

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – June 5, 2012
Trumbull High School
Auditorium

The Trumbull Board of Education convened in the Auditorium of Trumbull High School 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 7:05 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.

B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.

C. Recognitions –

1. Tenure Teachers – The following staff members were recognized and commended for attaining tenure status with the Trumbull Board of Education: Lisa Acerbo, Joseph Amaturio, Eric August, Danielle Avery, Kathleen Boland, Kristopher Boyle, Kory Buswell, Nedijka Carrano, Jennifer Conti, Taryn Cutler, Nicole Decker, Ashley DelGreco, Nicole Destadio, Robert Devine, Heather Domurad, Bernadette Dunn, Raquel Espejo, Elaine Farr, Yulia Fedorov, Michael Ferraro, Courtney Forde, Paul Gabriel, Meghan Gleason, Jacqueline Goldfarb, Kimberly Greco, Laura Hatstat, Jacqueline Hennessey, Philip Kennan, Madelyn Kennedy, Kristen Kravecs, Amy LaMaine, James McCaffrey, Michelle Molloy, Katherine Musto, Kristen O’Connell-Rubin, Mary O’Neil, Jennifer Pacelli, Danielle Pastir, Dean Pelligra, Kelly Procaccini, Melissa Pytlak, Joanna Rosen, Genevieve Ruane, Kristin Ruggiero, Laura Santelli, Ashley Thoesen, Jeffrey Vance and Rachel Wolfe.
2. TPSLD Awards – Trumbull Parents of Students with Learning Differences (TPSLD) are a group dedicated to increasing awareness of learning differences between children. Annually, TPSLD presents awards to recognize outstanding achievements by people who improve the lives of Trumbull students with disabilities. The following people received certificates for their work with students: Cynthia Wettenstein, David Turechek, Stacy Weinstein, Allison Osterberg, Laura Heyder, Courtney Forde, Susan Mitola, Jessica Thom, Jennifer Brennan, Marie Nuzzi, Jessica Mangini, Christine Farrell, Pamela Flynn, Mary Pierce, Ashley Thoesen, Janel Volpicelli, Pam Korchinski, Jennifer Marsilius, Clarissa, Biasuz, Paula Murphy and Mary Ann Dailey. The TPSLD “Above and Beyond” Awards were presented to Sharon Lomnitzer, Adult; Susan Watson, Paraprofessional; Jamie Appelberg, Youth; and Jack Martin, Honorable Mention Adult.

At this time, Superintendent Iassogna briefly reviewed the visit with representatives from South Korea who spent time with the district in an educational exchange. They toured schools and met with administrators and several Board members. The Korean educators presented the Board with a gift of

framed masks, representing Korean culture. Also at this time, it was noted that Trumbull High School's 2011 yearbook, under the advisorship of Jordan Miller and Matthew Bracksieck, was recognized for its many prestigious awards, including Best in New England. Mr. Miller noted the 2012 yearbook's theme is "Hastag" and commended the student editors for all their efforts and hard work. He presented copies to the Board.

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

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

A. Personnel – Superintendent Iassogna noted that four resignations were received that needed Board action. He conveyed his appreciation for the outstanding efforts of Patricia Colello and Catherine Clark in their many years of service to the district and commended them for a job well done. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to accept the resignations of the following: Catherine Clark, music teacher at Tashua Elementary School since September 1977, retiring effective June 30, 2012; Patricia Colello, Principal at Middlebrook Elementary School since September 1987, retiring effective June 30, 2012; Jacqueline Hennessey, English teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2010, resigning effective June 30, 2012; and Denise Weed, science teacher at Agriscience and Trumbull High School since October 2006, resigning effective June 30, 2012. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 5/15/12 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

At this time, it was moved (Seaman) seconded (Herbst) to take 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/Textbook—Dr. Paslov conveyed that the Curriculum Subcommittee of the Board of Education recently reviewed 6 new textbooks and 2 supplemental novels for use in Trumbull High courses for the 2012-13 school year. She and Mrs. Rubano reviewed the following texts: *The Americans* to be used in the College Prep History course; *The American Journey, 6th Edition* to be used in the Honors United States History course; *Government by the People, 24th AP Edition* to be used in the AP/ECE American Government course; *World History* to be used in the College Prep Global Civilization course; *Western Experience* to be used in the AP/ECE European History course; and *The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash Course in Art History from Prehistoric to Postmodern* to be used in the Art History of War and Peace course and as an additional resource for all levels of the Global Civilization course. Also reviewed were two novels for use in the AP/ECE European History Course: *All But My Life*, the story of Gerda Weissman Klein's 6-year ordeal as a victim of Nazi cruelty and *All Quiet on the Western Front*, the story of a young German soldier during World War I. Discussion ensued regarding the cost of textbooks, online texts, weight of the books, the need for additional monies for texts, student use of online texts, and using unspent monies if available to pre-purchase textbooks. Several Board members stated that they would like to have costs of books included in the description used when presenting textbooks for approval. It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Labella) to approve the following texts and supplemental novels: *The American*;, *The American Journey, 6th Edition*; *Government by the People, 24th AP Edition*; *World History*; *Western Experience*; *The Annotated Mona Lisa: A Crash Course in Art History from Prehistoric to Postmodern*; *All But My Life*; and *All Quiet on the Western Front*. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At this time, Chairman Wright recognized and commended the two Student Board Representatives, Patrick Curtin and Emma Connolly, for their efforts and outstanding contributions to the Board. He

presented both with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Leadership Award, developed by CABE to provide the Board an opportunity to recognize student achievement, academic potential and leadership abilities. Mr. Iassogna presented both students with “I Make a Difference” pins and conveyed that they have done an excellent job in representing the student population and is most appreciative of their efforts and contributions to the Board.

- B. Approval/Curriculum Guide—Dr. Paslov and Mr. Edwards reviewed four curriculum guides to be used for Trumbull High science courses. They include the following full year courses for 11th graders: *Chemistry Honors*; *Chemistry ACP*; and *Chemistry CP*. Also reviewed was *Environmental Science AP/ECE*, an advanced placement course for 12th graders. Discussion ensued regarding the timeframe for the implementation of Common Core State Standards and its effect on the high school science curriculum. It was moved (Herbst) and seconded (Ward) to approve the following curriculum guides: *Chemistry Honors*; *Chemistry ACP*; *Chemistry CP*; and *Environmental Science AP/ECE*. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. Approval/New Course—Dr. Paslov and Mr. Horton reviewed a proposal for a new music course to be added to the Music program at Trumbull High School. The course, *Music Fundamentals: Overview of Pop/Rock*, is a half-year class for students in grades 9-12 where students will learn the fundamentals of music and how music is constructed, the role of technology, and basic piano/keyboarding skills. Discussion ensued and it was suggested that the reading of sheet music be included in the course description. It was noted that the class would be offered in the second semester of 2012-13 as a pilot. Following discussion, it was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve the new music course *Music Fundamentals: Overview of Pop/Rock* as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At this time, Dr. Tremaglio, Trumbull High Principal, conveyed that the THS musical, *The Wiz*, garnered four awards at the annual Connecticut High School Musical Theatre Awards Ceremony, held the previous evening at the Palace Theatre in Waterbury. Students from the musical performed at the program along with many students from Connecticut high schools involved in theatre arts programs.

Agenda Item IV—Reports

- A. 2012-13 Facility Review/Utilization Report—Mr. Iassogna conveyed that the Board has had previous discussions regarding the more efficient use of school facilities and possible grade reconfiguration in an effort to achieve cost savings. In an effort to further review the utilization of classrooms/facilities, he employed Wayne Verderber of Applied Data Services who had done previous work for the Board in February 2010. Mr. Verderber’s Facility Review/Utilization report [contained in Board packet of 6/5/12] focused on the most efficient use of the District’s school facilities with particular emphasis on current and projected enrollments for grades K through 8 and space availability, including the feasibility of a possible school reconfiguration. Mr. Verderber reviewed and presented two scenarios for “surgical” redistricting which would involve students from Booth Hill and Frenchtown Schools moving to Middlebrook School. He conveyed that shifting students for the 2012-13 school year would ease the tight classroom issues at Booth Hill and Frenchtown; however, if the Board chose not to act on this initiative, the situation should resolve itself within two years due to declining enrollment. He also presented information on grade reconfiguration, i.e. K-2, 3-5, 6-8, and 9-12 or K-4, 5-8, and 9-12. Mr. Verderber offered the following recommendations: surgically redistrict students per Scenario 2 for the 2012-13 school year to achieve balanced enrollments which would involve some disruption to students and staff; or wait until enrollments decline over the next two years. He suggested that since it was already June, it would be best to delay any decision on surgical shifting for the 2012-13 school year as it would be disruptive to students and parents at this late date. Mr. Verderber also did not support any grade restructuring at this time since this initiative needs more in depth investigation with regard to cost

savings and educational value. Superintendent Iassogna noted that he did not support any action be taken at this time. Discussion ensued including lack of rooms for music classes resulting in “music on a cart” at Booth Hill School; surgical shifting of students from Booth Hill and Frenchtown Schools to Middlebrook School at this time; revisiting shifting of students for the 2013-14 school year depending upon enrollment projections and during budget discussions for 2013-14; and grade reconfiguration. It was the consensus of the Board to delay any action on surgical shifting of students at this time.

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 9:35 p.m.