

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting - October 6, 2015, 7:00 p.m.
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 (left at 7:30 p.m.)

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. Comments – Parent, Gayle Yakush, spoke on behalf of Substitute Teacher Mr. Joseph Rodgers. Current and former students Candace Naude, Julie Trinh, Megan Anderson, Alena Aubrey, Casey Marazita, Riahav Jauhri, Taylor Berlin and Andrew Scott commented about their classroom experiences with Mr. Rodgers, the positive influence that he had on them and their hope that he continue at THS. Several of these students also spoke on behalf of other former THS students. Former THS Latin teacher, Laura Guadagnoli, spoke of Mr. Rodger’s professionalism and sincere interest in positive student outcome. Superintendent Dr. Cialfi stated, “It is our practice not to comment publicly regarding personnel matters. This applies to substitutes as well as regular employees, so I cannot comment on this.” The Superintendent and the Board welcomed the students’ comments and thanked them for coming forward to express their views. Trumbull parent Kevin Smith represented his children who attend Trumbull Public Schools who praised their teachers’ hard work and enthusiasm. Trumbull parent, Erin Horbach approached the Board as we begin the budget process to be mindful of all student educational needs, including computer classes and second language instruction at pre-school and elementary levels.
- C. Correspondence – Mrs. Seaman noted the receipt of correspondence regarding support of Mr. Joseph Rodgers.

The Board Chair called for a five minute recess and the meeting was resumed at 7:38 p.m.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Personnel – Dr. Cialfi noted that there is one certified resignation that needs Board action. It was moved (Donofrio) and seconded (Seaman) to accept the resignation of Justin Elkins, .6 strings teacher at Trumbull High School since August, 2011, resigning effective September 11, 2015. Vote: Unanimous in favor. The Superintendent stated that he is in the process of interviewing candidates to replace Mr. Elkins.
- B. Approval/Minutes – Special and Regular Meetings – 9/21/2015. It was moved (Peddle) seconded (LaFrance) to approve the minutes as presented. All vote in favor. Motion passes.
- C. Approval/Financial Reports as of 6/30/2015 and July-September 2015 Budget Transfers

Business Administrator Sean O’Keefe stated that the Finance Sub Committee met on September 30, 2015 to review the financials through June 30, 2015. In addition to the June 2015 financials, the Finance Sub Committee discussed transfers for the period of July to September 2015. It was moved (Peddle) and seconded (Chory) to accept the Board of Education Financial Reports for the period ending June 30, 2015 as presented and to approve the transfers from July to September 2015 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports/Action Items

- A. Tri-State Consortium Training & Upcoming Consultancy – Dr. Cialfi and Dr. Budd discussed the recent training by the Tri-State Consortium as Trumbull has been selected to evaluate the educational process of other districts. The Consortium is an organization of public school districts that values thinking and collaborating as the foundation for continuous improvement in all areas of education. The Consortium assists its member districts in using quantitative and qualitative data to enhance student performance and to build a rigorous framework for planning, assessment, and systemic change. Teachers Jody D’Addario (Madison), Jackie Blackmore (Daniels Farm), Anne Rizza (THS), and Principal Mary Ellen Bolton (Jane Ryan) were present to discuss the merits of the program.

It was moved (Mrs. Seaman), seconded (Donofrio) to take Agenda Item IV-D out of order to this portion of the meeting. Vote: All in favor.

- D. Approval/Teacher and Administrator Supervision, Evaluation and Professional Learning Plans- Dr. McGrath, Mr. Guarino and Ms. Baillargeon presented the plans that are used to evaluate teachers and administrators. There were no substantive changes and both plans are in compliance with the State Department of Education. It was moved (Seaman) and seconded (Peddle) to approve the revised Teacher and Administrator Supervision, Evaluation, and Professional Learning Plans as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Policies – First Reading

1. Attendance Grades K-8, Policy Code 5113.1 – Dr. Budd gave an overview of the attendance policy for grades K-8. This policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading and approval at a future meeting.
2. Pay to Participate, Policy Code 5138 – Dr. Budd illustrated the revision to the Pay to Participate policy and the requirements for applying for a waiver of fee. This policy will be returned to the Board for a second reading and approval at a future meeting.

C. Policies – Second Reading

1. Special Education, Policy Code 6171 – PPS Director Mrs. Smith and Dr. Budd discussed the necessary revisions to this policy. It was moved (Seaman) and seconded (Chory) to accept this policy as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
2. Individualized Education Program/Special Education Policy, Policy Code 6159 – Mrs. Smith and Dr. Budd discussed this revised policy. It was moved (Peddle) and seconded (Chory) to accept this policy as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
3. Pre-School Special Education, Policy Code 6171.2 – Mrs. Smith and Dr. Budd discussed this new policy that codifies the District’s obligations to pre-school special education. It was moved (Chory) and seconded (Peddle) to accept this policy as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
4. Bullying and Teen Dating Violence Prevention and Intervention – Policy Code 5131.911 – Dr. Budd and Mrs. Smith discussed the language changes that are consistent with CAFE policy as well as with advice from counsel. It was moved (Chory) and seconded (Seaman) to accept this policy as presented. Vote: 5 in favor: (Chory, Seaman, Donofrio, Peddle, and Herbst), 1 against: (LaFrance). Vote: Motion passes.

Agenda Item V—Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:18 p.m.