

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – June 17, 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
R. Seaman, Secretary
J. Donofrio, Board Member
S. LaFrance, Board Member
J. Peddle, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Members absent:

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. At this time, it was moved (Seaman) seconded (Donofrio) to go into Executive Session to discuss the Director of Building and Facility Maintenance Position and invite the Superintendent to be part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Executive Session began at 6:06 p.m. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Donofrio) to come out of Executive Session at 7:12 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item II – Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session resumed at 7:15 p.m. with a salute to the Flag followed by a moment of silence for Trumbull High School (THS) student Abigail Anderson, who suddenly passed away the previous Friday. At this time, Dr. Cialfi shared the following: “I was deeply saddened to have to communicate to the entire community this past Saturday that we are suffering the loss of one of our THS students, Abigail Anderson. All of Trumbull has been sharing heartfelt sympathy for the Anderson family. Counseling services have been made available for students and will continue throughout the week. Principal Marc Guarino and the THS staff have demonstrated that in addition to counseling services, our students need the love and support of their family, friends, and classmates. They have made every accommodation imaginable to make certain that this support is the priority in this time of grief. Trumbull High School has reacted to the loss of Abigail as a united family. I am grateful to our counselors, teachers, administrators, support staff, Dr. McGrath, Mrs. Smith, parents and so many community members who have contributed their personal time over the weekend and over the past few days to the individual needs of our students.” Dr. Cialfi further conveyed that counseling and support services will also be in place after school closes next week. Board Chair Mrs. Herbst thanked Dr. Cialfi and Dr. McGrath, Principal Guarino and staff for their assistance over the weekend at THS offering support for the students during this sad time and asked Dr. Cialfi to convey the Board’s appreciation to the staff for their efforts.

B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.

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

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Personnel – Superintendent Dr. Cialfi noted two appointments to positions at Trumbull High School. No Board action was required. Dr. Cialfi conveyed that he is recommending the hiring of Mark

Deming, currently Facilities Director for the Branford Public Schools, for the position of Director of Building and Facility Maintenance. Mr. Deming was interviewed by the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and the Interview Committee and also met with the Board in Executive Session. The Board is in agreement with the hiring of Mr. Deming. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Herbst welcomed Mr. Deming to the Trumbull Public Schools. At this time, Dr. Cialfi expressed his appreciation of the time and efforts of Board members, thanked them for their support of students, staff and administration, and presented each member with an “I Make A Difference” pin.

- B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 6/3/14 It was moved (Seaman) seconded (La France) to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- A. Approval/Healthy Food Certification—Food Services Director Betty Sinko stated that in accordance with CT General Statute 10-215f, local Boards of Education must annually certify if the schools in their district will or will not participate in the Healthy Foods Certification (HFC) Program. This certification is due to the State by July 1, 2014. She conveyed that food items must meet Connecticut Nutrition Standards and new Federal guidelines [National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program: Nutrition Standards for All Foods Sold in School] beginning July 1, 2014. This Federal mandate includes all foods offered for sale to students at all times during school hours, in all schools, and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises, whether or not school sponsored. She noted foods that cannot be sold during school hours include but not limited to, candy, and cookie dough and pies which have been used for fund raisers. It was noted that new Federal guidelines are very similar to Connecticut’s Healthy Food Certification. Mrs. Sinko shared that if the district decides to participate, the Food Services Program will receive an additional 10 cents per lunch in State reimbursement based on the total number of reimbursable lunches (paid, free and reduced price) served in the district in the prior school year. Mrs. Sinko further conveyed that as part of the Healthy-Free Kids Act of 2010, changes to the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program Meal Pattern continue to be phased in and the district is required to follow the Federal mandate. Discussion ensued regarding fund raising, candy sales, THS school store, and concession stands at school events. Mrs. Sinko shared that every year, the District approves the waiver for food sales after school hours where there is no limitation on what food items can be sold. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Donofrio) to approve participation in the Healthy Foods Certification in all schools for the 2014-15 school year. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Chory) seconded (LaFrance) to table this agenda item. Mrs. Sinko conveyed that as of July 1, 2014, the district must comply with the Federal Competitive Foods regulations regardless of whether the district participates in the Healthy Food Certification. Considerable discussion continued including the following: more clarity of information needed to make a decision; impact on school and PTA fundraisers; consistency among schools in following guidelines; federal and state mandates regarding food sales in schools; Trumbull’s participation in the Healthy Foods Certification. Dr. McGrath shared that information on the new federal guidelines has been discussed with the Health Advisory Committee and shared with all school principals. Also discussed were reasons for school lunch price increases due to increased food costs to comply with federal mandates, salaries and benefits, and the impact on the increases based on whether or not Trumbull were to participate in the Connecticut Healthy Food Certification program. Business Manager Sean O’Keefe suggested that the decision on a price increase for school lunches be tabled until he can provide more accurate year-end financials for the Food Services Program. Due to the considerable discussion, Mrs. Herbst asked that all motions on the table be withdrawn and begin again with a new motion. Mrs. Chory and Mr. Ward withdrew their motions. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Seaman) to approve participation in the Healthy Foods Certification in all schools for the 2014-15 school year. Vote: 5 in favor (Donofrio, Herbst, Peddle, Seaman, Ward) 2 abstentions (Chory, LaFrance). Motion passes.

- B. Approval/Beverage Sale—Food Services Director Betty Sinko conveyed that in compliance with State Statute GCS 10-221q and Healthy Food Certification, Boards of Education must address allowing the sale of beverages on school premises that are not on the State’s approved list. Conditions that must be met include: the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; the sale is at the location of the event; and products are not sold from a vending machine or school store. She shared that the District has always approved this waiver. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Donofrio) to approve the sale of beverage items after school and/or at school events and activities contingent upon the three conditions as described above. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. Approval/School Lunch Price Increase— It was moved (Ward) seconded (Peddle) to table this agenda item as recommended by Business Manager Sean O’Keefe. Discussion ensued and Mr. O’Keefe conveyed he will provide more information regarding school lunch prices when this item is brought back to the Board for discussion and possible action. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- D. Approval/Memorandum of Agreement, Health Reserve—Business Manager Sean O’Keefe conveyed that the Finance Committee has been working with Insurance Consultant Steve Rinaldi to establish a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Board of Education and the Town of Trumbull. The purpose of the MOA is to lay the ground rules for establishing and maintaining an appropriate health reserve for both the Board of Education and Town self-funded insurance plans. The reserve would be used for medical bills for previous year’s services that are received after July 1st and to cover excess costs and 110% reserve. The document has been reviewed by Board Attorney Floyd Dugas and earlier versions were reviewed by the Town Finance Director Maria Pires, Board of Finance (BOF) Chair Elaine Hammers and the Town Attorney. Both Mrs. Chory and Mrs. LaFrance shared that the Finance Committee has had several meetings with Town officials and Mr. Rinaldi to review and refine the document. The Finance Committee recommended the approval of the MOA which will be forwarded to the Town Council for their review and approval. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Peddle) to approve the Memorandum of Agreement for Health Reserve as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Board members commended Mr. Rinaldi for his efforts and assistance in creating this document.
- E. Approval/2013-14 Potential Surplus Action Plan—Mr. O’Keefe conveyed that upon further review of financials, the district could potentially have a year-end surplus between \$200,000 and \$400,000. The Finance Committee met and discussed ways in which a potential surplus could be used and focused on bonded capital projects that were recently rejected by the Town when the Board came before the BOF to request funding. It was moved (LaFrance) seconded (Ward) to request and approve in the case of a [2013-14] surplus, up to a \$250,000 transfer to the Health Benefits Insurance Reserve and any remaining balance over the \$250,000 to be allocated for plant projects that were reduced from the [BOE Capital Projects Priority List] bonding request and recommended for immediate action by the Superintendent. Discussion ensued regarding priority capital projects included in the recent bonding request and rejected by the BOF. Dr. Cialfi conveyed that several asphalt paving projects of playgrounds may be considered if funding becomes available. Other projects rejected by the BOF may be considered including the purchase of a truck and toolcat and new clock systems for schools. Mrs. Chory suggested that the \$250,000 to be used for the health insurance reserve would free up monies that could be used for a facilities assessment. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:08 p.m.