

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – May 17, 2016
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
P. Lavoie, Board Member
M. Petitti, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Members absent:

J. Donofrio, Board Member

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 – Secretary Timpanelli reported the correspondence from Trumbull residents: Laura Moore, Carolynne Primavera, Kristin Mascola, Kathleen Fearon and Saraswathi Salankar.
- C. Recognitions
1. Technology Foundation Grants - Mr. Robert Miller of the Technology Foundation presented 5 Technology Foundation Grants which have supported the educational process through innovative technology. They are: Osmo Genius Kits with Advisor Ms. Brenda Windsor, Lego Design with Advisor Ms. Donna Zimmer, Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) Technology with Advisor Ms. Lindsey Carley, 3 Dimensional Printer Project Printing with Advisor Ms. Tracey Ormond, and the Annual BotBall Robotics Tournament-Building with Advisor Mr. Hans Drenkard. The Board recognized and commended the dedication of the staff and the Technology Foundation for making this possible.
 2. Invention Convention Awards – Dr. Floria Mallozzi, Science Program Leader, along with several teachers were on hand to highlight the participation and awards of the Trumbull grade 5 students in the Invention Convention. Fifty-one of almost 500 grade 5 students that participated qualified as finalists at the competition held at the University of Connecticut. Twenty-nine students received the Recognized Inventor of Innovative Achievement Awards and 5 students received additional Sponsorship Awards. Gabriella Margolies of Daniels Farm was selected to compete at the National Invention Convention in Washington, D.C. in May, 2016. The Board recognized and commended the efforts of all the students and staff.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Timpanelli) to move Agenda Item III: Reports/Action Items C. Cooperative Education Services (CES) out of order to this portion of the meeting.
Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- C. Cooperative Education Services (C.E.S.) – Director of C.E.S. Dr. Evan Pitkoff gave a presentation with information on the services that are provided to school districts by C.E.S. with special emphasis on services and programs being utilized by Trumbull Public Schools that include RCA, Six-to-Six and the Special Education Center. The goal of C.E.S. is to provide high quality, cost effective educational support service to communities.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- D. Public Comments – Susan LaFrance of 45 Woolsley Avenue communicated her request for additional information regarding SBAC scores.
- E. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Chory attended the Agriscience Fair on May 7 and viewed many of the students’ business projects, beautiful plants and hydroponic tomatoes. A big thank you to Dr. Tremaglio for sending a basket of these delicious tomatoes for Board Members to sample. In lieu of forming an ad-hoc committee to study the feasibility of a later start time at the high school, Mrs. Chory is asking the Board Members who are on the Curriculum Committee to take on the task. It will not be their charge to recommend whether or not the District should implement such a plan, but rather to put together a report that clearly outlines all the criteria that would need to be considered including an estimate of additional funding requirements and report back to the board no later than the October 6, 2016 meeting.
- F. Superintendent Report – Dr. Cialfi congratulated THS French teachers Laura Santelli, Polly Currie and Michele Slais for the success of their students in the National French Contest. Almost one half of the students who participated received an award. The Odyssey of the Mind team that competed at the Connecticut State Finals will go on to represent Connecticut at the World Finals Competition in Iowa on May 25-29. The THS Spring Concert is this Wednesday, May 18 at 7:30 p.m. The THS National Honor Society induction ceremony will be held this Thursday, May 19 at 7:00 p.m. The BEI Recognition Breakfast will be held on Tuesday, May 31, 2016 at 7:30 a.m. at the Trumbull Library. The ACE Foundation has scheduled two recognition events: Thursday, June 2 at THS at 6:45-8:00 p.m. for elementary and middle school students and Thursday, June 9 at THS at 7-8:30 p.m. for high school students.
- G. Teacher Board Representative Report – Ms. Brenda Windsor, new Teacher Board Representative, was welcomed by the board members. She reported on SBAC testing in grades 6-7, the Grade 5 chorus, Jump Rope for Heart fundraising at Booth Hill School, invention kits named “MaKey MaKey” kits that inspire student creativity, and Daniels Farm grades 3-5 shared online lessons with Bridgeport students in the classroom Without Walls program and grade 5 went on a field trip to Sturbridge Village.
- H. Student Board Representative Reports-Annika Redgate and Steve Stanton reported on the following events at THS: teacher appreciation week, the Agriscience Farm Fair, the band/orchestra and choir concerts, Honor Society induction ceremonies, mock car crash, link crew orientation, Poetry Slam, the Connecticut High School Music awards, BEI breakfast, the senior scholarship awards, the senior class trip to Six Flags, the Prom at the Matrix in Danbury, the ACE banquet and finally graduation on June 15.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting, 5/3/2016

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Testani) to approve the minutes of the May 3, 2016 Regular Board of Education meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel

Dr. Cialfi presented the following retirements/resignations:

Allen, Christopher; vocational agriculture teacher at the Agriscience and Biotechnology Center since January 1981.

Bilangi, Ellen; library media specialist at Frenchtown Elementary School since August 2003.

Block, Ann; social worker at Booth Hill Elementary School since September 1984.

Cavallaro, Michael; physical education teacher at Daniels Farm Elementary School since August 1995.

Cwilichoski, Catherine; special education teacher at Madison Middle School since September 1982.

Elkies, Judith; speech/language pathologist at the Trumbull Early Education Center since September 1972.

Girouard, Virginia; physical education teacher at Booth Hill Elementary School since September 1967.

Kluspes, Jane; physical education and health teacher at Trumbull High School since December 1977.

Kressu-Owen, Debra; business education teacher at Trumbull High School since September 1982

Maffei, Robert; physical education/health teacher at Trumbull High School since September 1982.

Maier, Charlotte; grade 3 teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 1985.

Millo, Joann; special education teacher at the Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center since September 1986.

Newman, Joan; reading/language arts consultant at Madison Middle School since August 2003.

Pancoast, Kathleen; kindergarten teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School since September 1974.

Ross, Dyann; social worker at the Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center since August 2005.

Tigner, Jo Ann; art teacher at Madison Middle School since September 1988.

Weiner, Roberta; English teacher at Madison Middle School since September 1970.

Williams, Mary; special education teacher district-wide since September 1987.

The Board unanimously accepted the above staff for retirements/resignations and wished them well in their future endeavors.

D. Review of Continuing Education with Town Auditor – At the request of the Finance Committee and the Board of Education, Town Auditor Therese Keegan presented the report of the Continuing Education accounts from 2014-2015 and 2015-2016. Ms. Keegan detailed her analysis to the Board that included several recommendations which will be implemented by the Business Administrator to enhance the program's efficiency.

A motion was made by Suzanne Testani to add discussion of the lease agreement with the Banc of America Public Capital Corp. Memorandum of Understanding to the agenda, Seconded by Paul Lavoie. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Mr. Lavoie made a motion to accept the memorandum which read: Be it Resolved the Board of Education of the Town of Trumbull does hereby approve a Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Board of Education and the Town in connection with one or more lease/purchase financing agreements with the Banc of America Public Capital Corp. or its affiliate or designee for an amount, in the aggregate, not to exceed \$4,130,000 for the acquisition, purchase, financing and leasing of energy efficiency improvements and the realization of utility cost savings at Booth Hill Elementary School, 545 Booth Hill Road, Jane Ryan Elementary School, 190 Park Lane, Madison Middle School, 4630 Madison Avenue and Hillcrest Middle School, 530 Daniels Farm Road (the Schools) and that Sean O’Keefe or Dr. Gary Cialfi, jointly and severally, are each hereby authorized to take all action necessary or reasonably required to consummate, carry out or give effect to the transactions contemplated, including, without limitation, the execution and delivery of said Memorandum of Understanding and any and all other documents required in connection with the acquisition, purchase, financing and leasing of energy efficiency improvements and the realization of utility cost savings at the schools. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Timpanelli. Mr. O’Keefe explained the need for Board approval. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Trumbull High School Performance Data - Dr. Cialfi, Dr. Budd and Mr. Guarino featured a PowerPoint presentation regarding the following:

1. Preliminary Most Competitive College Acceptances, Class of 2016

Dr. Cialfi, Dr. Budd and Principal Guarino discussed test scores, requirements and the high degree of competition among the most competitive colleges and the application process for the Class of 2016. In 2016, there was an increase in students who were accepted to the “most competitive” institutions. The details of the presentation were reviewed and discussed with the Board.

2. Preliminary Expanded Advanced Placement Enrollment, Class of 2017

Dr. Cialfi, Dr. Budd and Principal Guarino discussed the benefits, opportunities, and rigor of enrolling in Advanced Placement courses. In 2017, four additional AP courses will be offered at THS. The benefits of advanced placement courses were detailed in a presentation and discussed with the Board.

F. Tri-State Consultancy Report – Dr. Budd presented the results of the Tri-State Consortium’s February 2016 Consultancy which focused on Writing Across the Curriculum, K-12, in Trumbull Public Schools. The goal of the Tri-State team is to further critical and creative thinking within the writing curriculum and offer recommendations to help enhance student achievement. Dr. Budd reported the conclusions and recommendations from the Consortium to the Board.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session a 9:38 p.m.