

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – October 1, 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:

S. Wright, Chairperson
D. Herbst, Vice Chairperson
T. Kelly, Secretary
L. Chory, Board Member
R. Seaman, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Members absent:

L. Labella, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Agenda Item II – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Mr. Kelly read an email addressed to the Board from former Superintendent Ralph Iassogna stating: “I was very humbled to hear that the BOE (Board of Education), via its Site Committee, would like to name a room at TECEC (Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center) in my name. I appreciate you thinking of me; however, upon reflection, I believe it would be best to withdraw my name from consideration.”
- C. Comments –Tammy Baillargeon, TEA (Trumbull Education Association) Co-President, expressed concerns on behalf of elementary and middle school staff with regard to the annual parent classroom visitation program which takes place in October. Major concerns noted include school security, disruption to the learning process, number of parents and other family members visiting, and lack of consistency of procedures for the day among the schools. The TEA is asking for increased security and a review of emergency procedures on parent visiting day. Board Chair Wright expressed his understanding of teacher concerns which are legitimate but stated that it is not in the Board’s purview and the TEA should work with the Superintendent on these types of issues. Vice Chair Herbst shared that while she understands teachers’ point of view, she concurs with the Chair that these matters should be handled by the Superintendent. She also noted that school security procedures should not be discussed in public. Superintendent Dr. Cialfi stated that he will work with the TEA and schools to set procedures to streamline parent visiting day and on security concerns. Mrs. Seaman shared that the Board will work in concert with the Superintendent on matters of school security. Both Robert McCarthy Jr., son, and Marilyn McCarthy, wife, of former Trumbull High Principal Robert McCarthy, thanked the Board for recognizing and honoring Mr. McCarthy’s contributions in his 35 years of service to the district.

D. Recognitions

1. Eric August, Finalist for the 2014 Connecticut Teacher of the Year—Dr. Cialfi stated that Trumbull High School (THS) social studies teacher Eric August is among four finalists for the Connecticut Teacher of the Year program. He conveyed that the Connecticut State Department of Education's (CSDE) 19 member team visited THS on September 30 to interview students, parents, Board of Education members, and staff. Dr. Cialfi shared his experience in observing Mr. August in the classroom and noted that he is a true ambassador for all teachers. Board members and Dr. Cialfi congratulated and recognized Mr. August for his accomplishments.

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

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- C. Technology in Education—Dr. Cialfi shared that tonight's presentation is the first in a series highlighting the use of technology in the classroom. THS social studies teacher Katie Boland presented different scenarios on how technology is strengthening instruction and enhancing a student's learning. She, along with student Kunal Jhaveri, demonstrated the use of junood.com to assess students' understanding of a lesson. Several of her students (Jake Horowitz, Sam Carley, Rakshana Selverajan, Jackie Rose) explained how they used "Google Docs" programming for group projects and gave a power point presentation on current events lessons used in the classroom. Ms. Boland thanked the Board and administration for their support of technology in the schools.

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

- A. Naming of Trumbull Public Schools Sites—It was noted that at their September 17, 2013 meeting, the BOE appointed a committee to review the naming of several sites. The committee includes First Selectman Timothy Herbst, Judge of Probate T. R. Rowe, THS House Principal Lucinda Timpanelli, THS World Languages Department Chair Nicandra Perusi, TECEC Coordinator Dr. Matthew Wheeler, Parent Linda Bartolucci, and THS students Alexa Bragg and Kunal Jhaveri. The committee convened on September 25, 2013 and is recommending the following: name the THS Auditorium for former THS Principal Robert E. McCarthy and TECEC Family Room for former Superintendent Ralph M. Iassogna. Discussion ensued. In light of the Board's receipt of Mr. Iassogna's email (noted in Correspondence), the Board decided to delay action on naming the TECEC Family Room. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Ward) to move forward with naming the THS Auditorium for former THS Principal Robert E. McCarthy. Board members each conveyed their experiences with Mr. McCarthy, praising his extraordinary interpersonal skills and his interaction with and ability to relate to all students and his exceptional support of staff. THS C-House Principal Lucinda Timpanelli also shared her memories of working with Mr. McCarthy and praised his ability to treat everyone equally. Vote: 5 in favor (Herbst, Kelly, Seaman, Ward, Wright) 1 abstention (Chory). Motion passes. Further discussion ensued regarding the naming of the family room at TECEC and Mr. Iassogna's communication to the Board. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Seaman) to table decision on the naming of the family room at TECEC. Vote: 5 in favor (Herbst, Kelly, Seaman, Ward, Wright) 1 abstention (Chory). Motion passes.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Dr. Cialfi noted that there were no changes since the last Board meeting.

- B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 9/17/13 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.
- C. Approval/Financial Reports as of 8/31/13 –Chairman Wright shared that new procedures for reviewing financial reports have been instituted for the 2013-14 school year. Financial reports will be reviewed in detail by the BOE Finance Committee and, when approved, will be brought to the full BOE for Consent Agenda approval. Discussion ensued regarding the August 31, 2013 financial reports not made available to the full Board until this evening, minutes of the Board’s Finance committee not yet available, and lack of time to review reports before accepting them. Following discussion, it was moved (Chory) seconded (Seaman) to table this agenda item to the next [BOE] meeting when minutes [of Finance Committee of the BOE] would be available. Vote: 4 in favor (Chory, Herbst, Seaman, Ward) 2 opposed (Kelly, Wright). Motion passes.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- B. Teacher Supervision, Evaluation and Professional Learning Plan Update—Dr. Cialfi conveyed the implementation of the new teacher evaluation plan has begun with a professional development focus on goal setting. He noted that the goal setting process for all teachers is aligned to the 2013-14 District Goal—“To strengthen individual and collective practices in order to increase student learning and development. The focus areas include (1) initial implementation of the Common Core State Standards with aligned “pilot” assessments (full implementation in 2014-15); (2) initial implementation of the newly developed Teacher and Administrator Supervision/Evaluation/Professional Learning Plans with opportunities for revisions; and (3) continual improvement in the SRBI process to increase academic and behavioral student growth.” Dr. McGrath gave an update on the professional development provided regarding the new plan. He noted that all teachers were given training on goal setting using the new evaluation instrument during the August professional development workshops. Data will be used to develop goals that are specific, measurable, and timely. Feedback has been very positive; staff seems well prepared to begin developing goals; and goal conferences with administrators are set to begin in October. Dr. McGrath conveyed that THS Department Chairs were trained in the use and calibration of the observation rubric that is part of the teacher evaluation plan in September. This training, provided by Education Consultant Patrick Flynn, was given to administrators and program leaders in mid-August and the district has been extremely pleased with the workshops provided by Mr. Flynn. Dr. McGrath shared that the district is ready to implement the new teacher evaluation system and the evaluation committee will meet in November to review sample goals and observations to further the process. Teacher Board Representative Ms. Boland shared that the professional development provided on goal setting was very positive and is very pleased with the outstanding support high school teachers have been given in implementing the new plan. Discussion ensued on goal setting, impact of student performance, and professional development needed to achieve goals.

Agenda Item V—Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:32 p.m.