

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – February 27, 2018
Long Hill Administration Building

The Trumbull Board of Education convened at Long Hill Administration Building for a Regular Meeting.

Members present:

L. Chory, Chairman
L. Timpanelli, Vice Chair
J. Norcel, Secretary
K. Fearon, 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 7:05p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.

The Board paused for a moment of silence to celebrate the life of long-time TPS employee John Slezak, who recently passed away.

B. Recognition – Madison Math Counts Team

Mrs. Malathi Muralidharan, Madison Middle School Math Counts Advisor, reported that the Math Counts team placed “second” in the South-West chapter of the Math Counts competition and is now eligible to participate in the State Championship. Yash Permalla, 8th grade, was the top performer in the individual competition and won third place in the Count Down buzzer round. The team members are: Yash Permalla, Kushi Dubey, Sriya Mukund, Sreecharan Palla, Saihari Kota, Satvik Ellur, Rislyn Raja, Saihari Kota, and Heer Thakkar. Mrs. Muralidharan and the team expressed thanks to the ACE Foundation for funding the team.

The Board unanimously congratulated and commended the entire team.

C. Recognition – Spirit of Inclusion Award

Mrs. Lisa Nuland presented the nomination of Trumbull High School for the *Spirit of Inclusion Award* sponsored by Varsity Brands. The grand prize winner will be named America’s Most Spirited, with awards totaling \$100,000 across 25 categories from Varsity Brands. The most spirited schools cultivate an atmosphere where *all* students feel welcomed and accepted. THS sponsored clubs include the Diversity Club; Global Ties; Link Crew; the Self Club and Best Buddies. The *Spirit of Inclusion Award* will honor one school that is outstanding in welcoming new students, accommodating students with diverse needs and educating students about issues related to diversity and inclusion. THS is one of only seven nationwide finalists and the winner will be announced at an Awards Ceremony on May 12, 2018.

The finalists are:

Bingham High School (UT)
Champlain High School (VT)
Downey High School (CA)
Louisa County High School (VA)

Seekonk High School (MA)
Shelton High School (CT)
Trumbull High School (CT)

The Board commended THS for this achievement.

D. Recognition – Schools of Distinction, Daniels Farm, Middlebrook

The Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE) has announced that Daniels Farm Elementary and Middlebrook Elementary Schools are once again named “Schools of Distinction” this year. The nature of the growth assessment model can make it challenging to earn this recognition a second time even though the students consistently perform well each year. Principals Pat Frillici and Gary Kunschraft shared commentaries on the collaborative efforts of both students and staff that help ensure all students are successful.

The Board unanimously congratulated Daniels Farm Elementary and Middlebrook Elementary on this outstanding achievement.

E. Correspondence – Trumbull parent Lora Sapir passed along a link:

<https://www.nbcnews.com/.../inside-the-safest-school-in-america-116> that tells the story recently aired on NBC about the safest school in America and asked the Board to research these options for our schools.

F. Public Comments – THS Principal Marc Guarino addressed the Board to discuss school safety as our paramount concern and the organization of a THS student walkout to support the importance of safety in all schools. An official announcement regarding the details of the March 14, 2018 activity will be forthcoming.

G. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Chory and other board members attended the Board of Finance meeting and were judges at the Academic Decathlon.

H. Superintendent Report – Dr. Cialfi reported on the following:

- The BOE 2018-2019 budget was reviewed by the Board of Finance on February 22, 2018 as a follow up to the prior meeting. Dr. Cialfi and Mrs. Chory addressed concerns that focus on budget priorities and the need to increase the budget to the BOE approved budget amount.
- Governor Malloy’s office released information regarding a school security grant for a security improvement project in Trumbull schools that would be funded by the state.
- Administration, THS Student reps and faculty met to discuss plans for an event to support the importance of safety in all schools.
- All are invited to attend a School Safety meeting at Madison Middle School on March 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m.

I. Student Representatives Report – Student Reps Matt Kuroghlian and Sophia Otero reported on events at THS: the Academic Decathlon Team won for the third year in a row in the State Competition; the hard work of cast and crew for the upcoming play *Curtains*; the trip for Model UN to Washington, D.C. for the UN conference; the success of the girls and boys basketball teams; and the Mock Trial team won their last competition and is moving on to face Weston High School on March 7, 2018.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Update on One to One Digital Learning and Digital Citizenship

Mrs. Christina Hefele gave an update on the rollout of the 1:1 Chromebook initiative at Madison Middle School and Hillcrest Middle School for all students in grades 6 through 8. Mrs. Garra, Hillcrest's Technology Integration Specialist, provided an overview of how Trumbull schools are embedding digital citizenship in their curriculum to help support the Digital Learning program and to make sure that students are using technology ethically and responsibly both in and out of school.

B. Personnel

Dr. Cialfi reported one resignation:

Ashley Thoesen, special education teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since April 2008 (currently on personal leave of absence) resigning effective June 30, 2018.

It was moved (Timpanelli) and seconded (Ward) to accept the resignation of Ashley Thoesen as presented. Vote: All in favor.

C. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 2/13/2018

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the minutes of the February 13, 2018 Regular Meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Curriculum Committee Report

Mrs. Petitti reported that the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education met on February 22, 2018 and reviewed a curriculum guide.

Approval/Curriculum Guide – Dr. Budd presented the following curriculum guide that covers all major domains for the education of 3 and 4 year old students in TECEC:

1. Unified Pre-Kindergarten Curriculum Guide

It was moved (Timpanelli) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the above curriculum guide for approval as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. 2018-2019 BOE Budget Update

Dr. Cialfi gave an update on the 2018-2019 BOE budget. A comprehensive report was submitted to the BOF to substantiate the BOE approved budget proposal.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:20 p.m.