

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – April 10, 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 7:10 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- C. Correspondence – Mr. Kelly noted that the Board received multiple emails from parents in support of full day kindergarten and restoring previously eliminated programs.

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

Agenda Item IV—Reports (out of order)

- A. RYASAP Survey—Superintendent Iassogna conveyed that the Trumbull Public Schools as well as surrounding districts (Bridgeport, Stratford, Monroe and Fairfield) have participated in the Regional Youth/Adult Substance Abuse Project (RYASAP) survey on the needs, attitudes and behaviors of students in grades 7 through 12. Given every three years, the survey data provides the schools and community with a wide range of information that helps address the developmental needs of youth. Robert Francis, Executive Director of RYASAP gave a power point presentation reviewing the results of the survey which indicates that Trumbull showed gains in most primary asset and thriving behavior categories. He also noted several areas of concern including an increase in students reporting sadness, depression and thoughts of suicide. He presented the Board with an Executive Summary and conveyed that Trumbull is a community that is proactive in their commitment to their children and is a role model for other communities. He also noted that the Executive Summary, along with other detailed information will be posted in the near future on its website, www.ryasap.org.

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- B. Recognitions – The Odyssey of the Mind teams from Booth Hill, Tashua, combined Hillcrest/Madison and Trumbull High gave excellent performances at the Connecticut State Finals held on March 31, 2012. Dr. Cialfi gave a brief summary of the teams' projects and team members were introduced. One team from Tashua placed second at the State competition and members were invited to the World Finals to be held in May. Both the Superintendent and the Board commended the students for their outstanding efforts in this academic extracurricular activity.

A brief recess was called at 7:55 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 8:07 p.m.

- D. Comments – Lainie McHugh, 132 Fresh Meadow Drive, PTA Council President, conveyed that PTA Council is sponsoring an evening with motivational speaker Travis Roy, requested that meaningful language be incorporated into the Homework policy which is currently being revised, and asked the Board to take a hard look when making decisions as to what programs will be funded for the 2012-13 school year. Larry Stowe, 35 Gilbert Drive, asked the Board to consider restoring previously cut positions/programs before funding full day kindergarten, with strong emphasis on restoring the computer para-professionals in the elementary schools. Leslie Davis, 76 Bunker Hill Drive asked the Board to make responsible decisions for all students and to restore all programs that were eliminated in 2011-12. Cindy Katske, 129 Meadowview Drive, expressed concerns with funding full day kindergarten with unspent monies and asked the Board to proceed with caution when considering funding for programs. Becky Greene, 87 Towerview Drive, spoke in support of not funding full day kindergarten. Kary McCoy, 51 Koger Road, Veronica Lenzen, 52 Woodhaven Drive, Dana Meisner, Stoneleigh Road, Cary Milewski, 165 Blackhouse Road, Shannon Mccoy, 51 Koger Road and Julie Stenz, Highgate Road, all spoke in support of full day kindergarten.

At this time, it was moved (Seaman) seconded (Labella) to take the following Agenda Items V-A, V-B, and V-C out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V – New Business (out of order)

- A. Approval/New Course Proposal: Applications of Mathematics/Algebra III –Dr. Paslov reviewed a new course, Applications of Mathematics/Algebra III to be offered to Grade 12 students. The course will include probability and statistics, voting methods, finance, matrices, series and sequences, and intensive Algebra review. This course will conform to Common Core State Standards of providing a fourth year of mathematics for students. Dr. Paslov provided the Board with an outline of the course. Mrs. Basbagill conveyed that this course was developed for students in College Prep Algebra II who wished to take a fourth year of math, as there presently is no course available for them other than business accounting and recordkeeping. Discussion ensued including concerns that other courses may have increased enrollment or be eliminated to accommodate the new course. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve Applications of Mathematics/Algebra III as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor. Chairman Wright commended Mrs. Basbagill for her efforts to expand math offerings for all students at the high school.
- B. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff— Each year, prior to April 1, the Board of Education is asked to non-renew contracts of non-tenured staff whose employment may not continue. Such reductions fall within the scope of the statutory teacher employment and tenure provisions, Section 10-151 of the CT General Statutes. Non-renewal recommendations are applicable to non-tenured teachers and Long Term Replacement teachers. Mr. Iassogna conveyed that there are 7 non-renewals, all long term replacement positions. Following discussion, it was moved (Herbst) seconded (Seaman) that pursuant to the CT General Statutes 10-151, the Trumbull Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of the following long term replacement staff at the end of the 2011-12 school year as recommended by the Superintendent: Jessica Birch, Catherine Dicine, Tara Fernandes, Mary Elizabeth Raucci, Robert Reda, Kimberly Soule, Marion Sperry and Elisa Stella and further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests which may be forthcoming from these teachers or their representatives pursuant to CT General Statutes 10-151. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- C. Policy—First Reading
1. Homework, Policy Code 6154—Dr. Cialfi noted that this policy was last revised in 1997. Mrs. Tesoro researched area district policies on homework and input was received from principals, staff members and Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) parents. Discussion ensued including purpose of homework,

meaningful assignments, wording regarding time management, time allotments, and student learning outside the classroom. It was noted that PAC may survey parents and high school students. Both Student Board Representatives noted that it was difficult to determine an average amount of time spent on homework at the high school level, due to level and amount of courses students take. The policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Iassogna noted that four resignations were received that needed Board action. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Seaman) to accept the resignations of the following staff: Stacey Glanz, special education teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2011, resigning effective June 30, 2012; Erin Knight, special education teacher at Middlebrook School since August 2011, resigning effective June 30, 2012; Paul Vespe, special education teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2011, resigning effective June 30, 2012; and Barry Wasserman, psychologist (.40) at Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center since September 2006, resigning effective June 30, 2012. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 3/27/12 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.
- B. Approval/Financial Reports as of 3/31/12 – Mr. Sirico conveyed that due to time constraints, the following financial reports were not available for discussion/approval: Grant Expense, Consolidated Financial Statement, Board of Education (BOE) Programs Detail, and Expendable Trust Detail and Student Activity Detail. Mr. Sirico reviewed the Board of Education Expense report for the 9 months ended March 31, 2012. A brief discussion ensued regarding the following accounts: teacher salary; health insurance; consultants; salaries other; energy; and out of district tuition. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Ward) to accept the Board of Education Expense Report for the 9 months ended 3/31/12 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. 2012-13 Budget Review—Chairman Wright conveyed that through an agreement with fellow Board members, First Selectman Tim Herbst and Town Council Chair Carl Massaro, the Board would address this evening the Board of Education budget for 2012-13 and its intentions as to where allocated monies would be used. Mr. Wright expressed his views on the purpose and responsibilities of the BOE, noting the Board must provide an appropriate educational program for students at every spectrum and enable the district to continue operational responsibilities in a safe and secure manner. He also noted that BOE expenditures are constrained by mandated standards and programs, enrollment and contractual obligations and unfunded or underfunded statutory directives and compliance requirements, all of which direct the spending of funds. Superintendent Iassogna stated that on Thursday, April 12, 2012 the Town Council will approve the Town/Board of Education budget for 2012-13. He noted that he anticipates the Town Council will approve the First Selectman's allocation of 3.47% increase from last year's budget to the Board. If the Board were to receive the 3.47% increase, that amount represents a \$1.4 million decrease from the Board's request to the Town and would necessitate the elimination of personnel, priority restorations, and new initiatives, i.e. Full/Extended Day Kindergarten. Mr. Iassogna provided the Board with a recommendation to achieve the basic district goal of providing the Core Budget, some prioritized restorations (2.0 elementary school secretaries; 8.0 interns; 2.0 middle school reading teachers; and 2.0 high school teachers) and Full Day Kindergarten and noted this challenging task can be achieved by utilizing unspent 2011-12 monies and Connecticut General Statute 10-248A, which states that unexpended monies that do not exceed 1% of the total budgeted appropriation can be carried over to the following year. That amount for the 2011-12 budget equates to approximately \$875,000. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Kelly) that the Board of Education approve the following actions: 1. Upon the approval by the Town Council of line item 01060000 522205 Program Expense in

the Town Budget in the amount directed by the First Selectman and approved by the Board of Finance, the Superintendent of Schools shall immediately request a special meeting of the Board of Finance. The purpose of this meeting will be to request, pursuant to CT General Statute 10-248a (text below), approval by the Board of Finance to deposit into a non-lapsing account the amount of \$874,448, said funds to be directed to implementing recommended restorations/additions and full-day kindergarten. The meeting should be held as soon as possible in order to confirm to parents in the community that this programming will be implemented, and also to allow the Superintendent to begin hiring the best teachers to fill the positions necessary to support this programming. 2. At the first meeting of the Board of Education following the approval by the Town Council of the Board of Education appropriation stated above, the Board of Education will re-allocate \$175,000 from identified Transportation accounts to accounts identified by the Superintendent to support the above-stated programming goals. 3. The Superintendent will also request to appear in front of the Board of Finance at their regular meeting scheduled for July 2012 in order to request the transfer of \$874,448 from the non-lapsing account into line item 01060000 522205 Program Expense in the Town Budget, thereby making it available to the Board of Education to pay expenses incurred in the implementation of the above-stated programming goals. Mr. Wright noted his support for this motion. Mrs. Labella conveyed that using Connecticut State Statute Sec. 10-248A was a best compromise to fund the above mentioned programs. Mrs. Herbst thanked Mr. Wright for his leadership in bringing the community together, thanked Board members for their efforts in working together for the children and stated she will support the motion. Mr. Kelly thanked the Superintendent, Dr. Cialfi and staff for their hard work in preparing the budget, Mr. Wright for his leadership and stated he will support the motion. Mrs. Seaman voiced her pride in being a member of the Board and noted everyone has given an outstanding effort to provide for students and will support the motion. Mr. Ward also thanked Mr. Wright and stated his support of the motion. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Sec. 10-248a. Unexpended education funds account. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, and each fiscal year thereafter, notwithstanding any provision of the general statutes or any special act, municipal charter, home rule ordinance or other ordinance, the board of finance in each town having a board of finance, the board of selectman in each town having no board of finance or the authority making appropriations for the school district for each town may deposit into a non-lapsing account any unexpended funds from the prior fiscal year from the budgeted appropriation for education for the town, provided such amount does not exceed one per cent of the total budgeted appropriation for education for such prior fiscal year.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:17 p.m.