

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – April 7, 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  
R. Seaman, Secretary  
J. Donofrio, Board Member  
S. LaFrance, Board Member  
J. Peddle, Board Member  
M. Ward, Board Member

Members absent:

L. Chory, Vice Chairperson

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m.

Agenda Item II – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- 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 that there was one request for a leave of absence that needed Board action. It was moved (Seaman) seconded (Peddle) to approve a personal leave of absence without pay for Michele Sansone, .5 teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School since August 2005, for the 2015-16 school year in compliance with the Trumbull Board of Education’s Leave of Absence, Policy Code 4150. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 3/24/15 Mrs. LaFrance requested that the topic of Consent Agenda be added to the motion to go into Executive Session. Board Chair Mrs. Herbst called for a motion to accept the minutes as amended. It was moved (LaFrance) seconded (Peddle) to approve the minutes as amended. Mrs. LaFrance commented that technically minutes do not need a vote for acceptance. Mrs. Herbst stated that this Board has always and will continue to vote [on approval of minutes of Board meetings]. Vote: 4 in favor (Herbst, LaFrance, Peddle, Ward) 2 abstentions (Donofrio, Seaman). Motion passes.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- A. Trumbull High School Mock Trial Program Simulation and Approval/THS Empire Mock Trial Competition Trip to Atlanta, Georgia— THS Social Studies teacher and Mock Trial Advisor Eric August reviewed details of the trip to Atlanta, Georgia to participate in the Mock Trial Empire Competition which will take place from September 9 through 14, 2015. Mr. August commented that the trip will involve 12 to 14 students who will be selected through a tryout process to be conducted soon. He stated that a firm itinerary would be forthcoming and that the costs presented in the proposal were estimates with student cost approximately \$500. Grants from the ACE Foundation and fundraising will be used to offset trip expenses. A brief discussion ensued. It was moved (Ward) seconded (LaFrance) to approve the THS Mock Trial Empire Competition trip to Atlanta, Georgia as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/guardian(s) signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip

cancellations for any reason. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Dr. Cialfi introduced four students, Lauren DeNomme, Sarah Angelo, Geethika Kodakara and Elena Kemper who presented a mock murder trial simulation to demonstrate their learning experience with the program. Board members gave kudos to the students for their outstanding efforts/performance and wished them well at the Empire Competition.

- B. Update on the \$874,000 Reserve Spending—Dr. Cialfi conveyed that \$754,407 has already been spent [details available on the chart found in the Board packet] and the Finance Committee met on March 18, 2015 and discussed how to use the remaining funds. Dr. Cialfi commented that recommendations for the use of the remaining funds will be discussed and is asking for Board approval. Business Manager Sean O’Keefe reviewed the current status of the \$874,000 funds and the suggested items to be purchased with the remaining funds. The recommendations totaling \$116,604 are as follows: \$62,000 for a second dump truck with a sander; \$34,916 to absorb unplanned expenditures in the classroom equipment account; and \$19,688 for the purchase of a new technology firewall. It was noted that these purchases are non-recurring non-budgeted expenses. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Donofrio) to approve the use of the remaining funds from the \$874,000 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff—Each year, prior to May 1st, the Board of Education is asked to non-renew contracts of both tenured and non-tenured staff whose employment may not continue. Such reductions fall within the scope of the statutory teacher employment and tenure provisions, Section 10-151 of the CT General Statutes. Non-renewal recommendations are applicable to tenured and non-tenured teachers and Long Term Replacement teachers. Superintendent Dr. Cialfi conveyed that there are 21 non-renewals, 1 tenured, 3 non-tenured and 17 long term replacement positions and commented that due to decreased enrollment at the elementary level, some specialist positions, i.e. music, art, and physical education, may be impacted. Discussion ensued. It was moved (LaFrance) seconded (Seaman) that pursuant to the CT General Statutes 10-151, the Trumbull Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of the following staff at the end of the 2014-15 school year as recommended by the Superintendent: tenured staff Amy Gorruso; non-tenured staff Elisa Esteves, Cortney Tyszka-Zwierlein, and Gregory Sullivan; and Long Term Replacements Anthony Artese, Bryce Brown, Benjamin Brust (.2), Jennifer Carravone, Deidre Foley, Christina Fulco, Marcia Hinkle-Kaufmann, Jo-Anne Kershaw (.2), Maria Kopstein (.8), John Matthews (.4), Katja Pieragostini, Diane Polacik (.4), Lauren Popoli, Michelle Potok, Maria Ribeiro-Garcia (.5), Marion Sperry (.75) and Lisa Zielinski (.5) and further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests which may be forthcoming from these teachers or their representatives pursuant to CT General Statutes 10-151. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### Agenda Item V—Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

#### Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 7:49 p.m.