

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – January 20, 2015  
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 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. Correspondence – Mrs. Chory shared that thank you notes for the gifts of children’s coats were received from families in the Head Start program.

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

D. Recognitions

1. NOAA Teacher at Sea—Dr. Cialfi conveyed that Trumbull High School (THS) science teacher Kathleen Gibson has been chosen for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) Teacher at Sea program. The program is highly competitive as only 20 teachers are accepted each year. Mrs. Gibson shared information regarding the program, her role as a Teacher at Sea, and commented that she is awaiting her assignment. She thanked the administration and the Board for their support of this endeavor. Dr. Cialfi commended her for this outstanding accomplishment and presented her with an “I Make a Difference” pin. Board Chair Mrs. Herbst along with Board members extended their congratulations to Mrs. Gibson and thanked her for efforts and service to her students and the district.
2. THS “We the People” Team—Dr. Cialfi conveyed that the THS “We the People Team” recently won the Connecticut State Championship. The team has won the State competition four consecutive times and will compete for the National Title in Washington, D.C. from April 24 through 28, 2015. THS Advisor Katie Boland reviewed the details of the program and Team Members introduced themselves. Speaking for the Team, Frederick Tamarkin thanked the Board and Administration for their support and commitment to this competition. Board members congratulated the students and wished them well at the National Competition. Dr. Cialfi recognized and commended THS Advisors Katie Boland and Michael Margonis and the team: Victoria Carter, Avery Collins, Eric Eisdorfer, Meghan Farrell, Caroline Forster, Elianna Gerb, Nicholas Grew, Zaineb Haroon, Justin Jager, Rohit Kandala, Krystyna Kryzanski, Julia Murphy, Daniel Netting, Nikhil Ramachandran, Anna Ribbens, Chiaki Santiago, Thomas Switzgable, Frederick Tamarkin, Emma Thornton, Bridget Weston, Erin Wingo and Michael Zabin. He presented them with “I Make a Difference” pins.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Personnel – Superintendent Dr. Cialfi noted that there were no changes since the last meeting.

- B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 1/6/15 It was moved (Chory) seconded (Donofrio) to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: 5 in favor (Chory, Donofrio, Herbst, LaFrance, Ward) 1 abstention (Peddle). Motion passes.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- A. Approval/THS “We the People” Trip to Washington, D.C.—THS “We the People” Advisor Katie Boland outlined details of the trip to Washington, D.C. to participate in the National “We the People” competition which will take place from April 24 to April 28, 2015. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Donofrio) to approve the “We the People” trip as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent/guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellations for any reason. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Policy—Second Reading/Approval, Interscholastic Athletic Tryouts, Policy Code 5151—This policy was presented to the Board for a first reading on October 21, 2014. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Ward) to table this agenda item to a future meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. Policy—First Reading, Attendance K-8—Assistant Superintendent Dr. McGrath conveyed that this policy was last updated in December 1997. He reviewed changes which reflect current district practice, updated Connecticut State law regarding school attendance, and consistency of procedures among the schools. It was suggested that the Connecticut State Statute number be included in the policy statement. Discussion ensued regarding information included in a doctor’s note about a student’s hospitalization and the impact of HIPPA law; the impact of family vacations on student absence; legal action regarding excessive absences; and the removal of language regarding appeals of unexcused absences. Board members suggested wording changes that will be brought to the Policy Committee for review and updating of policy. This policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading and approval at a future meeting.
- D. Approval/Prior Year Capital Bonding Projects, Status and Recommendation—Business Manager Sean O’Keefe commented that the Finance Committee recently reviewed the current status of all Prior Years’ facilities-related Bonded Projects (2011-12 through 2014-15). The Committee is recommending the Board approve the request to the Town to pursue a re-allocation of unexpended funds [\$423,000] to other projects not yet addressed. Facilities Director Mark Deming reviewed the status of current bonded projects and commented that some of these projects have been completed under budget, leaving monies that could be used for more critical items. He also shared that some originally bonded items were not needed at this time. [Chart on Status of Board of Education Bonded Projects/Recommended Actions included in meeting packet]. Mr. Deming reviewed the projects to be addressed with re-allocated funds including boiler replacements in schools (\$244,000), Booth Hill and Jane Ryan Panel Upgrades (\$100,000), Underground Storage Tank Clean-up (\$8,000), Daniels Farm fire alarm upgrade (\$14,000), Frenchtown Chiller VFD Replacement (\$35,000) and Long Hill generator (\$30,000) for a total of \$423,000. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Ward) to approve the re-allocation of unexpended bonded funds totaling \$423,000 for 2011-12, 2012-13 and 2014-15 to other critical facilities’ projects as presented. Discussion ensued regarding the format of the document that would be forwarded to the Town. It was suggested that the current bonded projects and monies spent/not used should be listed by year and include the project by year for which the re-allocated monies would be used. It was recommended that the document to be forwarded to the Town would include detail year by year. Vote: Unanimous in favor

Agenda Item V – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Agenda Item VI -- Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 7:56 p.m.