

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – June 9, 2015
Trumbull High School Auditorium

The Trumbull Board of Education convened in the Trumbull High School Auditorium for a Regular Meeting.

Members present:

D. Herbst, Chairperson
L. Chory, Vice Chairperson
R. Seaman, Secretary
J. Peddle, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Members absent:

J. Donofrio, Board Member
S. LaFrance, Board Member

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. At this time, it was moved (Peddle) seconded (Chory) to go into Executive Session to discuss a TEA grievance regarding Mr. Harold Darak. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Executive Session began at 6:25 pm. The following Board members were in attendance: (D. Herbst, L. Chory, M. Ward, R. Seaman). The Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Board Attorney, THS Principal, TEA representatives (Jane Kluspes, Tammy Baillargeon, Matt Bracksieck), CEA representative (Susan Fullerton) and Harold Darak were also in attendance. By unanimous consent of Board members present, it was moved to come out of Executive Session (Peddle), seconded (Chory) at 7:25 p.m.

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:28 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.
- D. Recognitions
 1. Trumbull All-District Elementary Band – Elementary students from all six elementary schools who participate in Trumbull’s All-District Band performed several selections under the direction of Mr. David Turechek. The music was enjoyed by the administration, Board of Education members and attendees. The Board congratulated them on a fine performance and complimented Mr. Turechek for his many years of service.
 2. 2015 Teacher Tenure - The following certified staff members were recognized and commended for attaining tenure status with the Trumbull Board of Education: Vincent Artese (THS), Matthew Iaccarino (THS), Marie Riccio (THS), Tara Fernandes (Tashua), Nina Merkin (Booth Hill), Kirsten Grady (Madison), and Kimberly Soule (Booth Hill).

3. C A B E Leadership Awards—Board Chair Mrs. Herbst, Vice Chair Mrs. Chory and Dr. Cialfi recognized and commended Student Board Representatives Emma Shea Thornton and Michael Zabin. Mrs. Herbst recognized them with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (C A B E) Leadership Award, developed by C A B E 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 recognized Emily Clausi and Nigel Hayes, students at Madison Middle School, for their contributions. The entire Board of Education commended these students on their achievement.
4. Trumbull High School (T H S) Distributive Education Clubs of America (D E C A) — Dr. Cialfi spoke of the D E C A students who were recently recognized at D E C A’s 69th annual International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida. D E C A Advisor Debra Owen shared the details of their achievements. The following students placed in the top 20% in their respective events: Courtney Arison, Stephen D’Amato, Brittany Kubicko, Jacob Robbins, Uladislau (Vlad) Sychou and Shravan Wadhwa. Student Jacob Robbins spoke of his positive experience at the conference. Mrs. Owen thanked the Board, A C E Foundation, Dr. Cialfi, Dr. McGrath, and Principal Guarino for their continued support of D E C A.
5. Trumbull High School 2014-2015 Trillium Yearbook — T H S Trillium Advisor Dr. Lisa Acerbo reviewed the details of this year’s book, titled “*normal? NEVER*”. The theme encourages us to find the extraordinary in the ordinary. She shared that the 2014 yearbook was recognized by top journalism organizations as a Silver Medalist and First Class publication. Dr. Acerbo thanked the Board, the 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 reported that there are two resignations that were received that need Board action. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Peddle) to accept the resignation of Katherine Musto, speech/language pathologist at Booth Hill Elementary School (.80) since January 2007, resigning effective June 30, 2015 and Patricia Murphy, secretary (non-certified) at Trumbull Alternate School and TECEC since August 1998, retiring effective June 30, 2015. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

There are three requests for a Leave of Absence that require Board action. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Peddle) to accept the request for Leave of Absence for Tarryn Cutler, grade 2 teacher at Daniels Farm Elementary School since August 2008 (currently on child rearing/FMLA leave) is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay for the 2015-2016 school year; Michael Ferraro, physical education teacher (.5) district-wide since January 2008 requesting a personal leave of absence without pay for the 2015-2016 school year; and Amy Guttman, grade 2 teacher at Daniels Farm Elementary School since August 2012 requesting a personal leave of absence without pay for the 2015-2016 school year. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 5/19/2015. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Seaman) to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- C. Approval/Financial Reports as of 4/30/15 – Business Administrator Sean O’Keefe stated that he reviewed the April 2015 financials with the Finance Sub Committee on May 27, 2015. In addition to the financials, there were two budget transfers which required Board approval. Mr. O’Keefe also described some of the other topics covered at the Finance Sub Committee meeting including THS Marching Band Review, discussion of the 2015-2016 Pay to Participate Fee and Family Cap recommendation, and updates on the \$874K reserve, classroom equipment account and e-rate spending account. There was a brief discussion regarding a proposed participation fee for the THS Marching Band which would need to be addressed at a Board meeting in the summer.

It was moved (Chory) seconded (Seaman) to accept the Board of Education Financial Reports and two budget transfers for the period ending April 30, 2015 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 and drug use by Trumbull youth through education, outreach, and enforcement. They spoke about their increased presence in Trumbull’s middle and high schools that includes social media and their alliance with the Trumbull Police Department. Dr. Cialfi stated that Trumbull TPAUD serves as a model for other communities and is fortunate to be the recipient of the grant. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Herbst thanked Ms. McGarry and Mrs. Tesoro for their time and tireless efforts in promoting this very worthwhile effort.
- B. Preliminary 2014-2015 Year-End Financial Projection – Business Administrator Sean O’Keefe provided a current estimate of the potential 2014-2015 surplus, which is based on an attainment analysis using April actuals.

Mr. O’Keefe recommended that any surplus should first be applied to any deficits in the Elementary/Band Strings and Athletics special program accounts. After that, any remaining surplus should be transferred to the Health Reserve Account at the Town with a long-term goal to achieve a two year reserve coverage.

It was moved (Chory) and seconded (Seaman) to accept the year-end financials as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

A brief recap of the 2014-2015 projected year-end surplus was discussed to increase the Health Reserve account and Elementary Strings/Athletics.

It was moved (Chory) and seconded (Seaman) to accept Agenda Item IV-B to utilize the year-end surplus of remaining funds to shore up projected deficits in Elementary Strings/Athletics and increase Health Claim Reserve toward Goal as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- C. Approval/Pay to Participate Fees & Family Caps – Business Administrator Mr. O’Keefe presented the proposed changes to the Pay to Participate Fees for Athletics and Elementary Band/Strings. These fees have been reviewed by the Finance Sub Committee of the Board of Education at its May 27, 2015 meeting. It was moved (Seaman) and seconded (Ward) to reduce the Pay to Participate fees and family caps as presented by Mr. O’Keefe. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI—Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:57 p.m.

A motion was made (Peddle) and seconded (Seaman) to move back into Executive Session to further discuss the personnel matter at 8:58 p.m. The Board adjourned and the Executive Session began at 9:05 p.m. and the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent and Trumbull High School Principal Marc Guarino were invited to attend. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Peddle) to move out of Executive Session and adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.