

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – June 3, 2014
Trumbull High School
Auditorium

The Trumbull Board of Education (BOE) convened in the Trumbull High School Auditorium 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
M. Ward, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item II – Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.

B. Dedication of Robert E. McCarthy Auditorium—Board Chair Mrs. Herbst welcomed the family of Robert McCarthy and audience members to this dedication ceremony, naming the Trumbull High School (THS) auditorium for former Principal Robert McCarthy. Superintendent Dr. Cialfi shared the following about Robert (Bob) McCarthy: he was well known throughout the entire community as the result of his commitment and passion for educating Trumbull's youth. During his many years in the Trumbull Public Schools, Bob touched the lives of thousands of people. One of his most valued achievements was the special relationship that he had with all of the students who attended his schools. He was Principal of Trumbull High School from 1985 to 2000 and his previous positions included Principal of Madison Junior High School from 1971 to 1985; Principal of Middlebrook Junior High School from 1969-1971; Assistant Principal of Hillcrest Junior High School from 1967-1969; and Teacher at Nichols Elementary School from 1964-1967. His achievements in moving THS forward in preparation for the 21st Century are best recognized by his staff and the many students who remember him as a principal who always had time to listen. He cared for everyone as the patriarch of the THS family. Dr. Cialfi also conveyed that Bob was extremely helpful to him when he became the THS Principal. Both First Selectman Tim Herbst and Probate Judge T. R. Rowe shared their very positive experiences with Mr. McCarthy as he was their high school principal. Both conveyed that he was a very caring man who always had time for the students, a wonderful listener and a great role model to all who knew him. Judy Zakim, THS guidance counselor shared her experiences as a student under Bob as her high school principal and, after college, working with him as a THS guidance counselor. Board Secretary Mrs. Seaman shared a message from former THS Principal and BOE Chair Ted Lovely conveying that the dedication of the auditorium is a fitting tribute to a wonderful educator. Mrs. Seaman also shared her experiences with Bob as an inspiration and mentor to his staff. A ten-minute recess was called at 7:24 p.m. for light refreshments and the Public Session resumed at 7:35 p.m.

C. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.

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

E. Recognitions

1. 2014 Tenure Teachers—The following certified staff members were recognized and commended for attaining tenure status with the Trumbull Board of Education: Kathleen Belmont, Jillian Capone, Carolyn Collins, Jamie Curley, Allison DelBene, Amy Gorruso, Gail Kay, Sally Kenler, April Lang, Cara Logan, Patricia Marini, Matthew Nagel, Cynthia Proctor, Erica Serrano, Jennifer Stewart, and Marc Wilson.
2. TPSLD 2014 “Above and Beyond” Awards— Trumbull Parents of Students with Learning Differences (TPSLD) are a group dedicated to increasing awareness of learning differences between children. Annually, TPSLD presents awards to recognize outstanding achievements by people who improve the lives of Trumbull students with disabilities. The following people received certificates for their work with students: Danny DeLucia, Ann Savo, Gail Dorsch, Kim Piccolo, Laurie Voccola, Lelian Hannah, Michelle Keckler, Olga Caruso, Wanda Sharp, Ann Martin, Sarah Beauchesne, Kathryn Broderick, Larry Stowe, Roseanne Bosco, Rachel Murphy, Lorna Weinsten, Dana Puglise, Michelle Feller, Laura Heyder, Anne Powell, Hope Spalla, and Melissa Giaquinto. The TPSLD “Above and Beyond” Awards were presented to the following: Community Organization Award—Kennedy Center; Paraprofessional—Elizabeth Pellegrino; Youth—Rachel Carron; and Adult—Emma Genster.
3. CABE Leadership Awards—Board Chair Mrs. Herbst, Vice Chair Mrs. Chory and Dr. Cialfi recognized and commended Student Board Representatives Kunal Jhaveri and Alexa Bragg. Mrs. Herbst presented them with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Leadership Award, developed by CABE to provide the Board an opportunity to recognize student achievement, academic potential and leadership abilities. She conveyed that these students have done an excellent job in representing the student population and is most appreciative of their efforts and outstanding contributions to the Board. Mrs. Herbst also presented CABE Leadership Awards to Madison Middle School students Ishan Negi and Sheryl John. They were also commended for their achievements.
4. THS Mock Trial Achievement—THS Mock Trial Advisor Eric August shared the details and accomplishments of the THS Mock Trial Team at their national competition. The team ranked 17th in the nation and students recognized individually included: Molly Stewart, top overall attorney; Anneliese Segarra, top witness; Dante Esposito, outstanding attorney performance; and Ashley Hallstrom and Ross Pellenberg, outstanding witness performance. Mr. August thanked the Board, Dr. Cialfi, Assistant Superintendent Dr. McGrath, THS Principal Marc Guarino, and the ACE Foundation for their support of this academic club. Mr. August also thanked the team for their efforts and dedication to this endeavor.
5. Trumbull High School (THS) Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA)—Dr. Cialfi shared the DECA students recently participated in the International DECA Competition in Atlanta, Georgia. DECA Advisor Todd Manuel shared the details of the competition and accomplishments of club members including Justin Lynch’s receipt of the Yellow Medal award for earning a top 10 score on the written exam. The following students placed in the top 20% in their respective events: Julianne Becker, Prithvi Mahesh, Brittany Kubicko, Hannah Lillicraf, Aleksandra Pirog, Morgan Fried, Matthew Kapell, and Jackie Sheehan. Mr. Manuel thanked the Board, ACE Foundation, Dr. Cialfi, Dr. McGrath, Principal Guarino, and THS Business Department Chair Debra Owen for their continued support of DECA. THS seniors Jackie Sheehan and Morgan Fried shared their experiences with being a member of DECA and participating in the international competition.

6. Trumbull High School 2013-14 Trillium (yearbook)—THS Trillium Advisor Lisa Acerbo reviewed the details of this year's book, titled "*Here Us Now*". She shared that last year's book was recognized by top journalism organizations as a Gold Medalist and All American. Ms. Acerbo thanked the Board, Superintendent, administration, faculty, parents and staff of Trumbull High and the Trumbull community for their support.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Dr. Cialfi shared a revised Personnel Report. He conveyed that one resignation was received that needed Board action. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Seaman) to accept the resignation of Nan Stern, Reading and Language Arts Consultant at Daniels Farm Elementary School since September 1973, retiring effective June 30, 2014. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 5/20/14 It was moved (Donofrio) seconded (LaFrance) to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- A. TPAUD Update—Ms. McGarry and Mrs. Tesoro shared that the Trumbull Partnership Against Underage Drinking (TPAUD) is a coalition funded by a State DMHAS grant and is dedicated to preventing alcohol use by Trumbull youth through education, outreach, and enforcement. Mrs. McGarry gave a power point presentation reviewing the goals of TPAUD—(1) understanding the reasons youth drink and the ways the Trumbull community can combat social access to alcohol, family norms that accept underage drinking, and low enforcement of laws; and (2) planning and implementing programs to combat these factors by changing the environment in which adolescents reside in Trumbull. She reviewed results of their most recent surveys which were taken by 1,225 parents in September 2013 and 2,721 students in grades 7 through 12 during November 2013. [Report available in June 3, 2014 Board packet that is posted on TPS website]. Several notable points shown through the surveys include a significant reduction in past 30-day alcohol use and binge drinking by Trumbull youth and a significant increase in parental disapproval of underage drinking since the start of TPAUD programming. Also reviewed were education and outreach programs, collaborative partnership with the Trumbull Police Department, and expansion of prescription drug and drug abuse prevention. TPAUD's priorities for 2014-15 include expanding outreach programs for students and parents and obtaining federal and state grants, and local partnerships and sponsorships to sustain this initiative. Both Mrs. McGarry and Mrs. Tesoro gave thanks to the Board, Dr. Cialfi, Dr. McGrath, Mr. Guarino and TPS administration for their continued support of this important program. They also thanked all the volunteers involved in TPAUD. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Herbst thanked Mrs. Tesoro for her time and tireless efforts in promoting this very worthwhile program.
- B. Status of 2013-14 Financials—Business Manager Sean O'Keefe reported preliminary projections for the year ending June 30, 2014. He reviewed his methodology in arriving at his projections, using the percentage of the 2012-13 budget spent at this time last year to project spending for the comparable time in this year's (2013-14) budget. He distributed a report of his projections to the Board and reviewed the accounts. He conveyed that the projections assume that the \$2,000,000 for the health insurance reserve account has already been taken from the 2013-14 budget. While several accounts are currently projected at a deficit for the year, particularly in the area of utilities, other accounts are projected to be underspent, resulting in a possible year-end overall budget being overspent by approximately \$100,000 before adjustments. He shared that there are still many variables which can affect the budget such as encumbered monies not yet spent and bills for items not encumbered. Mr. O'Keefe conveyed that he is hopeful that by year end, there will be a small surplus left in the 2013-14 budget. Discussion ensued regarding the following: tracking tool used for budget analysis; non-

recurring (one-time) expenses; budget freeze on supplies and equipment; timeframe for expending budget items; status of encumbered funds and possibility of not using those funds. Several Board members asked for a listing of encumbered items and their amounts.

- C. Approval/Request to Amend 2011-12 Bonding Resolution and Reallocate Funds—Mr. O’Keefe reviewed the Bonding Resolution of 2011-12 for which the Board received \$300,000. This amount included \$70,000 earmarked for a UPS System (Uninterrupted Power Supply) for the computer server room at Long Hill Administration Building. Following an assessment of power equipment requirements, especially in light of recent storms (Hurricane Sandy and Winter Storm Nemo), it was determined that a generator would provide a more efficient solution for the server room during a long-term power outage. An additional \$80,000 is required for the Generator Project. The administration is proposing to reallocate remaining funds in the 2011-12 Bonding Resolution from the Booth Hill/Jane Ryan Asbestos project (\$68,000) and the Madison Steam Trap project (\$27,500) to the Generator Project. Plant Supervisor Steve Kennedy explained the UPS system allows for a programmed shut down of the server when power is lost and runs approximately 20-25 minutes. Mr. Kennedy shared that a generator would allow the server to run as long as needed. He shared that in some previous power outages, the server was damaged and it is hoped the UPS system will prevent such problems. He conveyed that the \$80,000 for the generator would be in addition to the UPS system and would only take care of the server room. He also shared that depending on costs, the administration may bid for a generator for the entire Long Hill building. Both Mr. O’Keefe and Mr. Kennedy expressed the need for long-term backup power for the building as it is the Central Administration for the district. Mr. Kennedy conveyed that when the bid spec is sent out for a generator for the server room, it would also include specs for a generator to power the entire building, resulting in two separate bids. Discussion ensued regarding reallocating funds, using schools with generators during power outages, bid specifications, timeframe for bids, dismissing asbestos removal from Booth Hill/Jane Ryan, and security concerns. It was noted that the Generator Project should be part of an overall major disaster recovery plan that includes central administration, in addition to all school facilities. It was suggested that funding through grants should be explored to obtain monies for a generator. Mrs. Herbst conveyed she would like more information regarding this project and Board members were in agreement. It was moved (LaFrance) seconded (Chory) to table this agenda item to the June 17, 2014 Board meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Oral Reports—

1. Teacher Board Representative—There was no report.
2. Student Board Representative Kunal Jhaveri reported that AP and SBAC testing were completed. He also shared that the track and field team was participating in State competition and the baseball team won its quarterfinal game in the CIAC championship and now moves on to the semi-final game on Friday. On behalf of Alexa and himself, he expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to serve as student representatives and thanked Board members for their support. Student Board Representative Alexa Bragg shared that students were enjoying year end activities, including the Senior Class Trip, Prom and Post Prom. She thanked the parent volunteers, school staff and administration for hosting a wonderful evening [Prom]. She shared that Monday evening was the Connecticut High School Music Theatre Awards gala where five THS students were honored—Larissa Mark, Emily Ciancimino, Rachel and Gabby Tropp, and Michael Lepore.

Agenda Item V -- Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:44 p.m.