

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – May 7, 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 (arrived 7:00 p.m.)
D. Herbst, Vice Chairperson
T. Kelly, Secretary
L. Chory, Board Member
L. Labella, Board Member
R. Seaman, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Members absent:

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:52 p.m. by Vice Chairperson Herbst. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Seaman) to move into Executive Session [to discuss personnel] and invite the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to be part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Executive Session began at 6:53 p.m. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to come out of Executive Session at 7:15 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item II – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session resumed at 7:15 p.m. with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Mr. Kelly noted that the Board received several emails from parents advocating participation in Trumbull High (THS) athletics and marching band for students attending the Fairchild Wheeler Magnet High School. He also read a letter from students involved in DECA stating their appreciation and gratitude for the support given to them by the Board of Education.
- C. Comments – Board Chair Wright shared that today is National Teacher Appreciation Day and acknowledged and expressed appreciation of Trumbull teachers for their efforts on behalf of the students. Roy Fuchs, reporter for Trumbull Patch, conveyed that the previous evening’s Town Council meeting could not be videotaped due to technical difficulties and requested that Town proclamations be read during public comment. First Selectman Herbst, accompanied by Town Council Chair Carl Massaro read two proclamations honoring the Trumbull High School “We the People” team and their advisor, Kathleen Boland. Emily Mahoney, grade 8 student at Madison Middle School, asked the Board to consider allowing students attending the Fairchild Wheeler Magnet High School to participate in marching band at THS. Lisa Nuland also spoke in support of participation in THS athletics and band for students attending the Fairchild Wheeler Magnet High School.
- D. Recognitions
1. Town Nursing Director—Superintendent Iassogna introduced Colleen Figliuzzi, new Director of Nursing for Trumbull. He shared her work experience and welcomed her to the district.

Ms. Figliuzzi commented that she has met with district school nurses and has visited all the schools, meeting with administrators and is very happy to be working with Trumbull Public Schools.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Iassogna noted that 3 resignations and one request for a leave of absence were received that needed Board action. He shared that Ms. Schultz has worked many years with the district and thanked her for her outstanding efforts on behalf of her students. He also commented that Dr. Tremaglio has done an outstanding job as Trumbull High Principal as many student academic and ancillary activities have garnered accolades under his leadership. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Ward) to accept the following resignations: Mary Schultz, grade 1 teacher at Daniels Farm Elementary School since September 1994, retiring effective June 30, 2013; Dana Powell, science teacher at Trumbull High School since September 2003, resigning effective June 30, 2013; and Dr. Robert Tremaglio, Principal of Trumbull High School since September 2005, retiring effective June 30, 2013. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Superintendent Iassogna announced the appointment of Dr. Tremaglio to the .45 position of Agriscience/Biotechnology Director at Trumbull High School. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to approve a personal leave of absence without pay for Christine Farrell, grade 2 teacher at Tashua Elementary School since September 2000 for the 2013-14 school year in compliance with the Trumbull Board of Education's Leave of Absence Policy, GCBD. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 4/9/13 By unanimous consent of members present at that meeting, the minutes were approved as presented.

At this time, it was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to take the following agenda items out of order—IV-A and IV-B. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- A. Magnet School Activities—Superintendent Iassogna conveyed that Central Administration has been working with Bridgeport Public Schools (host of the Discovery K-8 and Fairchild Wheeler 9-12 InterDistrict magnet programs) to help ensure a smooth transition for Trumbull students attending those magnet programs. He asked the Board to review three items to be finalized: transportation, student participation in athletics, and participation in band. He shared that the cost to transport students to the magnet programs has risen, noting that presently, Bridgeport provides door to door transportation for Trumbull's Discovery K-8 students at no cost to the district; however, the increased transportation costs are being passed on to Trumbull beginning in 2013-14. While it is not mandated that a district provide transportation to magnet programs, the Superintendent is recommending that the district assume responsibility for the transportation of students attending Discovery K-8 and Fairchild Wheeler 9-12 InterDistrict magnet programs. The proposed plan would have those students convene at one central location to be determined with the district transporting them to their respective school and return students to the same central location at the end of the school day. Mr. Iassogna shared that the State provides \$1,300 per student for transporting them to magnet school programs which he, along with the Business Manager and Transportation Coordinator, believes should cover Trumbull's cost for providing this service as proposed. Discussion ensued with Board members expressing their concerns for the safety of these students, including the location of a central drop-off/pick-up, who would monitor students if parents were not available at the end of the day, possible employment of a bus monitor, especially for K-8 students, and the need for a written plan to address these issues and revising the transportation policy to reflect this plan. Also discussed were costs involved in transporting students. Board members conveyed that they would support the plan to have Trumbull

provide transportation for the magnet school students. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to direct the Superintendent to incorporate into the [2013-14] budget the cost of providing transportation for magnet students from a central location [to be determined by administration] to the host interdistrict magnet schools [Discovery K-8 and Fairchild Wheeler 9-13] and include a plan for supervision of those students at the central location. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Iassogna reviewed participation in school activities and athletics for students attending these magnet programs. He expressed concerns with many issues revolving around those students participating in band and athletics including transportation, course requirements, and requests to participate in other extracurricular activities. He conveyed that he has had contact with [Fairchild Wheeler Acting Director] John Curtis, [State Education Commissioner] Stefan Pryor, and CAS/CIAC regarding student participation in athletics/marching band and the issues that need to be addressed. He stated that students attending Fairchild Wheeler Magnet program would not be allowed to participate in athletics in Bridgeport. Board Chair Steve Wright shared that the Board should make an effort to give those students an opportunity to participate in these activities at Trumbull High as extracurricular activities are important to students' high school experience. It was noted that this plan is consistent with what other districts are doing and CAS/CIAC guidelines. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Seaman) to grant permission for students attending magnet school programs [Fairchild Wheeler 9-13] to participate in interscholastic athletics at Trumbull High School with those students [parents responsible for] providing their own transportation. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Iassogna conveyed that he has been working cooperatively with Bridgeport's Mr. Curtis and Mr. Rocha to ensure students have these opportunities. It was noted that Mr. Wright spoke with the State Dept. of Education Chief of Magnet School Programs and consulted Commissioner Pryor who support districts allowing magnet school students to participate in their home school activities. Mr. Wright conveyed that there will be difficulties/issues that need to be addressed but supports giving students the opportunity. Mrs. Herbst conveyed that she agrees with the Board Chair and supports students' participating in home school activities. Questions were raised concerning course requirements for [marching] band and waiving that requirement for the magnet school students and the problems it may cause. Considerable discussion ensued regarding course requirements, waivers for Vo-Ag students, changing the Program of Studies, the process involved in waiving a course requirement, and giving magnet students the opportunity to participate. Mr. Iassogna conveyed that he has spoken several times with Band Director Peter Horton and confirmed that Marching Band and Symphonic Band are course requirements listed in the Program of Studies for 9th graders for participation in Marching Band as well as Color Guard. He suggested that Program of Studies may have to be changed regarding these course requirements. Mrs. Labella shared that this situation is unique and would like to work through the issues so students have an opportunity to participate in band. Mrs. Herbst and Mr. Kelly also agreed that magnet school students should have the opportunity to participate in band. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Kelly) to allow students attending Fairchild Wheeler Magnet High School the opportunity to participate in Trumbull High School Marching Band with those students [parents responsible for] providing their own transportation in the same manner as [magnet] students participating in THS athletics. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- B. BRBC Regionalization Request—Superintendent Iassogna introduced Bridgeport Regional Business Council (BRBC) President Paul Timpanelli. Mr. Timpanelli presented a proposal in which the BRBC would coordinate a plan for the towns of Trumbull, Stratford, and Monroe to obtain costs estimates seeking some form of regionalizing and/or privatizing school custodial and maintenance operations for the long term, citing potential cost savings. He conveyed that Monroe and Stratford are cooperating with the BRBC and would like Trumbull to be included. Information needed to seek cost estimates includes number of school buildings, square footage of those buildings and land, and custodial/maintenance costs of personnel and equipment. The BRBC would present the information

for the three towns combined when seeking proposals from the private sector. When received, these cost estimates of regionalization/privatization would be given to the Board for possible action. Discussion ensued including potential cost savings, impact of custodial/maintenance bargaining units, quality of services, possible State financial incentives, Gibson Report, and the implementation of regional/private services. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to direct the Superintendent to provide Mr. Timpanelli [BRBC] with the necessary data needed to explore this initiative. Plant Manager Steve Kennedy expressed concerns with maintaining the quality of workers and services and possible issues associated with merging with other towns if the custodial/maintenance operations were privatized. Mrs. Herbst spoke in support of maintaining the district's quality of services and Chairman Wright commented that Trumbull's custodial/maintenance services are excellent. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III—Consent Agenda

- C. Approval/Financial Reports as of 3/31/13 –Business Manager Sean O'Keefe reviewed financial reports for the 9 months ended March 31, 2013. He also reviewed March transfers and conveyed that there was 1 transfer that needed Board approval. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Labella) to approve March transfer 1654x for \$272, 271 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Discussion ensued regarding special education tuition, transportation, supplies, textbooks, workbooks, custodial/maintenance supplies, professional development, classroom equipment, and unspent monies in relation to salary accounts. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Board of Education Expense Report for the 9 months ended 3/31/13 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Seaman) to accept the Grant Expense Report for the 9 months ended 3/31/13 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. O'Keefe reviewed the accounts for the Food Services program and noted it was in deficit, citing increased costs for food and salary/benefits. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Consolidated Financial Statement as of and for the 9 months ended 3/31/13 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Seaman) to accept the Board of Education Programs Detail Report as of 3/31/13 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Expendable Trust Detail Report as of 3/31/13 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Student Activity Detail Report as of 3/31/13 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- C. Approval/Beverage Sale—Food Services Director Betty Sinko conveyed that in compliance with State Statute GCS 10-221q, Boards of Education must address allowing the sale of beverages on school premises that are not on the State's approved list. Conditions that must be met include: the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; the sale is at the location of the event; and products are not sold from a vending machine or school store. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to approve the sale of beverage items after school and/or at school events and activities contingent upon the three conditions as described above. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- D. Approval/Healthy Food Certification Renewal—In accordance with CT General Statute 10-215f, local Boards of Education must annually certify if the schools in their district will or will not participate in the Healthy Foods Program. The Administration monitored the program for several years when the district participated in it and has previously recommended non-participation in the program. Again this year, it is recommended to continue non-participation in the program as participation has a negative impact on school fundraising efforts. Mr. Wright commented that the State Board of Education which oversees the State's technical high

schools opted out of the program. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to continue with non-participation in the Act Concerning Healthy Foods and Beverages in Schools for the 2013-14 school year. Vote: unanimous in favor.

E. Approval/School Lunch Price Increase—Food Services Director Betty Sinko conveyed that the Trumbull Food Services Program is one that is self-sustaining and not supported by the Board's operating budget. She shared that continual efforts are made to provide students and staff with nutritious, healthy meal choices in a cost efficient manner. It was noted that due to new Federal requirements, revised nutritional standards, rise in the cost of food items, and contractual increases, an increase in price for school lunches is necessary. She cited an example of a new requirement of adding $\frac{3}{4}$ to 1 cup of fruit/vegetables alone to a lunch would increase the price by \$.20. Also noted was that an increase in lunch prices would help ensure continued delivery of a quality Food Service program, as well as provide monies to be used for the program's capital project plans. The Food Services Director recommended increasing school lunch prices by \$.20 per lunch, with new lunch prices as follows: elementary \$2.75; middle school \$2.85; and high school \$3.00. Mr. Wright noted that food prices have increased substantially and commended Mrs. Sinko for improving the quality of the food services for students and staff. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve price increases [\$.20 per lunch] for school lunches as presented. A brief discussion ensued regarding the surplus in the food services account. Mrs. Sinko stated that those monies are earmarked for ongoing capital projects such as replacement of refrigerators and small equipment, and costs associated with health department mandates. It was noted that Trumbull's Food Services Program is self-sustaining and not part of the operating budget. Vote: 6 in favor (Chory, Herbst, Labella, Seaman, Ward, Wright) 1 opposed (Kelly). Motion passes.

F. Policies/Second Reading

1. Protected Prayer—Ms. Cantafio reviewed the Board change regarding speakers at school events. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Seaman) to approve Protected Prayer, Policy Code 6115.1 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. 2. School-Wide Tiered Instruction and Scientific Research Based Interventions (SRBI)—Dr. Paslov conveyed that this new policy was created as a response to SRBI which was introduced to Connecticut in August 2008. She reviewed changes made since the first reading which incorporated both Board and PAC suggestions. It was moved (Kelly) seconded (Herbst) to approve School-Wide Tiered Instruction and Scientific Research Based Interventions (SRBI), Policy Code 6160 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. 2013-14 Budget Discussion—Superintendent Iassogna stated that the 2013-14 allocation to the district is \$92,962,381 which reflects a reduction of \$1,862,000 in the Board's request which must be addressed. He conveyed that the Board must consider the following information when making a final determination of how monies will be allocated: \$874,000 in 1% CT 10-248a monies; potential 2012-13 unspent monies, possibly \$400,000; Town Technology bonding appropriation of \$771,000; 2013-14 Transportation savings of approximately \$240,000; updated personnel accounts, including status of new requested positions; 2013-14 enrollment status; and possible surgical shifting of Booth Hill students to Middlebrook. Mr. Iassogna gave a powerpoint presentation on his recommendations for reducing the Board's requested budget. He reviewed reductions in non-staff accounts as follows: utilities (electricity/water) \$200,000; energy (gas/oil) \$100,000; 6% reduction in supplies \$160,000; leasing of buses vs. purchase \$235,000; anticipated savings in bus bid \$76,000; substitutes (teachers, plant) \$60,000; 10% reduction in dues, fees, memberships \$11,289; PPS consultants \$9,000; reserve

for advanced degrees \$37,000; and legal services \$27,000 for a total reduction of \$915,289. There would still be \$947,061 to be identified for possible reduction. The Superintendent also recommended using the \$874,000 [1% unspent 2011-12 monies] and potential 2012-13 unspent monies approximating \$420,000 to fund the difference in the reduction [\$947,061] to the 2013-14 budget and the shortfall in the technology bond. Discussion ensued regarding the use of unspent monies creating a funding cliff, potential savings if the district were to become self-funded for employee health insurance, and Board discretion on spending monies allocated to them. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Ward) to implement the Superintendent's recommendations [reducing the Board's 2013-14 budget request by \$1,862,350] for the allocation of \$915,289, the use of the \$874,000 [unspent 2011-12 monies] to close the gap and to fund the technology bond, and to use unspent 2012-13 monies up to the amount that is available to adjust the 2013-14 budget. Mrs. Labella expressed her frustration with budget process but said she would support the Superintendent's recommendations. Mr. Kelly stated that the 2013-14 budget process was not followed according to Town Charter. He cited the First Selectman removing \$692,000 for technology from the Board's request before forwarding the recommendation to the Board of Finance. Mr. Kelly further stated that the Board of Finance did not hear nor did they discuss the Board's budget as requested. He also commented that using unspent monies from one year to fund the next year's operating budget could create funding cliff issues for the following year. Mr. Kelly also expressed that the salary account and vacancy rate should be reviewed for possible reduction in the amount budgeted for that account. Mrs. Chory agreed with Mr. Kelly that the salary account and vacancy rate should be reviewed. Superintendent Iassogna shared that monies not used in the salary account have been available to cover unanticipated shortfalls in other accounts. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the estimation of a vacancy rate and budgeting of the salary account. Several Board members requested additional information regarding vacancy rate and salary budget estimations. Mrs. Herbst commented that she was not prepared to vote on the motion until that information was made available to the Board. Further discussion ensued regarding reducing the amount budgeted for the salary account and the current (2012-13) salary account being in a deficit. Vote: 4 in favor (Labella, Seaman, Ward, Wright) 2 opposed (Chory, Kelly) 1 abstention (Herbst). Motion passes. Mr. Iassogna conveyed that he will move forward with the budget and will provide the information requested for the next Board meeting.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:20 p.m.

