

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – March 12, 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
L. Labella, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Members absent:

R. Seaman, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:09 p.m.

Agenda Item II – Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag—The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.

B. Correspondence—There was no correspondence this evening.

C. Recognition—Members of the Trumbull High School Distributive Education Club of America (DECA) were recognized for their efforts and awards at the State competition, earning them the right to participate in the DECA National Competition and Conference. DECA Advisor Todd Manuel shared the various aspects of the State competition and conveyed his pride in the accomplishments of members, noting that Zachary Chase placed first in Principles of Business Management Administration.

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

Agenda Item IV – Reports/Action Items (out of order)

B. Approval//DECA Trip to Anaheim, CA—Advisor Todd Manuel reviewed the trip to the DECA International Career Development Conference to take place in Anaheim, California from April 23 through April 28, 2013. Eight students will have the opportunity to share ideas and compete with students throughout the country. Funding for the trip will be raised through fundraisers and donations with the balance to be paid by the students. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to approve the DECA trip to Anaheim, California as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

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

At this time, Chairman Wright gave kudos to several Madison Middle School faculty members for their participation in the annual Penguin Plunge to raise monies for Special Olympics and congratulated Alternate Student Board Representative Erin Puglia for being named Miss Shamrock by the Gaelic

American Club. He also shared that the State Educational Resource Council visited Trumbull High to observe and meet with students involved in the Peer Leader program.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Iassogna noted there were two resignations that needed Board action. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to accept the resignation of Joy Urbinati, Grade 2 teacher at Booth Hill School since September 1986, retiring effective June 30, 2013 and Persefone Dolan, Mathematics teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2006, resigning effective June 30, 2013. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 2/26/13 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- A. Approval/THS Choir Trip to England—Ms. Tornillo reviewed the proposed choir performance trip to England next Spring from Thursday, April 10 through Thursday, April 17, 2014. Students will have the opportunity to immerse themselves in musical literary and historical culture and will perform in London, Bath and Oxford. Students would miss two days of school. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to approve the THS Choir Trip to England outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellations for any reason. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. Approval/Transportation Vendor Contract—Business Manager Sean O’Keefe and Transportation Manager Dawn Perkins reviewed the process to select a vendor for student transportation. Review Committee members (Superintendent Iassogna, Dr. Cialfi, Mr. O’Keefe and Mrs. Perkins) interviewed prospective transportation providers and thoroughly examined their submitted transportation packages. The committee unanimously recommends that DATTCO be awarded the contract to provide transportation services for the Trumbull Public Schools (TPS) for the period of July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2018, as their bid was very competitive and their operations best suit the needs of the district. The company also has a comprehensive professional development program, an impressive safety record, and received very positive recommendations from other districts using their services. Mrs. Perkins introduced management representatives of DATTCO and President and CEO Don Devino reviewed various company procedures including safety initiatives, driving training and professional development programs. He shared screening process for drivers including extensive background checks, Department of Motor Vehicle driving history, social media, sex offender registry, Department of Children and Families and fingerprints submitted to State Police and FBI. He also conveyed that the district would have all new buses properly equipped with cameras and assured the Board that the company will make every effort to ensure a smooth transition from the previous vendor. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to approve the 5 year agreement with DATTCO from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2018 with the possibility of a 2 year extension based on the performance of the company.
- D. Policy/First Reading
 - 1. Protected Prayer, Policy Code 6115.1—Ms. Cantafio shared that the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) reviewed this policy to coincide with the recently approved Homework policy. Information was garnered from policies of surrounding communities, as well as receiving input from Principals, staff members and parents. Mrs. Labella suggested that the line on the first page of the policy referring to speakers for school events be part of the regulations. This policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading.

2. Interscholastic Athletics—Mrs. Fisher conveyed that this policy has not been updated since June 2008. She consulted with Athletic Director Mike Herbst for input. She reviewed policy changes and noted that most of the changes were made to Appendix A to be consistent with wording in the policy. Discussion ensued regarding waiver of student athletic insurance fees and it was clarified that no waivers are granted for insurance fees. This policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading.
- E. Policy/Second Reading
1. Interscholastic Athletic Tryouts, Policy Code 5151—Mrs. Fisher reminded the Board that this policy was presented for a first reading on January 15, 2013. No changes were made since then. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Ward) to approve Interscholastic Athletic Tryouts, Policy Code 5151 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- F. Approval/Trumbull Day 2013 Special Request—Superintendent Iassogna conveyed that the Board of Education (BOE) received a request from the First Selectman seeking a waiver of Board policy to provide for alcohol sales/consumption on schools grounds for Trumbull Day on June 29, 2013. He shared that the Trumbull Day Commission would like to use Trumbull High and Hillcrest Middle schools' grounds for Trumbull Day and is asking the Board to waive its policy, Use of Public School Buildings and Sites, Policy Code 1330, for one day (June 29, 2013) to allow for an alcohol concession on school grounds. Mr. Iassogna also shared that, according to the request, alcohol sales/consumption would be set up similar to the summer concerts at Indian Ledge Park. Considerable discussion ensued. Before considering this request, Board members would like assurances on the following: alcohol consumption confined to a defined area with specified hours; continual police presence monitoring all areas including parking; Hillcrest Middle School building available to police in the event of an emergency; no liability for lawsuits. Mr. Ward stated that, as a former member of the Commission, Trumbull Day was always considered a family event with amusement rides and fireworks and he will not support this request. Mr. Iassogna suggested that he forward the Boards' questions/concerns to the Commission and First Selectman for answers and if their response is acceptable, the Board could then take action on the request at their next meeting in March or April. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Ward) to table the vote on this agenda item until more specificity is made available to the Board regarding this request. Mrs. Herbst requested that someone from the Trumbull Day Commission come to the next Board meeting to review their request and respond to Board concerns. She also suggested that someone from Trumbull Police Department also be available to address concerns. Mr. Iassogna responded that he will contact the First Selectman/Trumbull Day Commission by Friday, March 15 asking them to attend the Board's next meeting to address Board concerns. Mr. Kelly stated that he would like assurance that the Board will not be liable for any insurance claims/lawsuits as he does not want Board monies designated for education to be used for legal fees. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- G. Approval/Teacher Supervision, Evaluation and Professional Learning Plan "Bridge Year" Implementation—Dr. Cialfi shared that the Supervision, Evaluation and Professional Learning Plan Committee has been meeting regularly to refine the plan and has shared it with all certified staff. He reviewed aspects of the new evaluation plan and the district's current plan. He commented that the State's Performance Evaluation Advisory Council (PEAC) and Education Commissioner Pryor have determined that 2013-14 will be a "bridge year" for implementing the new Teacher Evaluation Plan with full implementation planned for 2014-15. School districts have been given several options for implementation, which include: applying the plan to every certified educator in one-third of district schools; applying the plan to classroom teachers in 50% of district schools; or applying the plan as a locally determined option if agreed upon by the teachers' and administrators' bargaining units and supported by the Superintendent, for at least one-third of the certified educators in the district. The

committee is recommending the third option which has the support of the Superintendent. Considerable discussion ensued regarding: district's present evaluation plan; the complexity and implementation of the new plan; who will be selected to participate in the bridge year; equality of assessment rubrics for all subject areas; how fine arts and similar type classes will be assessed; student performance counting for 45% of teacher evaluation; impact on administrative workload; and costs associated with implementation of the plan. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Labella) to approve, as part of PEAC, the Superintendent's recommendation of the locally determined option that includes at least one-third of all certified educators in TPS (Trumbull Public Schools). Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mrs. Labella asked about a plan for administrators and Dr. Cialfi responded that the committee is awaiting guidelines but will come forward with a plan. Chairman Wright commented that there is presently a bill in the (Connecticut) House #159 being discussed which may impact the new teacher evaluation plan.

- H. 2013-14 Budget Request Update—Superintendent Iassogna reminded the Board that the First Selectman reduced the 2013-14 Budget request by \$1,862,350 and the 1% Connecticut State Statute 10-248a in unspent 2011-12 monies was removed from the Board's 2012-13 operating budget base with all future 2012-13 operating budget reports reflecting the removal of these monies. Mr. Iassogna reviewed percentage changes and noted that the First Selectman's recommendation for the 2013-14 Board budget amounts to \$92,962,381 or a 2.74% increase over the previous year's allocation of \$90,479,175. He also noted that after much discussion, both the Board and Town agree that the total reduction to the 2013-14 Budget request amounts to \$1,862,350. He also shared that per the Board's direction, a request for an expedited meeting of their respective groups was forwarded to both Board of Finance (BOF) Chair Elaine Hammers and Town Council Chair Carl Massaro to determine the status of the supplemental appropriations for security, technology, and athletic field renovations. Mr. Iassogna shared with the BOF at their meeting last evening that the BOE would refrain from budget discussion until they receive a decision regarding the supplemental appropriations. He reported the BOF meeting was positive and productive with information shared including: possible Town/BOE moving to self-insurance for healthcare; Trumbull High Guidance program needs; and athletic fields/tennis court renovations. Mr. Iassogna suggested that a Tri-Board (BOE, BOF, and Town Council) meeting be held to review/discuss the feasibility of self-funded healthcare after the Board receives/reviews BOE Health Benefits Consultant Steve Rinaldi's report and the Town receives/reviews Town Health Benefits Consultant David Mathieu's report on this initiative. Mr. Iassogna also stated that Curriculum Director Dr. Paslov and Technology Manager Jeff Hackett met with BOF member Vinny DeGennaro to review the district's technology needs and at the BOF meeting, Mr. Gennaro applauded the district's efforts with technology. Mr. Iassogna also shared that he received a request from Town Council Chair Massaro to attend a meeting of the Finance Committee of the Town Council on March 28, 2013. Discussion ensued. Mrs. Labella requested that the Superintendent follow up with the BOF and Town Council to schedule meetings quickly to address the Board's supplemental appropriations so that the District can move forward with its security enhancements without further delay. Mr. Kelly echoed Mrs. Labella's request, stating that the Board needs a decision on these items before discussion on next year's budget, and emphasized that implementation of security enhancements should not be delayed. Mr. Kelly also stated he may make a motion [at a future meeting] to use available funds to implement the Board's security enhancements if the Town does not take action soon. He also conveyed that when the First Selectman asked to be placed on the Board's agenda, it was done immediately and feels that the same consideration should be given for the Board's request to the BOF and Town Council. Mr. Ward shared that it was his understanding that the BOF wanted the BOE to use the 1% (\$874,000) unspent monies. Mrs. Herbst shared that she understood from the meeting the previous evening, some members of the BOF wanted the BOE to use the 1% (\$874,000) unspent monies for the security enhancements. Mrs. Chory asked whether the anticipated surplus for 2012-13 has been determined

and if the \$874,000 is needed and Mr. Iassogna responded that Business Manager Sean O’Keefe will provide the Board with definitive figures. Mrs. Labella stated that the Board should move ahead with security enhancements and asked that Mr. O’Keefe show the \$874,000 in a separate chart as it has been removed from the Board’s operating budget. Discussion ensued on the use of the \$874,000, where it is recognized [Board or Town], Town approval of Board carryover per State Statute and the Board’s ability to submit expenses against those monies. Mr. O’Keefe responded that he would contact Town Finance Director Maria Pires to ascertain procedures for the Board’s use of the \$874,000. Mr. Kelly again stated his desire to move forward on security initiatives and Mr. Iassogna conveyed that it was his understanding the Board had direct access to the \$874,000.

I. Oral Reports

1. Teacher Board Representative—Ms. Boland reported that Daniels Farm School began a One School, One Book program, involving daily reading and school activities, that has been well received by students, parents and staff. They are reading “The World According to Humphrey”. She also shared that the Trumbull High PTSA is sponsoring events including Senior Powder Puff game, ACT practice testing, and annual fashion show. The PTSA has provided mini-grants to school academic teams.
2. Student Board Representatives—Madeline Krahn reported on Student Board Representative Jason Nagel’s experience with the Senate in Youth Program, CAPT testing, AP testing registration, Link Crew support for freshmen, Math Honor Society, Truth About Hate Assembly, and AP Computer Science class. Erin Puglia shared various high school activities including the success of the girls’ basketball team advancing to State semi-final play; indoor track team with several members participating in New England Regional competition; Foreign Language Week April 1-5, 2013; and school musical “*Crazy for You*” March 21-24, 2013. Justin Puzio stated that the Model UN Club is ranked 2nd in New England; Mock Trial won the State Championship and is advancing to National Competition in May; DECA is participating in the International DECA Conference in April; Winter Percussion team placed first in their class; and the Golden Eagles Marching Band will be participating in Bridgeport’s St. Patrick’s Day parade.

Agenda Item V -- Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:26 p.m.