

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – August 21, 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
L. Labella, Board Member
R. Seaman, Board Member

Members absent:

M. Ward, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 7:08 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Mr. Kelly noted that the Board of Education (BOE) received numerous emails from parents of Daniels Farm Elementary grade 2 and grade 3 students asking the Board to hire an additional teacher for grade 2 and retain the current number of classes in grade 3 due to increased enrollment.
- C. Comments – Alice Ferreira, 18 Brittany Avenue, spoke in support of adding a grade 1 class at Tashua Elementary and adding classes to other elementary schools due to increased enrollment. She also thanked the Board for their commitment to the education of Trumbull students.

Agenda Item II -- Personnel

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Iassogna noted that one resignation was received that needed Board action. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to accept the resignation of Christina Toti, special education teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School since August 2003, resigning effective August 5, 2012. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At this time, Superintendent Iassogna shared his appreciation of outgoing Business Manager Steve Sirico for his expertise and many efforts and contributions to Trumbull Public Schools and also welcomed new Business Manager Sean O'Keefe to the district. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Seaman) to move Agenda Item II-B to the end of the agenda. Chairman Wright conveyed that the Superintendent's evaluation is done in Executive Session and it was noted that the salary discussion/action would take place in Public Session at a future meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 8/7/12 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented. Mr. Wright and Mrs. Chory abstained from the vote as they were not present at the August 7, 2012 meeting.
- B. Approval/Financial Reports as of 6/30/12 – Mr. Sirico briefly reviewed financial reports for the 12 months ended June 30, 2012. Discussion ensued regarding the approximately \$875,000 in unspent monies to be carried over to the 2012-13 budget [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].

Mr. Kelly raised concerns that the unspent monies are not part of the original operating budget, would create a funding cliff for the next year, and that the Town has not yet transferred the unspent monies to the Board's account. Mr. Sirico stated that the \$875,000 is already being reported in the 2012-13 budget. Mr. Iassogna conveyed that the Town has already approved the carryover of unspent monies, the amount which would be determined when final figures for 2011-12 were available. He reminded the Board that he sent a request to the Town asking that the monies be transferred to the BOE budget, and conveyed that the Town as of now is holding the monies and has asked the Board to request it as needed. Mrs. Labella shared that her impression of the BOF meeting was that she [Elaine Hammers] said the unspent monies would be available to the Board after August 15, 2012 pending final audited Board of Education actual budget figures for 2011-12. Mrs. Herbst stated that "she" referred to Board of Finance Chair Elaine Hammers. It was noted that the \$875,000 unspent monies would be included in the 2012-13 budget although these monies were not part of the original Town allocation of monies to the Board. Mrs. Chory conveyed that there might not be a funding cliff because Trumbull High enrollment is down, the new magnet high school will open, and two budgeted teaching positions for Full Day Kindergarten were not needed. Mrs. Seaman shared that she wanted to reassure the public that Full Day Kindergarten would not be canceled for 2013-14. Mr. Iassogna noted that he would resend the request to the Board of Finance to transfer unspent monies to the Board. Following discussion, it was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Board of Education Expense Report for the 12 months ended 6/30/12 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Sirico stated that there were no significant changes to any other accounts. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to accept Agenda Item III B—b to f [Grant Expense Report, Consolidated Financial Statement, BOE Programs Detail Report, Expendable Trust Detail Report and Student Activity Detail Report] for the 12 months ended 6/30/12 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV—Reports

- A. Enrollment Update/Staffing—Superintendent Iassogna conveyed that enrollment for the 2012-13 school year is approximately 60 students below projection with the greatest decrease at the high school level. He shared that several elementary enrollments exceed Board class size guidelines. They include Frenchtown Grade 1 at 119 students with 5 classes; Daniels Farm Grade 2 at 71 students with 3 classes; and Tashua Grade 1 at 70 students with 3 classes. The Superintendent recommended that 1.0 teachers be added to each of those grades so that enrollments will fall within class size guidelines. The cost for salary and benefits for these three positions would be approximately \$225,000 and funding would be taken from the teacher salary account which will necessitate close monitoring of all accounts for the remainder of the school year. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Chory shared she supports the Superintendent's recommendation. Both Mrs. Herbst and Mr. Wright stated that they support the Superintendent's recommendation. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to add 1.0 teachers to the following classes: Frenchtown Grade 1, Daniels Farm Grade 2 and Tashua Grade 1 as recommended by the Superintendent. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At this time, it was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to move Agenda Item VIII—Other to this point in the agenda with the topic to be Trumbull High School Renovation. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VIII—Other

- A. Trumbull High School (THS) Renovation Update—Mr. Iassogna shared that progress has been made on the renovation, including paving of the parking lots and sidewalk and asbestos abatement, but has not been without delays or construction issues. He conveyed that the first three days of school will be legal days for high school students so as to give teachers time to set up classrooms as they are not able to enter the building until the first day for students. Several Board members raised concerns regarding the readiness of the building for opening day on August 27th. Al Barbarotta, Owner's Rep for the project, said the high school will be opened when it is deemed clean, safe, occupiable by Town health officials, Building Inspector and Fire Marshall. He reviewed the work that has taken place over the summer and noted the following: all asbestos abatement has been completed; paving of parking areas and sidewalk almost

complete; air quality problems should not be an issue as the new ventilation system is operable and will be turned on when cleaning is completed; all areas not yet completed will be cordoned off from students and staff. Mr. Iassogna conveyed that he is hopeful that THS will be ready for students and staff on August 27th; but if not, the opening of school would be delayed for high school students as he will not compromise the safety of students and staff. Teacher Representative Katie Boland shared that this is the first year teachers have not been allowed to enter their classrooms until the first student day, as last year teachers were given a half day to set up classrooms before students arrived. Mrs. Labella stated that she has complete faith that the Superintendent will make the right decision with regards to the opening of THS. Several Board members thanked both Al and John Barbarotta for coming to this evening's meeting and for their efforts with this project.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. Annual Report—Mr. Iassogna briefly reviewed his Annual Report that is forwarded to the First Selectman which provides an informative outline of what transpired in the district in 2011-12. The report contains summaries of all departments and gives much information regarding CMT and CAPT testing, curriculum initiatives, plant and technology work, PPS, and all activities that promote student learning. Mr. Iassogna also shared that Trumbull Loves Children (TLC) is looking to expand their program to include pre-school to be housed on the Daniels Farm School property. He noted that TLC Director Ken McCabe has already spoken with the Superintendent and the First Selection who are both supportive of this initiative. Mr. McCabe will bring the proposal to the Board when more specificity is available on the work, mainly construction, involved in the expansion. Mrs. Herbst shared that the report is a good narrative and thanked the Superintendent for all he has done for the district. Mr. Wright commented that Trumbull is doing well especially with the quality of the curriculum and instruction and gave accolades to the Superintendent and Dr. Paslov. Mr. Kelly conveyed that it is his hope that everyone interested in education would read the report and thanked the Superintendent, Dr. Cialfi and the administration for their excellent efforts for the district. Mrs. Labella also shared that the document is excellent and thanked the Superintendent. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Chory) to accept the Superintendent's Annual Report as submitted. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. Policy—Second Reading/Approval
1. Standard of Conduct, Policy Code 5131—Dr. Cialfi noted that this policy was brought to the Board for a first reading on July 17, 2012. He reviewed several wording changes suggested by the Board and noted updates to the Disciplinary Chart to include Saturday Morning Detention on the high school level. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Seaman) to approve the Standard of Conduct policy as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Iassogna and several Board members noted the hard work of the PAC committee to revise this policy and other policies and thanked them for their efforts.

Agenda Item VII—Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Agenda Item II—Personnel

- B. Superintendent Evaluation/Salary—It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to move into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's evaluation and invite the Superintendent to be part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Executive Session began at 8:40 p.m. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to come out of Executive Session at 9:07 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:07 p.m.