

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – May 20, 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
R. Seaman, Secretary
J. Donofrio, Board Member
S. LaFrance, Board Member (arrived at 7:15 p.m.)
J. Peddle, Board Member (arrived at 6:40 p.m.)
M. Ward, Board Member

Members absent:

L. Chory, Vice Chairperson

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:20 p.m. At this time, it was moved (Ward) seconded (Seaman) to go into Executive Session to discuss a Trumbull Administrative Support Services (TASS) grievance and to review security and invite the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business Administrator, Board Attorney, TASS President, TASS CILU Representative, District Safety Coordinator and Plant Supervisor to be part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Executive Session began at 6:25 p.m. It was moved (LaFrance) seconded (Donofrio) to come out of Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Donofrio) seconded (Ward) to deny the TASS grievance. Vote: 3 in favor (Donofrio, Herbst, Ward) 2 abstentions (LaFrance, Peddle). Motion passes. Mrs. Seaman was not present when the vote was taken.

Agenda Item II – Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session resumed at 7:21 p.m. with a salute to the Flag.

B. Correspondence – Mrs. Seaman noted that the Board received emails/letters regarding updating the Trumbull Public Schools website, resources at Middlebrook, rehiring of non-tenured teachers, and high school credit transfers.

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

D. Recognitions

1. Jane Ryan Elementary/Governor's Summer Reading Challenge—Jane Ryan Principal Mary Ellen Bolton conveyed that Jane Ryan Elementary School was recently recognized by Governor Dannel Malloy at an awards ceremony for top performing schools in the 2013 Governor's Summer Reading Challenge. It was noted that this is the second year Jane Ryan School received this award. Mrs. Bolton shared that all Jane Ryan students participated and read over 12,000 books last summer. Students representing each grade level were present and introduced themselves to the audience. Board members and the Superintendent Dr. Cialfi recognized and commended the achievement.

2. National PTA Reflections Honor Recipient—Mrs. Bolton shared that Jane Ryan Grade 4 student Catherine Xie was recently honored by the Connecticut PTA. Miss Xie received the National PTA Award of Excellence in the annual PTA Reflections program for her original story, entitled “The Phoenix.” She read an excerpt from her story and will be honored by the National PTA at a future ceremony. Dr. Cialfi and the Board commended and congratulated Catherine for her well deserved achievement.
3. Hillcrest Orchestra Performance— Dr. Cialfi welcomed the Hillcrest Orchestra for their annual performance for the Board. Under the direction of orchestra teacher Jennifer Winschel, selections played included the theme from the movie “*SkyFall*” and “*Palladio*”. Board Chair Mrs. Herbst thanked the students for performing and kudos were given to them and their teacher for their outstanding musicianship.

At 7:44 p.m. a brief recess was called and the meeting resumed at 7:46 p.m.

C. There were no public comments this evening.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Personnel – Dr. Cialfi conveyed that Michael King has been appointed Director of Athletics. No Board action is required.
- B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 5/6/14 – It was moved (Ward) seconded (Peddle) to approve the May 6, 2014 minutes as presented. Vote: 5 in favor (Donofrio, Herbst, LaFrance, Peddle, Ward) 1 abstention (Seaman). Motion passes.
- C. Approval/Financial Reports as of 4/30/14 –Business Administrator Sean O’Keefe shared that the Board Of Education (BOE) Finance Committee met on May 15, 2014 to review financial reports and year-end projections. He reviewed financial reports for the 10 months ended April 30, 2014. Items discussed included salaries, benefits, utilities (gas, electricity), transportation, legal and technical services, Food Services and BOE Program accounts. Mr. O’Keefe shared that he expects overruns in the utility accounts due to increased prices. Also discussed was the timing of installation of Smart Boards in all schools/classrooms, and it was noted that the work will be done incrementally. Also noted was wireless internet is expected to be fully operational in all schools by the end of the month. Mr. O’Keefe explained a tool he is using to monitor expenses on a monthly basis. He conveyed that approximately \$2,000,000 has been committed in the current year budget for the health benefits reserve. He also shared that at this time, the projection for the year end budget is negative, mostly due to increased utility costs, and he is hopeful that towards the end of June the amount of monies left in the budget will be close to zero. Mr. O’Keefe also reported that the district is still working to resolve the issue of being overcharged for school milk by Marcus Dairy. Following discussion, it was moved (Ward) seconded (LaFrance) to accept the Board of Education Financial Reports for the 10 months ended April 30, 2014 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- A. Approval/Mentor/Cooperating Teachers—Dr. Cialfi conveyed that approval is needed for teachers chosen to represent their district in the TEAM program. He gave an overview of the TEAM program and shared that all new teachers to the district are required to participate. The District Selection Committee met and is recommending the following teachers to work as mentors with first/second year teachers and as cooperating teachers with student teachers: Jaime Curley, Andrea

Lorenz, Marie Riccio, Carolyn Collins, Michael Curry, Lisa Capozzi, Allison Iannacone, Freda Katsetos-Stanton, Marie Tavella, Mildred Velasquez and Cheryl Wallace. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Seaman) to approve the teachers listed above as mentor and cooperating teachers for the TEAM program as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

- B. BOE Capital Projects Priority List—Plant Supervisor Steve Kennedy reviewed a list of capital projects [included in BOE May 20, 2014 meeting packet] amounting to \$3,213,098. The projects are prioritized by necessity at the request of the Board of Finance. The capital projects include: district facility assessment; new intercom systems; new master control and room clocks; repaving of parking lots, playgrounds, driveways and walkways; fuel tank removal; roof repairs; electrical systems; window replacements; and equipment replacement. Considerable discussion ensued. Items discussed included: the use of bond monies for the district facility assessment and school clocks; rationale for prioritization of projects; development of cost estimates; Hillcrest roof design; Middlebrook window replacement; playground paving; and failing equipment, i.e. trucks, tractors. It was noted that most capital project items were being addressed due to safety/security concerns and based on need. Mrs. Herbst gave kudos to Mr. Kennedy and the Building Committee for their efforts. It was moved (Peddle) seconded (LaFrance) to approve the BOE Capital Projects Priority List in the amount of \$3,213,098 as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.
- C. School Safety and Security/Public Act 13-3—This item was tabled.
- D. Oral Reports
 - 1. Teacher Board Representative—Trumbull Educators’ Association (TEA) Co-President Tammy Baillargeon shared that Katie Boland has resigned as Teacher Board Representative and the TEA is now in the process of finding a replacement for her. She shared that the TEA recently held elections and she and Jane Kluspes were elected Co-Presidents. She thanked TEAM Program Coordinator Karen MacVeigh and Dr. McGrath for their support of the program. She also thanked the Board for their support of technology upgrades for the district.
 - 2. Student Board Representative Alexa Bragg shared that Trumbull High (THS) coaches Paula Daddy, Girls’ Ice Hockey, Celina Huber, Gymnastics, and Jane Marella, Cheeleading, will be receiving Coach of the Year awards. She reported that THS Seniors Katie Foley and Peter Vaikos were named Scholar-Athletes by the CIAC; the THS Baseball Team qualified for the FCIAC playoffs; and School Spirit week was taking place this week. Student Board Representative Kunal Jhaveri shared that AP testing is completed; induction ceremonies for National and World Languages Honor Societies took place recently; and student awards assembly will be held Thursday evening. He also reported on the participation of DECA, Mock Trial and We The People at national competitions where all students did well.

Agenda Item V—Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:45 p.m.