

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Special Meeting – June 20, 2012
Long Hill Administration Building
Lorraine R. Smith Assembly Room

The Trumbull Board of Education convened in the Long Hill Administration Building for a Special 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 6:00 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.

B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.

C. Comments – There were no public comments this evening.

At this time, Superintendent Iassogna conveyed that Trumbull High School produced a video that is a “snapshot” of the school year and shared it with the Board and audience. He also shared that the closing of school this year was exceptional and all graduation/stepping forth ceremonies at all levels were well done with great speeches and excellent student behavior. Mr. Kelly also commented on the wonderful remarks the Superintendent and Board Chair made in their high school graduation speeches.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

A. Personnel – Superintendent Iassogna noted that one resignation was received that needed Board action. He shared that Doug Cucchiarelli has accepted a promotional position as an Assistant Principal in Branford and wished him well. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Seaman) to accept the resignation of Douglas Cucchiarelli, science teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since September 2003, resigning effective June 30, 2012. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 6/5/12 and Special Meeting – 6/6/12 By unanimous consent of members present at those meetings, the minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda Item IV—Reports

A. Approval—Utilization of 2011-12 Unspent Monies—Superintendent Iassogna conveyed that the amount of unspent monies for 2011-12 would range between \$125,000 and \$300,000 above the \$875,000 earmarked for Full Day Kindergarten from Connecticut State Statute 10-248a. He noted that unspent monies could be returned to the Town, used for needed items, or use some monies for Board purchases and return the balance to the Town. Mr. Iassogna and Board Chair Wright met with the First Selectman and Town Council Chair to discuss the use of these unspent monies before the Board meeting. They reviewed several scenarios for use of these monies including: one-time elimination of Pay to Participate fees; elementary/middle school breakfast offerings; contribution toward construction of Trumbull High concession stand; funding low cost plant projects; and purchasing technology equipment. After much discussion, both Board and Town officials felt the best use of unspent monies would be towards technology as both students and teachers would benefit and it would reduce the amount of bonding for the 3-Year

Technology Plan. Mr. Iassogna recommended that unspent monies be used to purchase technology equipment, primarily to replace old computers. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Herbst stated that she would support the Superintendent's recommendation. She also asked that a proposal, including costs, be brought forward with regard to instituting a breakfast program for elementary and middle school students. Mr. Kelly conveyed that he would like some of the unspent monies to be used to eliminate Pay to Participate fees for the 2012-13 school year as he felt some children were not participating in athletics and other fee-based activities due to costs. Discussion continued regarding the athletic insurance fees, refunding such fees when a student does not make a team/activity, negotiating a better rate with the insurance company and student waivers. Superintendent Iassogna shared that he has granted waivers for most families who request them as those families provide sufficient evidence to support granting a waiver. Mrs. Labella suggested that some unspent monies could be placed in Board of Education Program accounts and some monies used for items cut from the curriculum budget. Curriculum Director Dr. Paslov reviewed the needs of the Curriculum Department such as textbooks and on-line subscriptions, and noted most on-line subscriptions in the budget were for items not directly related to student instruction. Dr. Cialfi shared that grant money was available to supplement the curriculum budget. Mrs. Seaman shared that old computers cannot handle many of the new software and on-line subscriptions and supports upgrading technology. Mr. Iassogna shared that the Town would support the Board's use of unspent monies for technology which in turn would reduce the amount needed for the bonding of the 3-Year Technology Plan. Mr. Wright conveyed that he would like to eliminate Pay to Participate fees and use future unspent monies [related to Connecticut State Statute 10-248a] towards eliminating fees. More discussion ensued regarding athletic insurance being separated into a fee for tryouts and a separate fee for students who make the team. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to approve the utilization of remaining unspent monies (above the 1% from Connecticut State Statute 10-248a) for the purpose of purchasing technology equipment, primarily computers, included in the 3-Year State mandated Technology Plan. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Kelly) to amend the motion to utilize \$25,000 for the purchase of textbooks [curriculum] and the remainder of the unspent monies to be used for technology as stated in the original motion. Discussion ensued including student activity funding for waivers and scholarships, and using unspent monies as agreed with the Town. Mr. Iassogna shared that his recommendation would help both the Board and Town. Mrs. Herbst stated she would not support using monies to purchase textbooks but will support using monies for technology. Vote on motion as amended: 3 in favor (Kelly, Labella, Wright) 4 opposed (Chory, Herbst, Seaman, Ward). Motion fails. Vote on original motion: 6 in favor (Chory, Herbst, Kelly, Seaman, Ward, Wright) 1 abstention (Labella). Motion passes. Discussion ensued as to the timing of making the request of the Board of Finance to transfer the 1% of unspent monies [\$874,448 from the non-lapsing account into line item 01060000 522205 Program Expense in the Town Budget] into the Board of Education account. Mrs. Chory suggested that the Board could wait to request monies to see if needed based on the availability of unspent monies in past years. It was noted that the Board had already voted to direct the Superintendent to request the transfer of these monies into the Board's budget and Mr. Iassogna stated that he would be sending his request to the Board of Finance within the week.

Agenda Item V – New Business

There was no New Business this evening.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

There was no Old Business this evening.

Agenda Item VII – Receive and File

There were no reports under this agenda item.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 7:17 p.m.