

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – March 11, 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—arrived at 6:20 p.m.
M. Ward, Board Member—arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. It was moved (Seaman) seconded (LaFrance) to go into Executive Session to discuss a Trumbull Educators' Association (TEA) Health Insurance Grievance and invite the Superintendent, Business Manager, Board Attorney, and Board Health Benefits Consultant to be part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Donofrio) to come out of Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item II – Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session resumed at 6:59 p.m. with a salute to the Flag. At this time, it was moved (Chory) seconded (Donofrio) to add to the agenda a discussion regarding the TEA Health Insurance Grievance. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Discussion on the grievance began with Board Attorney Floyd Dugas giving background on the issue, conveying that the TEA believes their membership has been overcharged for health insurance premium share. Attorney Dugas conveyed that the burden of proof is on the TEA to prove that contract language was violated. Both he and Health Benefits Consultant Steven Rinaldi presented management's position on the grievance. TEA provided the Board with a document in support of their position on the grievance. TEA Representative Jim McAuley presented TEA's position on the grievance, stating that the TEA believes they have been overcharged by approximately \$70,000. The TEA was also represented by Dr. Joseph Fields, an expert on health insurance grievance issues. Dr. Fields presented the Board with a statement and summarized his position on the grievance. Discussion ensued regarding the calculation of the cost of self insurance, IBNR and corridor reserves, and the use of fully insured equivalent rates or mature and immature allocation rates to calculate insurance costs. At 7:42 p.m. it was moved (Chory) seconded (Peddle) to recess for deliberation on the grievance. Vote: Unanimous in favor. The Public Session reconvened at 7:55 p.m. It was moved (Donofrio) seconded (LaFrance) to deny the TEA health insurance grievance. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

By unanimous consent of the Board, Agenda Item II-D was taken at this time.

D. Recognition—Hillcrest and Madison Math Counts Teams—Dr. Cialfi conveyed that Hillcrest and Madison Middle School students participated in the Math Counts Academic Competition on

February 10, 2014. Both teams qualified for the State Competition which took place this past Saturday, March 8th. The teams placed well at the State level and one student, Shreyas Srinivasan, qualified for the National Math Counts Competition to take place in Orlando, Florida in May. Math Teachers Mrs. Muralidharan and Mrs. Giamportone are the advisors for this extracurricular activity. The following students and their advisors were recognized and commended for their efforts and participation in this worthwhile program: Dalton Yu, Manan Manchanda, Ashwin Sambasivam, Eunji Lee, Kevin Moccia, Kacy Adams, Sophia Zhang, Cyrus Asgari, Shreyas Srinivasan, Ishan Negi, Lalith Gannavaram, Robert Foley, Jessica Parillo, Saloni Shah, Julia Louw and Lauren Louw.

B. Correspondence – Mrs. Seaman noted that the Board received several emails regarding the school calendar.

C. Comments – There were no public comments this evening.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Personnel – Superintendent Dr. Cialfi noted that one leave of absence was received that needed Board action. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Seaman) to approve a leave of absence without pay for Kelly Perry, social studies teacher at Hillcrest Middle School for the school year 2014-15 in compliance with the Trumbull Board of Education’s Leave of Absence Policy, 4150. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 2/25/14 It was moved (Chory) seconded (Seaman) to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

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

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

D. Approval/Curriculum Guides—Dr. Paslov and THS Math teacher Matthew Scerbo reviewed curriculum guides for Algebra I. Algebra I is a full year/one credit course for high school and middle school students who have completed Pre-Algebra. Middle school students do not receive high school credit for this course. This course includes the study of algebraic reasoning and problem solving skills and includes the following: patterns, scatterplots, solving equations, graphing linear equations, inequalities and radical expressions. Discussion ensued regarding the differences in the new curriculum from what is presently taught and how it addresses the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). It was moved (Seaman) seconded (Peddle) to approve the curriculum guide for Algebra I as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. ACP Geometry was not reviewed since THS Math Dept. Chair Fran Basbagill was not in attendance. Mrs. Herbst suggested that Department Chairs be available when presenting curriculum guides to the Board. It was moved (Seaman) seconded (Chory) to table the approval of the curriculum guide for Advanced College Preparatory Geometry until the [THS Mathematics] Department Chair can be available to present to the Board. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

A. Policies, Second Reading

1. Trumbull Regional Agriscience/Biotechnology Program, Policy Code 6172—Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) Chair Mrs. Cantafio conveyed that since the first reading, there has been one change to the policy. She stated that Agriscience Director Dr. Tremaglio recommended two additional changes to the policy as follows: on page 1, the addition of “Animal Science” under instruction and on page 2, No. 3 under Regulations, the addition of “Central Office Administration.” It was moved (Seaman) seconded (Donofrio) to approve Trumbull Regional

Agriscience/Biotechnology Program, Policy Code 6172 with the additional wording as presented.
Vote: Unanimous in favor.

2. Physical Activity, Policy Code 6145—Mrs. Cantafio conveyed that since the first reading, there have been no changes to the policy. Discussion ensued regarding weather guidelines for outside recess and the need for consistent recess guidelines among the schools. It was suggested that the policy be reviewed with the principals and school nursing director for their input and consistent guidelines be developed with regard to weather and outside recess. It was moved (Peddle) seconded (Seaman) to approve Physical Activity, Policy Code 6145 pending an amendment pursuant to Dr. Cialfi's/Dr. McGrath's meeting with administration and principals to establish guidelines for outside recess. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/School Calendar 2014-15—Dr. Paslov shared that the Calendar Committee is composed of the following people: BOE member Michael Ward; TEA Presidents Tammy Baillargeon and Nicholas Banks; PTA Council Representatives Scot Kerr and Joan Randano; School Nurses' Representative Joanne Sloan; TASS representative JoAnne Weiss; Student Representatives Alexa Bragg and Kunal Jhaveri; and herself. She stated that the 2014-15 calendar is similar to the current year's calendar with teachers' first day scheduled for Thursday, August 21st and students returning on Tuesday, August 26th. Dr. Paslov commented that feedback was received from all groups [teachers, administrators, support staff, school nurses, parents and students]. She reviewed dates for Fall and Spring parent conferences and noted the last day of school is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 12, 2015. The calendar allows for 7 make up days to be added to the end of the school year, with additional days to be taken from February vacation if needed. If a 12th day or an additional day is needed after February vacation, the April 6th PD day would become a legal day with teachers attending one more day in June. Dr. Paslov conveyed that the committee's decision on this version of the 2014-15 calendar was unanimous. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Donofrio) to approve the 2014-15 School Calendar as presented. Considerable discussion ensued including the length of February break, having a long weekend or a full week. Also discussed was the amount of input received from the various groups represented on the committee and parent community regarding the February break. Board Chair Mrs. Herbst asked for more data on the February break. It was suggested that a survey of parents be conducted through the administrative office as there was no quantitative data presented from the parent representatives on the committee. Mr. Ward withdrew his motion and Mr. Donofrio withdrew his second of the motion. Discussion also ensued about the timeliness of approving the calendar, the need for more statistical data from the schools and parents and the possibility of the PTA Council conducting a parent survey regarding the February break. It was moved (Donofrio) seconded (LaFrance) to postpone the vote on the 2014-15 School Calendar until the next Board meeting on March 25, 2014. Discussion ensued regarding obtaining more data regarding the February break. THS A-House Principal Mrs. McDougald-Campbell commented that administrators do not have a February break as their work year is 12-months. Administrators use their vacation time if they so choose during February break. Mrs. Herbst commented that the only issue with the proposed calendar is with the February break, having a long weekend or full week, and the rest of the calendar would remain the same. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Approval/Educational Specification for Middlebrook Window Replacement Project—Plant Operations Manager Steve Kennedy reviewed specs for the window replacement project at Middlebrook Elementary School. Mr. Peddle conveyed that authorization from the Town Council was required in order to move forward with the Middlebrook window replacement project, scheduled for the summer of 2014. He noted that resolutions were passed by the Town Council at the March 3, 2014 meeting to establish the following individuals as members of the

Building Committee for this project: Joseph Peddle, Michael Ward, Tom Christiano, James Meisner, Michael Giaquinto, Ennio DeVita and David Preusch. A project scope and cost estimate together with a copy of the ED049 application was submitted to the Town Council as support and back up for the resolution. Mr. Peddle reviewed the process that a district employs for school renovations. Discussion ensued regarding window replacement and school security. It was moved (Donofrio) seconded (Peddle) to approve the Educational Specification for Middlebrook Window Replacement Project as presented. Discussion ensued. Mr. Kennedy shared that the ED049 application was filed with the State electronically so the district could obtain a temporary project number. Mr. Donofrio reviewed the steps and timeline involved in the ED049 approval process. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- E. Board of Education Retreat—Board Chair Mrs. Herbst shared that Board members participated in a retreat on February 26, 2014. Nick Caruso, Senior Staff Associate for Field Services at Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), facilitated the discussion. Topics discussed included team building, policy development, roles and responsibilities of Board members, Board Chair's role in helping to build the culture of the Board, and developing a strong working relationship with the Superintendent. She conveyed that the retreat was a good experience and beneficial to all members. Mrs. Herbst further stated that one area of concern that arose from the retreat was policy development. She commented that considerable discussion during the retreat centered on how Board policy is developed. She conveyed that the Board's primary responsibility is setting policy and presently, the Board is not aligned statutorily with its role in developing policy. She noted that during the retreat Policy on Policy was reviewed with Mr. Caruso so the Board can align itself with what is required of them by State Statute. Mrs. Herbst directed PAC members Mrs. Seaman and Mrs. LaFrance to address Policy on Policy as soon as possible so the Board can review and make the necessary changes to comply with State Statutes. Mrs. Seaman conveyed that PAC is meeting the next evening and she would bring this topic to the committee for discussion, explaining what the Board learned and to review some suggestions that came from CABE.
- F. Approval/Trumbull Day 2014 Special Request—Board Chair Mrs. Herbst conveyed that the Board of Education (BOE) received a request from the Trumbull Day Commission seeking a waiver of Board policy to provide for alcohol sales/consumption on schools grounds for Trumbull Day which is scheduled for June 28, 2014. Trumbull Day Commission Representative Liz Mastroianni 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 28, 2014) to allow for an alcohol concession on school grounds. She conveyed that the request and outline of protocols was the same as was presented last year. It was noted that the Commission was granted a waiver last year and there were no problems as security was maintained. Mr. Ward stated that he would vote against approval of a waiver as he believes Trumbull Day is a family day and alcohol sales/consumption should not be part of it. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Seaman) to approve a waiver for the Town of Trumbull to allow an alcohol concession booth on the grounds of Hillcrest Middle and Trumbull High School in conjunction with Trumbull Day on Saturday, June 28, 2014. Vote: 6 in favor (Chory, Donofrio, Herbst, LaFrance, Peddle, Seaman) 1 opposed (Ward). Motion passes.

Agenda Item V—Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:25 p.m.