

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – May 6, 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
J. Peddle, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Members absent:

R. Seaman, Secretary

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. At this time, it was moved (Chory) seconded (LaFrance) to go into Executive Session to review the Athletic Director's position and invite the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Trumbull High School Principal to be part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Executive Session began at 6:05 p.m. It was moved (Chory) seconded (LaFrance) to come out of Executive Session at 7:17 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item II – Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session resumed at 7:18 p.m. with a salute to the Flag. At this time, it was moved (Donofrio) seconded (LaFrance) to take Agenda Item IV-B out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports/Action Items

B. Update: Athletic Director Position—Superintendent Dr. Cialfi shared that there have been 3 postings for the position of Athletic Director since January 2014. He conveyed that the third posting resulted in a number of qualified candidates who were recently interviewed by a committee consisting of Trumbull High School (THS) Principal Marc Guarino, TAA Representative Lucinda Timpanelli, TEA Representatives Jane Kluspes, Sal Vitiello and Scott Zinser, and Community/PTA representatives Donna Watson, Dan Neumann, Vincent Lipinski, and Jeff Wright. Dr. Cialfi conveyed that several highly qualified candidates were brought in for a second interview with Assistant Superintendent Dr. McGrath, Mr. Guarino and himself. They recommended a potential candidate who met with the Board during this evening's Executive Session. Dr. Cialfi stated that the Board accepted his recommendation for the position and introduced Michael King, current Athletic Director at Stamford's Westhill High School, as the new Athletic Director for Trumbull Public Schools. Board Chair Mrs. Herbst welcomed Mr. King and wished him well in his new position.

Agenda Item II – Preliminary Business

B. Correspondence – Mrs. Chory shared that the Board received correspondence regarding high school transfer credits, Middlebrook Elementary School enrollment concerns, non-renewal of teachers, lack of a public forum on redistricting, and controlled environment concerns.

C. Comments – Roy Fuchs expressed his concerns with the plans presented in the Elementary Enrollment Study and his opinion that the entire town should be redistricted and a plan devised to

address the possible closure of an elementary school. Anthony D’Aquila expressed concerns that parking and traffic issues at Middlebrook Elementary School and the adjoining Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center, along with the Trumbull EMS station which is located next to Middlebrook, were not addressed in the Elementary Enrollment Study. He asked the Board to consider a traffic study before voting on a redistricting plan.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Dr. Cialfi shared that there were no changes since the last Board meeting.
- B. Approval/Minutes – Special Meeting – 4/23/14 It was moved (Chory) seconded (Donofrio) to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. Approval/Financial Reports as of 2/28/14 and 3/31/14 –Mrs. Chory suggested that a vote be taken to approve the financial reports for February at this time. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Ward) to accept the Board of Education (BOE) Financial Reports for the 8 months ended 2/28/14. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Business Manager Sean O’Keefe conveyed that the BOE Finance Committee met on May 1, 2014 to review Financial Reports as of February 28, 2014 and March 31, 2014. He reviewed financial reports for the 9 months ended 3/31/14. The following accounts were reviewed: salaries, benefits, utilities, energy, and service contracts. Mr. O’Keefe conveyed that several accounts were being monitored, including utilities, transportation, tuition, supplies and equipment, as costs for those items have increased. Also reviewed were the Food Services and BOE Programs accounts. Mrs. Chory shared that the Finance Committee reviews in detail all financial reports at their monthly meeting and minutes of those meetings can be found on the Trumbull Public Schools’ website. Following discussion, it was moved (Chory) seconded (Peddle) to accept the Board of Education Financial Reports for the 9 months ended 3/31/14 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

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

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- C. Trumbull Day Commission Proposal 2014—Elizabeth Mastroianni, Chairperson of the Trumbull Day Commission, conveyed that the Trumbull Day Commission is requesting a revision to the waiver for alcohol sales on school grounds, specifically to allow chairs in the beer/wine tent. She shared that the tent already has tables and it was the Commission’s idea to add seating for patrons. Mr. Ward stated that he was vehemently opposed to the sale of alcohol and setting up seating in the tent during Trumbull Day as it has always been a day for families. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the monitoring of alcohol sales, not allowing children in the tent, possibility of patrons carrying drinks outside the designated area, seating in the tent, police presence in the tent, providing a larger tent as it was very crowded last year, and the sale of alcohol on school grounds. Mrs. Herbst asked if the Commission had looked into finding a different venue for the event, such as Indian Ledge Park, and it was noted that the grounds of Trumbull High and Hillcrest were the only place where fireworks could be discharged. Following discussion, it was moved (LaFrance) seconded (Ward) to deny the request for seating in the beer/wine tent at Trumbull Day. Vote: 5 in favor (Chory, Donofrio, Herbst, LaFrance, Ward) 1 opposed (Peddle). Motion passes.

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

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- D. Elementary Enrollment Study—Dr. Cialfi reviewed the purpose and findings of the Elementary Enrollment Study which involved a Committee whose members include Board Chair Mrs. Herbst, Board Members Rosemary Seaman and Michael Ward, Assistant Superintendent Dr. McGrath, TECEC Director Dr. Wheeler, and PTA Representatives Linda Bartolucci and Anne Eisdorfer. He reminded the Board that the results of the study were presented and reviewed at their April 8, 2014 meeting by Milone and MacBroom Consultants Michael Zuba and Rebecca Auger who were employed to conduct the study. The study addressed the following objectives: removal of all elementary portable classrooms; prevention of overcrowding; provide for designated classroom space for art and music; and mitigate the number of students needing to be redistricted to another elementary school. Dr. Cialfi noted that after a thorough review of all the data, it is the consensus of the Committee to recommend Scenario D [included in BOE packet and posted on TPS website] to the Board. Dr. Cialfi conveyed his support and recommendation of Scenario D and shared that all parent/community correspondence regarding the redistricting of Frenchtown students has been reviewed and addressed. He gave a power point presentation to address parental concerns regarding equity of class size and staffing resources and estimated 2014-15 enrollment projections for Frenchtown and Middlebrook Schools. He shared that enrollment projections are preliminary and may change before the beginning of the 2014-15 school year. It was noted that a number of students residing in the Eaves complex and currently in kindergarten through second grade would be moved from Frenchtown to Middlebrook. Students currently in grades three and four would remain at Frenchtown and would be given the opportunity to attend Middlebrook if they have a younger sibling being moved to that school. Dr. Cialfi conveyed that there will be planning sessions for the transition of students including input from the principals, Curriculum Director, Program Leaders, math and reading specialists, and faculty and welcoming activities for students and parents. He also shared that a policy regarding flexible enrollment for high density population areas is being developed and will be brought to the Policy Advisory Committee for their June meeting. Discussion ensued regarding flexible enrollment policy and it was noted that language in the policy will state that it will only apply to incoming students to the district and not students currently enrolled. Mrs. Herbst asked that every effort be made to assist the students being moved from Frenchtown to Middlebrook in their adjustment to their new school. She requested that the Board be apprised of all planning sessions, transition activities, and allocation of needed resources related to the redistricted students and their families. Discussion ensued regarding the process of determining which Frenchtown students will be moved to Middlebrook and Dr. Cialfi conveyed that factors in the determination include the number of incoming students, student needs, and will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Following discussion, it was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to approve Scenario D as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- E. Approval/Curriculum Guide—Director of Curriculum Dr. Paslov and THS Social Studies Dept. Chair Kathy Rubano presented the curriculum guide for Global Civilizations. This course is a mandatory Grade 9, full year/one credit course taught on 3 levels, Honors, Advanced College Prep and College Prep. The course analyzes the historical roots of both the change and continuity of relations among human societies and revolves around global history. The course provides a broad historic view for interpreting today's international relations and incorporates technology and Common Core State Standards. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Peddle) to approve the curriculum guide for Global Civilizations as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V—Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:40 p.m.