Basztura, President, Lois Pfrommer, John Williamson and Ruth Mohr, and Superintendent Iassogna presented them with “Make a Difference” pins. Both thanked the club for their generosity and dedication to the students of Trumbull and asked them to convey such to all club members.
- D. Comments: There were no comments this evening.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – Mr. Iassogna noted that one resignation was received that needed Board action. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to accept the resignation of Heather Murphy, .5 teacher of the deaf since August 2010, resigning effective February 17, 2012. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting –1/17/12 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented. It was noted that Mrs. Labella wished to abstain from the vote as she was not present at that meeting.

At this time, it was moved (Seaman) seconded (Herbst) to take the following agenda items out of order—V-A, IV-A, V-B, V-C, and IV-B. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V – New Business(out of order)

- A. Approval/2012-13 Calendar – Dr. Paslov reviewed the proposed 2012-13 calendar, noting that Spring parent conferences have been added per Connecticut State mandate. It was noted that the first student

day would be Monday, August 27, 2012 with a tentative last day set for June 13, 2013. Six snow/make up days would be added to the end of the school year with additional make up days to be taken from the February vacation beginning with Friday, February 22, 2013. Also noted was that if more than 10 days were needed to make up lost time, it would be taken from the April 9, 2013 Professional Development Day and followed by an additional day in June. Mr. Iassogna commented that parent conferences can take place any time during the school year at a parent's request and are not limited to designated parent conference days. A brief discussion ensued. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Seaman) to approve the proposed calendar for the 2012-13 school year. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports (out of order)

A. Trumbull High School (THS) Attendance, Policy Code 5113 – Superintendent Iassogna noted that this policy has been reviewed, adopted and revised on seven different occasions and has been discussed in length at the Board's table. He noted that the administration believes Board input at this time would be invaluable as the policy is returning to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) for revision. It was noted that the policy did come before PAC in October 2011 but was not moved forward for action and district involvement evolved from several THS teachers' ongoing concerns that the current policy was not meeting the needs of the high school or its original intent. Also noted was that this policy is an integral and essential component to provide effective and productive learning for high school students and that student attendance is critical to a successful experience. Mr. Iassogna further noted that he has had several meetings with high school staff on this issue and the focus on the requested modifications to the policy revolves around misunderstanding and confusion regarding student attendance and the loss of credit. He thanked THS teachers Nick Banks and John Evans for spearheading this initiative and noted that at this time Board input was desired before sending the policy back to PAC for revision. It was noted that since the loss of credit for unexcused absences was removed from the policy, attendance has become a notable issue at the high school. It was further noted that area school districts were surveyed and most have policies concerning high school absences and loss of credit. Mr. Banks reviewed the suggested policy changes and process regarding notification to parents/guardians of student absences and loss of credit due to absences. Considerable discussion ensued with suggestions for revisions including: threshold of absences for notifying parents; expeditious notification to parent/guardian when threshold is reached; definition of excused and unexcused absences; methods of notifying parents (phone calls, letters); verifying parent/guardian received message/letter; documentation of parent/guardian notification; documentation of illness; involving administrative/crisis intervention staff for students with chronic absences; appeals process; and parent meetings when students have accumulating absences. It was noted that these suggestions would be incorporated into the policy that will be forwarded to PAC. The Board commended Nick Banks, John Evans, Dr. Tremaglio and Rita McDougald-Campbell and staff for their efforts in revising this policy.

Agenda Item V – New Business (out of order)

- B. Policies – First reading—Volunteers, Policy Code 1212.1 – Dr. Cialfi noted that this policy last came before the Board in April 2008 and briefly reviewed language changes. Mrs. Cantafio noted additional wording that was changed after the Board received the policy. Mrs. Herbst noted several wording changes. A brief discussion ensued including mandatory security checks for all volunteers; timeliness of security checks and notifying principals; and parent volunteers in a child's classroom. The policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading/approval.
- C. ESEA Waiver Flexibility – Dr. Cialfi noted that the United States Department of Education (USDE) is inviting each State Educational Agency (SEA) to request flexibility regarding specific requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act, 2001 (NCLB). This waiver flexibility will enable the Connecticut State Department of Education and all Connecticut public school districts to better focus on improving student learning and increasing the quality of instruction. This opportunity will provide Connecticut with flexibility related to Section 9401 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) and the specific requirements of NCLB in exchange for a state-developed, rigorous and comprehensive plan designed to

improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity and improve the quality of instruction. It was noted that Reform efforts already underway include (1) transitioning to college and career-ready standards and assessments; (2) developing systems of differentiated recognition, accountability, and support; (3) evaluating and supporting teacher and principal effectiveness; and (4) reducing duplication and unnecessary burden. One example of how the waiver will impact Trumbull is the required “Adequate Yearly Progress” (AYP) measurement. The 2013-2014 100% CMT proficiency standard will be replaced by multiple assessment indicators to support a growth model expectation for all students and the use of progress monitoring of students to track student achievement and needs. Discussion ensued including universal assessments (national and state versus local) and teacher evaluation process. Mr. Iassogna noted that if Connecticut is not granted this waiver, the State will continue to follow NCLB; but if the waiver is granted, the State and/or local Boards of Education must devise a plan to improve student outcomes. Mr. Iassogna also noted that Commissioner of Education Stefan Pryor will be visiting Trumbull Public Schools on Thursday, March 8, 2012 to visit classes and speak with teachers.

At this time, Chairman Wright noted that the Trumbull PTA Council’s “ABC’s of the Education Budget” document and powerpoint presentation received recognition from the National PTA Organization as a runner up for the National Education Advocacy Award. Also noted was that the Connecticut Boards of Education (CABE) was also interested in this document/presentation for possible use at their annual conference in November. Mr. Wright also noted and commended the THS Mock Trial team who placed 3rd in the State at the annual competition.

A brief recess was called at 9:07 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 9:17 p.m.

Agenda Item IV – Reports (out of order)

B. RTI Studio – Mr. Iassogna began the presentation with Trumbull Public Schools’ three questions: What do we want our students to learn? How do we know they have learned it? What do we do if they did not learn it? and noted that it was the third question that would be the focus of using RTI Studio software. Dr. Paslov gave a powerpoint presentation, reviewing all aspects of RTI Studio, a web-based data system which simplifies data driven decision making for all pre-k through 12 teachers and administrators, and complements the implementation of several key areas, including Connecticut State mandate on SRBI. This new technology tool enables teachers and administrators to collect, store, and analyze student academic performance and behavioral data in one place, across multiple years as it relates to Benchmark Assessments, student performance on standardized tests (CMT, OLSAT, CAPT), district interventions (SRBI) and corresponding Progress Monitoring, and student behavior/discipline incidents (PBIS). Mr. Denisevich expanded on the many uses of the software and ease of using it. It was emphasized that having the information all in one place would be a more efficient way to provide for monitoring student progress/achievement. Also noted was the district was just beginning to implement its use. Discussion ensued including teacher use, access rights, security, parent portal, and data analyst to interpret results.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

There was no “old” business this evening.

Agenda Item VII – Other

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:27 p.m.