

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – October 21, 2014
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:

D. Herbst, Chairperson
L. Chory, Vice Chairperson
R. Seaman, Secretary
J. Donofrio, Board Member
S. LaFrance, Board Member
J. Peddle, Board Member
M. Ward, 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 followed by a performance of the National Anthem by the Trumbull High School (THS) Chamber Singers. They also sang Amani, a Swahili song of peace.
- B. Correspondence –There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments – Lainie McHugh conveyed that the Trumbull PTSA will be publishing their 5th edition of the ABC's of the Trumbull Education Budget and should have it ready by November 1st. Vicki Tesoro voiced her concerns with the Interscholastic Athletic Tryouts policy and asked the Board to review Regulation number 9 with regard to the posting of team rosters. She also shared her concerns about the present lack of parent(s) on the Policy Committee and the importance of having parental involvement. Board Chair Mrs. Herbst asked Vice Chair and Policy Committee Chair Mrs. Chory to comment. Mrs. Chory shared that 35 parent/community members have expressed an interest in becoming a member of the Policy Committee and new committee members (3 parent and 2 community members) are expected to be presented to the Board for approval at their November meeting.
- D. Recognition: First Selectman's Golf Classic Presentation—Proceeds from the First Selectman's Golf Classic benefit four student organizations. First Selectman Timothy Herbst shared the details of the Golf Classic and commended and thanked the committee and all volunteers for their time and efforts in organizing this very successful event. Town Treasurer John Ponzio presented checks in the amount of \$10,000 each to representatives of the following organizations: Academic Challenge for Excellence (ACE) Foundation; Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band; Trumbull High School Sports programs; and Friends of the Trumbull High School Choir. A brief recess was called at 7:21 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 7:25 p.m.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Dr. Cialfi noted that there were no changes from the last meeting.
- B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 10/07/14 It was moved (Donofrio) seconded (LaFrance) to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 6 in favor (Chory, Donofrio, Herbst, LaFrance, Peddle, Ward) 1 abstention (Seaman). Motion passes.
- C. Oral Reports
 - 1. Teacher Board Representative Jennifer Pacelli reported that teachers are preparing for parent visiting days and conferences; the Great Pumpkin Classic was a success with teachers forming challenge teams and students supporting them; and shared details of Frenchtown’s celebrations of International Peace Day.
 - 2. Student Board Representative Emma Thornton shared the successes of various sports teams qualifying for FCIAC and State playoffs. She also commented on student involvement with the Great Pumpkin Classic and noted that seniors are in the midst of the college application process. Student Board Representative Mike Zabin shared details of THS Spirit Week, peer leader involvement in Truth About Hate Assembly and TPAUD Underage Drinking Forum for 9th graders, and Veteran’s Day program.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- A. Trumbull Partnership Against Underage Drinking (TPAUD)—Dr. Cialfi commented that TPAUD was created in 2006 to address underage drinking and their efforts have proven successful in reducing this risky behavior. Ms. McGarry shared that TPAUD has been awarded a Drug-Free Community Support Program grant from the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy. TPAUD will receive \$125,000 per year for the next five years, renewable for an additional five years. She shared that the grant will enable TPAUD to further develop the capacity of the community coalition and expand their prevention efforts to include marijuana and prescription drug abuse. Ms. McGarry noted that because of TPAUD’s success, many area communities are now offering similar programs. She also reviewed briefly reviewed the 6th grade program and commented that she has given presentations to PTAs on TPAUD’s programs and mission. Ms. McGarry thanked the Board, Dr. Cialfi, Assistant Superintendent Dr. McGrath and THS Principal Marc Guarino for their continued support of this worthwhile initiative. Mrs. Tesoro shared information regarding TPAUD’s Underage Drinking Forum to be held on November 6, 2014 for 9th graders and their parents which has become part of the 9th grade curriculum. Mrs. Tesoro commented that TPAUD is working on programs for upperclassmen as a follow up to the 9th grade program. She also thanked the Board and administration along with coalition members for their efforts and support. Mrs. Herbst along with Board members thanked and commended Ms. McGarry, Mrs. Tesoro and coalition members for their time and outstanding efforts with the TPAUD program.
- B. Approval/Holocaust Trip—THS Social Studies Department Chair Kathy Rubano shared the details and importance of a proposed trip to European cities affected by the Holocaust during World War II including Berlin, Germany; Warsaw, Poland; Krakow, Poland; Prague, Czech Republic; and Munich, Germany. The trip would involve approximately 35 students with 4-5 chaperones (1 adult per 6 students). The 13-day trip is scheduled for July 2016 and no school days would be missed. It was noted that fundraising opportunities would be available to students to help defray trip costs. Considerable discussion ensued regarding trip costs, Board liability for students who are no longer in the district when the trip occurs, current global illness and civic unrest, number and cost of chaperones, chaperone’s out of pocket costs, trip cancellation, refund of trip costs if canceled, relevance of trip to curriculum, and insurance. EF Tours Representative Greg Rotundo spoke about booking conditions and responsibility for costs, trip options in case of cancellation, refunding trip costs, following the US State Department’s Formal Travel Warnings, 35-day Peace of Mind policy with regard to a district’s canceling a trip, offering an alternate date or itinerary/destination, and liability insurance carried by EF to cover Board, district, chaperones and students. As Board members had questions of Board liability and other concerns, it was decided that questions/concerns needed to be answered before a decision

could be made. It was moved (Peddle) seconded (Donofrio) to table approval of the European Cities' Holocaust trip to the first Board meeting in December [2014]. More discussion centered on clarifying which students [grade level] are eligible to participate in this trip, refunding students if trip is canceled and parental sign-off of booking conditions. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Policies, First Reading

1. Pay to Participate, Policy Code 5138—Mrs. Chory shared that with the elimination of the mandatory student athletic insurance fee, this and Interscholastic Athletics and Interscholastic Athletic Tryouts policies needed to be updated. The Policy Committee asked Athletic Director Michael King to review these policies as well. Mr. King shared that fees for participation in athletics are now being processed through online payment. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the waiver of participation fees for students receiving reduced lunch and wording of the waiver form. The Policy Committee was asked to clarify the wording of waivers and it was suggested that Dr. Cialfi and Mr. King also review the policy. This policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading and approval.
2. Interscholastic Athletics—With the elimination of the mandatory student athletic participation fee and the mandatory sign-off for Waiver of Liability and Certificate of Insurance, the policy needed to be updated. Mr. King conveyed that he has revised the registration and payment process for participation in interscholastic athletics. He reviewed policy changes and provided details of the new registration process for tryouts/participation which is now completed online. He shared that most forms that were previously collected by coaches are now completed online and coaches have access to a student's registration information. It was noted that "concussions" be added to Appendix B. Discussion ensued regarding electronic sign off for waivers and certificate of insurance, emergency contact information and the handling of emergency cards/student health information, and CIAC rules regarding academics. This policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading and approval.
3. Interscholastic Athletic Tryouts— With the elimination of the mandatory student athletic participation fee and the mandatory sign-off for Waiver of Liability and Certificate of Insurance, this policy also needed to be updated. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the method used to let students know if they have been selected for a team, posting of team rosters, posting rosters with student ID numbers versus names, coaches meeting with students who did not make the team, being cognizant of student's feelings, and the need for listing criteria for team selection. This policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading and approval.

D. Policies, Second Reading/Approval

1. School Assignments, Policy Code 5113—It was moved (Ward) seconded (Donofrio) to approve School Assignments, Policy Code 5113 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Agenda Item VI -- Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:05 p.m.