

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – February 4, 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:

D. Herbst, Chairperson
L. Chory, Vice Chairperson
J. Donofrio, Board Member
S. LaFrance, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Members absent:

R. Seaman, Secretary
J. Peddle, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 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. Comments –There were no public comments this evening.

D. Recognitions—

1. Middle School Career Night—Superintendent Dr. Cialfi shared that each year, the middle schools host an evening where career professionals share their work experience with students. Students work on cross-curricula career-related activities in preparation for Career Night. Dr. Cialfi recognized middle school principals, Valerie Forshaw and Stafford Thomas and staff members Crystal Bogos, Lisa Ryan, Robbie Weiner and Gina Zuk for their efforts in promoting this worthwhile program. Hillcrest students Meghan Ahearn and Michelle Pavloff and Madison students Morgan Mallozzi, Nicolle Majette, Shreyas Srinivasan, and Lalith Gannavaram demonstrated and reviewed various activities involved in this program. Board members congratulated the students for their outstanding work and Dr. Cialfi presented them with “I Make a Difference” pins.
2. THS “We the People” Team—Dr. Cialfi conveyed that Trumbull High Schools’ (THS) Advanced Placement/Early College Experience American Government students recently won the “We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution” state championship. Advised by THS Social Studies teacher Ms. Boland, they will represent Connecticut at the National Competition in Washington D.C. in April. The following students were recognized and commended for their efforts: Lekha Alaparathi, Miles Buroker, Samuel Carley, Jacob Cohen, Madeleine Collins, Steven Costello, Brett Cousins, Caroline Drenkard, Camilla Edwards, Kristen Gregory, Jake Horowitz, Beena Jacob, Kunal Jhaveri, Keshav Khazanchi, Maneesh Koneru, Larissa Mark, Chitra Nidadavolu, Hailey Pekera, Aleksandra Pirog, Jacqueline Rose,

Rakshana Selvarajan, William Sun, Maxwell Wu, and Jack Zhang. Team members shared their experiences with the “We the People” competition. Board members congratulated the students and wished them well at the National Competition. Dr. Cialfi presented team members with “I Make a Difference” pins.

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

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

B. Approval/We the People National Finals—THS Social Studies teacher Ms. Boland shared that the THS “We the People” team took first place in the Connecticut competition. They now advance to the National Finals in Washington D.C. to be held April 25 through April 29, 2014. Students will miss 3 school days. Ms. Boland expressed her deep appreciation for all the support the team has received from the District, ACE Foundation and Trumbull community. It was moved (Ward) seconded (LaFrance) to approve the trip [participation in the National “We the People” competition in Washington D.C.] as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Personnel – Superintendent Dr. Cialfi noted that 3 resignations were received that needed Board action. He shared that Ms. Stevens has been an asset to the District and wished her well in her retirement. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Donofrio) to accept the resignations of Stefan Porco, math teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2005, resigning effective January 17, 2014; Katherine Stevens, special education teacher at Trumbull High School since September 1979, retiring effective June 30, 2014; and Melissa Warriner, science teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2007 (currently on a personal leave of absence), resigning effective June 30, 2014. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

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

Agenda Item V – Other

It was moved (Chory) seconded (Donofrio) to add Approval of the Minutes of the January 27, 2014 Board of Education (BOE) Special meeting to Agenda Item V and approve those minutes [copies were made available to the public at the meeting] as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 1/7/14 It was moved (Chory) seconded (LaFrance) to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Approval/Financial Reports as of 11/30/13 and 12/31/13 –Business Manager Sean O’Keefe reviewed summary financial reports, attainment analysis and year-to-year analysis for the 6 months ended 12/31/2013. He also provided updated financial reports for the School Lunch program. Discussion ensued regarding school lunch program losses. Following discussion, it was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to accept the Board of Education Financial Reports for the 6 months ended 12/31/13 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

A. Policies/First Reading

1. Safety Patrol, Policy Code 5134— Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) student representatives Christian DeGenova and Ian Matz reviewed changes to the Safety Patrol policy. Discussion ensued regarding the training of safety patrol students, roles and responsibilities of patrol members, and procedural consistency among all schools. Board members also suggested wording changes. This policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading and approval.
 2. Collection Development for Media Centers, Policy Code 6161.2—Mrs. Mottolese conveyed that PAC was asked to create a policy regarding the development of media center materials. District Team Leader Donna Zimmer assisted and information was garnered from area districts and Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE). Discussion ensued regarding what constitutes a controversial issue, criteria for materials, timeframe for submitting complaints, and composition of the review committee. This policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading and approval.
 3. Trumbull Regional Agriscience/Biotechnology Program, Policy Code 6172—Mrs. Cantafio conveyed that this policy was updated to reflect the changes to this State supported regional program. Previously referred to as vocational agriculture, the program now includes the study of agriscience and biotechnology. She shared that she met with Agriscience Director Dr. Tremaglio to review the policy and also received input from high school administration. Dr. Tremaglio gave a brief overview of the agriscience/biotechnology program. This policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading and approval.
 4. Physical Activity, Policy Code 6145—Mrs. Cantafio conveyed that Dr. Cialfi asked PAC to review this policy to be consistent with the update of Connecticut Public Act 13-173. This Act addresses mandatory daily physical exercise for students, especially at the elementary level, requiring 20 minutes daily physical exercise. Mrs. Cantafio reviewed changes to the policy. This policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading and approval.
- C. Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium (SBAC)—Dr. Paslov shared that the District will participate in the SBAC Field Test for Reading/Language Arts and Mathematics this Spring which is replacing the CMT and CAPT as the State standardized assessment. CMT and CAPT will still be used to assess Science for all students in grades 5, 8 and 10. The SBAC Field Test will be given to students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 11. Dr. Cialfi shared that results from SBAC testing will not be used this year for teacher evaluations as the State has delayed the use of results of State standardized testing in evaluating teaching staff. Dr. Paslov shared that individual student results will not be available with the Field Test for this year. District results will be made available next January. She gave a detailed power point presentation outlining the assessments along with a comparison of CMT and CAPT test items to the new SBAC test items, which are aligned to the Common Core State Standards.

By unanimous consent of those present, Agenda Item IV-F was taken at this time.

- F. Oral Reports—Student Board Representative Alexa Bragg shared various events at Trumbull High including SAT's, mid-year exams, Truth About Hate Assembly for freshman, success of the indoor track team and girls' hockey team, and tickets now on sale for *Rent*. She also thanked Athletic Director Mike Herbst for his service to athletics and students and, on behalf of the THS student body, expressed deep appreciation for all his efforts and dedication to the students and athletic

program. Student Board Representative Kunal Jhaveri shared the accomplishments of the following academic teams: Mock Trial, Model UN, Debate Team, and Academic Decathlon. He also shared that the Interact Club conducted a successful food drive with items donated to area food banks. Teacher Board Representative Ms. Boland shared that THS is still experiencing heating problems throughout the building; 8 middle school students will be participating in the area MathCounts competition; and Madison Yarn Club, led by teacher Jeanne Magioglio, have been making blankets for seriously ill children.

- D. Update on Hiring of Athletic Director—Dr. McGrath shared that the Athletic Director vacancy was reposted due to concerns with the amount of qualified candidates that responded to the initial posting. The new posting will close February 14, 2014 with initial interviews to be scheduled soon after the closing date. Dr. McGrath shared that an initial review of additional applicants shows that more experienced candidates have applied for the position. Following those interviews, the interview committee will recommend finalists for a second interview with Dr. Cialfi, Dr. McGrath and THS Principal Mr. Guarino. After second interviews, Dr. Cialfi will make a recommendation to the Board for appointment.
- E. Review of BOE Transportation policy—Board Chair Mrs. Herbst shared that PAC is in the process of updating the Transportation policy and several Board members requested that this policy be discussed with the full Board. Mrs. LaFrance read a statement outlining her concerns with proposed changes to the Transportation policy with regard to limiting parental [guardian] viewing of bus videos. Considerable discussion ensued on this issue. Mrs. Herbst shared that, currently, bus videos are addressed in the Student Conduct on Buses policy and discussion continued on the addition of video viewing wording to the Transportation policy. PAC Committee Chair Dawn Cantafio shared that the committee has been asked to review the policy to address the viewing of bus videos. She reviewed procedures that PAC follows when updating policy, including consulting with administrators and the Board’s attorney when necessary. Mrs. Cantafio conveyed that the proposed wording changes to the Transportation policy were provided by the attorney and PAC usually uses the attorney’s input. She also stated that PAC is still reviewing the policy and awaiting input from Transportation Manager Dawn Perkins before the policy is brought to the Board for a first reading. More discussion ensued including current parental access to bus videos, confidentiality of student records, editing of videos to obscure student faces, student safety on buses, and reasons why the policy is being changed to limit bus video viewing. Mrs. Herbst suggested that the attorney again be consulted for rationale of new wording and asked Dr. McGrath to review this issue with the elementary and middle school principals for their input. Dr. Cialfi conveyed that he will ask PAC to provide a list of questions regarding this issue including parameters for restricted viewing by parents/guardians. He also stated that he would ask Mrs. Perkins to attend the next PAC meeting on February 12, 2014.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:08 p.m.