

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – December 8, 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:

L. Chory, Chairman
S. Testani, Vice Chairman
L. Timpanelli, Secretary
J. Donofrio, Board Member
P. Lavoie, Board Member
M. Petitti, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
Board Chairman, Mrs. Chory asked for a moment of silence to mourn the loss of former Trumbull student, Anthony Teixeira, and also the victims of the San Bernardino tragedy.
- B. Election of Board of Education Officers – In accordance with Section 10-218 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the By-laws of the Trumbull Board of Education, the Board of Education held an election for its membership for the ensuing two years. Mr. Ward nominated Mrs. Chory for Board Chairman, seconded by Mrs. Testani. Mrs. Chory unanimously was voted to the position of Board Chairman. Mrs. Chory thanked the Board for their support. Mr. Lavoie nominated Mrs. Testani for Vice Chairman, seconded by Mrs. Petitti. Mrs. Testani unanimously was voted to the position of Vice Chairman. Mr. Donofrio nominated Mrs. Timpanelli for Secretary, seconded by Mr. Ward. Mrs. Timpanelli unanimously was voted to the position of Secretary.
- C. Correspondence – Secretary Mrs. Timpanelli noted correspondence from a Trumbull parent, Susan Owen concerning a facilities issue at Madison Middle School. It was noted that Facilities Director Mark Deming will address the issue.
- D. Public Comments –There were several public comments from Trumbull residents this evening. Kathy Champion asked the new Board to identify areas that need improvement: curriculum and professional development, AP classes and the expansion of foreign languages being offered. Jen Kehley, PTA Council President, asked the Board to address the following in order to better prepare students: update curriculum, hire integration specialists in the elementary schools, more AP classes, lower pay to participate fees, expand the foreign language program and more health education classes at the high school. Parent James Kiely spoke of his son's improvement after he joined the THSGEMB, he encouraged the Board to continue funding. THSGEMB President, Scot Kerr urged the Board to provide additional funding for instruction and to reduce participation fees to keep the Band successful. Trumbull parent, Ann Eisdorfer spoke of the success of her three

children due to the THSGEMB. She asked the Board to consider additional funding to keep participation costs down. Kathleen Fearon asked for a reflective evaluation of present policies to plan for our future. She offered her assistance whenever needed to the Board and requested the Board not limit public comment to two minutes. Susan LaFrance asked the Board to analyze actual pay to participate fees, reduce academic payment fees and focus on a comprehensive plan to utilize resources to improve SBAC and SAT scores.

- E. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 11/10/15 - It was moved (Donofrio) seconded (Ward) to approve the minutes as presented. Vote in favor: Donofrio, Chory, Ward. Abstain: Lavoie, Testani, Timpanelli, Petitti. Vote: Motion passes.
- F. Teacher Representative Oral Report – Mrs. Jen Pacelli reported on current events at Trumbull Public Schools: the upcoming Holiday shows; Columbia Teachers College teacher training; the Stock Market game and Snowflake drive at Hillcrest; to reinforce problem solving skills at Madison, students are involved in The Hour of Code that are interactive videos that teach programming; at THS: Spanish AP students skyped with documentary screenwriter, Mikko Alanne who wrote the film, “The 33” and math and science teachers attended a SAT workshop to help prepare students for the new SAT.

Student Representatives Annika Redgate and Steven Stanton from THS reported on: the Harvest Ball, the play, *Charley’s Aunt*, and auditions for the spring play, the success of Model UN, Mock Trial and We the People, the World Language International dinner, the Agriscience plant sale and the upcoming Winter Concert.

- G. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Chory thanked the Superintendent for arranging training sessions to new Board members that centered on best practices and Trumbull operations. Mrs. Chory and several board members attended the ribbon cutting ceremony at THS for the new scoreboard and all seven Board members were sworn into office on December 8, 2015.
- H. Superintendent Report- Dr. Cialfi congratulated Agriscience teacher, Melissa Cunningham, for her recent Turn the Key professional development scholarship, commended the THS students enthusiastic approach in Mock Trial and noted the update from Mrs. Boland from THS regarding the We the People trip to New York.

The Board Chair called for a ten minute recess at 7:37 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 7:47 p.m.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Dr. Cialfi reported that there is one non-certified resignation that needs acceptance. Motion by (Donofrio) and seconded by (Timpanelli) to accept the resignation of Jo Ann Verespej, secretary in the Technology Department at the Long Hill Administration Building since August 1988, retiring effective March 1, 2016. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. 2016-2017 Budget Presentation and Discussion — Dr. Cialfi began the overview of the 2016-2017 Board of Education (BOE) budget with a PowerPoint presentation. Items highlighted included the following: District’s Mission Statement, objectives, Pre-K and elementary enrollment projection, per pupil expenditures, efficiencies, staffing analysis and pay to participate fees. The proposed budget totals \$100,310,295 which represents a 3.18% increase over our current budget year. Resources required to achieve the district goal are essential for students to meet core standards including additional academic staffing. The following proposed additional staffing includes: 3.00 FTE elementary technology integration specialists, 1.20 FTE middle school core subject teachers and 1.30 FTE THS teachers, 8 assistant varsity coaches, and additional security officer coverage

for after school activities. Partly offsetting these proposed increases is a -1.00 FTE decrease at Tashua Elementary based on the latest enrollment projections. The budget objective is to focus on preparing students for academic and developmental success with cost effective planning.

Part I –Mr. O’Keefe presented the highlights of the proposed Superintendent’s budget including: total salaries including proposed priority staffing requests, contractual increases not yet agreed to (reserve for negotiation), the continuation of self-funded medical/dental benefits and the technology leasing program, the continued phase-out of health waivers and “pay to participate” fees, a reduction of natural gas based on 2014-2015 performance and the athletic request that includes eight assistant varsity boys and girls coaches.

Part II – Mr. O’Keefe and Dr. Budd discussed the proposed budget for the Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment Department. The major drivers of the \$144,836 proposed increase includes text and workbooks, testing materials, professional development and subscriptions. Dr. Budd emphasized that this request is focused on making sure that both students and teachers have the best teaching and learning resources available at the most competitive price.

Part III – Mr. O’Keefe discussed the proposed budget for THS, a proposed increase of \$4,637 or 0.53%. Mr. Guarino and THS House Principals spoke about the need for an increase in AP courses at THS to better prepare students to be college and career ready. Ms. Luby (B House Principal) presented data to the Board that helps determine class size and course selection.

Part IV – Divisions

- Athletics- Mr. O’Keefe discussed the proposed Athletics budget. Mr. King stated the increase is to ensure the safety and well-being of the athletes. The major drivers of the proposed \$79,561 increase include additional assistant varsity coaches, purchased services (contractual increases for the athletic trainer and ice rink), equipment and transportation.
- Facilities- Mr. O’Keefe discussed the proposed Facilities budget. There is a proposed decrease of \$147,364 or -3.91% that includes savings from natural gas and custodial overtime.
- Technology-Mr. O’Keefe discussed the proposed Technology budget. The proposed \$54,624 increase includes a maintenance contract for Meraki Wi-Fi, computer equipment, parts and software.

Part V – A motion was made (Lavoie) and seconded (Testani) to move Dr. McGrath and Mr. O’Keefe’s presentation of the budget for the Office of Assistant Superintendent to the next meeting on December 10, 2015. All in favor: Motion passes.

Agenda Item VI—Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:10 p.m.