

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – January 15, 2013  
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 (left at 7:50 p.m.)  
R. Seaman, Board Member  
M. Ward, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:19 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Superintendent Evaluation/Contract—It was moved (Labella) seconded (Ward) to move into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent’s evaluation and contract and invite the Superintendent to be part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to come out of Executive Session at 7:08 p.m.
- B. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session resumed at 7:08 p.m. with a salute to the Flag.
- C. Correspondence – Mr. Kelly noted that the Board received emails from a parent regarding the homework policy and a parent who praised her children’s teachers for their handling of the Newtown tragedy.
- D. Comments –Lainie McHugh, 132 Fresh Meadow Drive, PTA Council President, stated concerns with the homework policy regarding group projects and safety with students working together outside the classroom after school hours. Jennifer Kehley, 20 Hill Circle, Daniels Farm PTA President, spoke in support of the district’s technology plan and would like the district to prioritize its technology needs at all schools, especially at the elementary level.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Iassogna conveyed that there was a revised Personnel Report announcing his retirement as Superintendent of Trumbull Public Schools, effective June 30, 2013. Mr. Iassogna shared his humility and appreciation of his 39 years as an educator in Trumbull, 14 years as Superintendent and his wonderful experiences working with his entire staff, stressing that “it’s been like a family.” He asked Chairman Wright to read his letter of resignation. Each Board Member personally touched on their experiences working with the Superintendent, expressing their pride, gratitude and appreciation of all of the Superintendent’s efforts and accomplishments during his career with the Trumbull Public Schools, and especially his 14 years as the district’s Superintendent. They also spoke of his many achievements, his service as a great leader and role model for the staff, students

and community and that he will be truly missed. Teacher Board Representative Katie Boland, Student Board Representatives Jason Nagel, Madelaine Krahn, Justin Puzio and Erin Puglia and parent Mrs. Tesoro also shared their personal thoughts and wonderful experiences with the Superintendent and wished him well in his retirement.

At this time, it was moved (Seaman) seconded (Labella) to recess for a short time at 7:48 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor. The meeting resumed at 8:06 p.m. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to take Agenda Item IV-D out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

D. Trumbull High School Turf Fields—Superintendent Iassogna reminded the Board that Athletic Director Mike Herbst was recommending the Board approve three proposals to replace and/or enhance athletic facilities on the Trumbull High campus. The Superintendent recommended that these proposals should be put forth as a bonded capital project and not included in the Board’s operating budget. Mr. Herbst reviewed proposals including the turf field for McDougall Stadium, approximate cost \$400,000 to \$665,000, noting that the existing turf is 10 years old, extremely worn and becoming a safety issue. He also shared that if the field is not replaced, it would be unusable for all sports next year and all games would have to be scheduled away. Mr. Joe Kacevich, New England Territory Manager for Shaw Sportex, reviewed the proposals and processes involved in replacing the existing turf field, repairing the track, installing a new turf field for soccer and repairing the tennis courts. Discussion ensued regarding costs, field maintenance, warranty, expected life of the fields, time involved with replacement and installation, and unsafe field conditions resulting in possible player injuries. It was noted that the cost to install turf on the varsity soccer field would be approximately \$800,000 to \$900,000. Also discussed were the track and D zones, approximate cost \$205,000 to \$231,000; the track is 10 years old, also worn and expensive to repair/patch. Home track meets have been switched to visiting teams’ sites due to the disrepair. Mr. Herbst also reported that rain drains from the track onto the football field causing problems. Also discussed was the tennis court repair and resurfacing, approximate cost \$319,000, noting the tennis courts are also 10 years old with many cracked surface areas which continue to cause problems, bent posts, and court area very slippery when wet. Also noted that cost ranges were provided as many variables are involved and several options may be available as the projects proceed. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Seaman) to move forward the designated proposals regarding the turf fields at the Trumbull High School Campus to the Town [for funding]. Vote: unanimous in favor. Trumbull High Principal Dr. Tremaglio thanked the Board for supporting this proposal.

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

#### Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

F. Superintendent’s Evaluation and Contract—Chairman Wright conveyed that with regard to the Superintendent’s announcing his retirement, the Board needed to act on his contract for the 2012-13 school year. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Seaman) to increase the Superintendent’s salary by 5.3% or \$10,640 for the 2012-13 year, retroactive to July 1, 2012. Mr. Wright stated that he would support the motion, citing the Superintendent receives no bonus or retirement package, did not receive a salary increase for two years and in another year donated his increase to the Trumbull Scholarship Foundation. Mrs. Herbst also stated her support of the motion. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 1/2/13 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

- A. Approval/Financial Reports as of 12/31/12 –Mr. O’Keefe reviewed his summary expense report, transfers and financial reports for the 6 months ended 12/31/12. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Summary Expense Report as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. O’Keefe reviewed budget transfers for December and noted two needed Board approval. Discussion ensued regarding the transfer of monies from the Anticipated Surplus account to the various schools’ classroom furniture account, monies spent on kindergarten classroom furniture, and transfer amount for Board of Education Professional Services. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve December transfers 1616x and 1617x, as recommended. Vote: Unanimous in favor. The following accounts were discussed: dues and fees, building improvements, health insurance, and professional services. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Board of Education Expense Report for the 6 months ended 12/31/12 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Grant Expense Report for the 6 months ended 12/31/12 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to accept the Consolidated Financial Statement as of and for the 6 months ended 12/31/12 as presented. Discussion ensued regarding the school lunch program expenses. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Board of Education Programs Detail Report as of 12/31/12 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Seaman) to accept the Expendable Trust Detail Report as of 12/31/12 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mrs. Chory questioned the amount of money in the Class of 2007 account and Mr. O’Keefe stated he would review it. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Seaman) to accept the Student Activity Detail Report as of 12/31/12 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- A. Approval/THS Color Guard Winter Competition Trip and THS GEMB Trip—In Mr. Horton’s absence, Superintendent Iassogna reviewed the annual trip to the World Guard International Competition which takes place in Dayton, Ohio. While students would miss three days of school, the participation enables students to meet and observe other Winter Guard programs from throughout the country. He also noted that students are required to make up any school work missed. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to approve the Winter Color Guard trip to Ohio as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellation for any reason. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Policies—Second Reading
1. Homework, Policy Code 6154—Mrs. Tesoro conveyed that this policy was brought to the Board for a first reading on April 10, 2012. Since then, PAC has refined wording with generous input received from Principals and staff. Mrs. Tesoro reviewed wording changes. Discussion ensued regarding the assignment of homework on major religious holidays, excusing students from homework when celebrating non-major religious holidays, group projects at the high school level, and monitoring tools for group projects. Several Board wording changes were noted. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to approve Homework, Policy Code 6154 as presented with amendments. Further discussion involved high school group projects and administrator responsibility. Wording changes requested by the Board include the following: Page 1, paragraph 3, change “day” to “weekend” preceding “will be assigned for that”; Teacher [responsibilities], bullet 6, remove “both on and off campus”; and adding to Administrator, bullet 2, “monitor and” before “support” as well as “ and consistently” after “appropriately”. Mr. Ward withdrew his motion and Mrs. Chory withdrew her second. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to approve Homework, Policy Code 6154 as amended [with the noted wording changes]. Vote: unanimous in favor.

2. Student Accident Insurance Program, Policy Code 3543—[This policy was brought to the Board for a first reading on October 16, 2012. Since then, wording has been added to clarify the difference of this policy from the mandatory student athletic insurance.] It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to approve Student Accident Insurance Program, Policy Code 3543 as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

C. Policy—First Reading

1. Interscholastic Athletic Tryout—Mrs. Fisher reviewed changes to this policy to include wording regarding mandatory student athletic insurance. A brief discussion ensued regarding the claims process when a student athlete is injured. This policy will be further reviewed by the Policy Advisory Committee and returned to the Board for a second reading.

- E. Approval/Three Year Technology Plan and Hardware Equipment Proposal—Dr. Cialfi conveyed the Three Year Technology Plan was approved by the Board in May 2012. The plan includes hardware equipment as well as instructional focus areas. The proposal requires Board approval and then will be forwarded to the Town for consideration as a bonded capital expenditure. He conveyed that the purpose of the Plan is to establish a district-wide blueprint for increasing the level of student engagement and strengthening the learning process. Technology Director Jeff Hackett reviewed all hardware equipment purchases involved in the plan. He noted that the first year purchases include iPads for middle and elementary level \$210,000; laptop/netbook replacements \$165,000; document cameras \$36,000 and Smart Board packages for middle and elementary level \$242,550 with the first year costs totaling \$653,550. He also reviewed purchases totaling \$802,200 for the second and third year of the plan which includes Smart Board packages \$331,100; replacement student computers \$164,000; server migration to Hyper-V \$37,000; replacement back-up system \$54,100; video on demand systems \$48,000; additional iPads \$168,000. The total Three Year Technology Plan cost is approximately \$1,455,750. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Kelly) to approve the Three Year Technology Plan and Hardware Equipment Proposal [\$653,550 for the first year purchases] as presented and move to the First Selectman [for approval]. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V—Receive and File

These items were received and filed. Mr. Ward conveyed that the name of former Business Manager, Stephen Sirico, should be removed from the Status of Negotiations Report and replaced with [new Business Manager] Sean O’Keefe.

Agenda Item VI—Other

- A. There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:05 p.m.