

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – November 26, 2019
Long Hill Administration Building
Lorraine R. Smith Assembly Room

The Trumbull Board of Education convened in the Auditorium in the Long Hill Administration Building for a Regular Meeting.

Members present:

L. Chory, Chairman
L. Timpanelli, Vice Chair
J. Norcel, Secretary
J. Donofrio
K. Fearon
M. Petitti
M. Ward

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Pledge of Allegiance - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Recognition – Hillcrest Middle School for Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge
Hillcrest Middle School is among the top-performing schools for participation in the Governor’s Summer Reading Challenge. Principal Rickert spoke of the dedication of both staff and students who were recognized by Governor Lamont and Commissioner Cardona in a ceremony held at the Connecticut State Library on November 21, 2019. The Board commended the students and staff from Hillcrest Middle School for this outstanding achievement.
- C. Recognition – Donation of Native American Texts - Mrs. Rubano and Dr. Budd
Mrs. Mary Keane, a lifelong Trumbull resident, is being recognized for her donation of 193 Native American books and artifacts to the Trumbull Public Schools in memory of her husband, Bob Keane. The resources are invaluable, and will be used in teaching social studies, art history, and visual arts at Trumbull High School. The Board and Trumbull Public Schools are extremely grateful to Mrs. Keane for this remarkable and generous donation.
- D. Recognition – Board of Education Members
Dr. Cialfi recognized our Board of Education members for their service to Trumbull Public Schools. Board Members volunteer countless hours of their time, energy, and commitment. Dr. Cialfi extends a special thank you to those that are leaving: Loretta Chory and Jeffrey Donofrio for their years of service to the students and residents of the Town of Trumbull. Both Mrs. Chory and Mr. Donofrio commented on their appreciation for serving as BOE members, and Mrs. Timpanelli thanked them both.
- E. Correspondence- There was no correspondence at this evening’s meeting.
- F. Public Comments- Middlebrook student, Avery Colon told the Board that her third grade classroom is too crowded-her teacher cannot teach to everyone who needs help and that it is

becoming harder to learn; Student Hope Lang says we need to do better to help our environment at TPS by eliminating straws and plastic silverware; Ruth Fontilla thanked our current Board Members for their service and is looking forward to working with our new Board to move TPS forward.

G. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Chory attended the CABA Convention, where Trumbull was honored to win a level 1 Leadership Award; Mrs. Chory spoke of her years and fond memories of serving on the Board of Education. Her accomplishments are many and the Town of Trumbull is grateful for her service.

H. Superintendent Report – Dr. Cialfi reported:

- Our Girls Volleyball Team are now State Champions! Their win over Stamford's Westhill High School gives THS their first ever State Championship for Girls Volleyball.
- Congratulations to Todd Manuel for the honor of representing Connecticut as the 2020 Assistant High School Principal of the Year! His exemplary professionalism is continually demonstrated as a committed supporter of our staff and as an outstanding role model for our students.
- Madison Middle School Cyber Robotics Coding students came in first place out of 192 schools throughout New England, they are now invited to the Championship Coding Event at University of Bridgeport on December 6, 2019.

I. Teacher Representative Report – Mrs. Rubano thanked Loretta Chory and Jeff Donofrio for their service on the BOE; spoke of the Chamber Singers performing at Radio City in New York and of the valuable suicide prevention seminar presented to all Trumbull teachers on professional development day.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Level III Grievance – TASS Bargaining Unit

Tabled from the November 12, 2019 Board of Education meeting:

A grievance was submitted to the Trumbull Board of Education related to a disagreement regarding the Health Premium Share % for the fiscal year 2019-20. In June of 2016, an MOA was signed by the Superintendent and the Vice President of the TASS Bargaining unit. The MOA stated that the Health Premium Share for 2016-17 would be 14.0% and would increase 0.5% each year for 2017-18 (14.5%), 2018-19 (15.0%) and 2019-20 (15.5%). The increase of 0.5% per year was consistent with all other MOA's that were signed regarding the move to the State Partnership Plan and reflected significant shared savings to each group. Subsequently, a four-year contract was signed in February of 2017 for the period of July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2020. In the signed agreement on page 14, the Health Premium percentages were consistent with the MOA for 2016-17 thru 2018-19. However, the agreed to premium share for 2019-20 was accidentally omitted in the document. Attorney Resnick represents the TASS bargaining unit and contends that the agreement indicated that the premium share for 2019-20 is flat to 2018-19. The Board believes that it was simply a scrivener's error and since the agreement is silent on 2019-20, the MOA remains in effect. When the contract went to the Board for approval, the cover sheet stated that the insurance was "settled as part of the transition to the State Health Plan and contract updated to reflect same". In the interest of resolving this issue amicably and with minimum cost to the district, an offer was made to keep the rate at 15.5% for 2019-20 per the MOA and in the upcoming contract renewal we would agree to hold the rate flat for one year.

This offer was rejected on November 6, 2019 and as such the issue is raised to Level III to be reviewed.

It was moved (Donofrio) and seconded (Norcel) to deny the Level III Grievance.
Motion withdrawn

Board Attorney Dugas and TASS Attorney Resnick revisited points of law and stated their respective sides of the argument and responded to questions from the Board.

It was moved (Donofrio) and seconded (Norcel) to deny the Level III Grievance – TASS Bargaining Unit grievance as presented. Vote: all in favor.

B. Trumbull Education Association (TEA) Agreement

An agreement has been reached with the Trumbull Education Association (TEA) for a successor contract for the period 2020-2023. Attorney Dugas reviewed salary and cost share insurance premiums and answered the Board's questions on this topic.

C. Approval/Minutes, Regular Meeting 11/12/2019

It was moved (Donofrio) and seconded (Timpanelli) to approve the minutes of the November 12, 2019 BOE Regular Meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Personnel – Dr. Cialfi

Dr. Cialfi reported the following resignation/retirement:

Margaret Walsh, English teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2005, retiring effective June 30, 2020.

It was moved (Timpanelli) and seconded (Norcel) to accept this retirement as presented. Vote: all in favor.

E. Policy Committee Report - Mrs. Norcel reported that the Policy Committee met on November 19, 2019 and reviewed several policies.

Dr. Budd presented the following Policies for First Readings:

1. Sex Discrimination and Sexual Harassment in the Workplace, Policy Code 4118.112
2. Security and Safety, Policy Code 3516
3. Domestic Violence, Policy Code 4118.16
4. Homeless Students, Policy Code 5118.1
5. Eligibility to Attend Trumbull Public Schools, Policy Code 5111
6. School Resource Officers, Policy Code 5142.4
7. Gifts to the School District, Policy Code 3210
8. Trumbull High School Concession Stand, Policy Code 1331
9. Special Accounts, Policy Code 3453
10. Suicide Prevention/Intervention, Policy Code 5141.5
11. Legal Services, Policy Code 9125

The Board agreed to bring the above policies back to a future Board meeting for approval.

F. Curriculum Committee Report – Mrs. Petitti reported that the Curriculum Committee met on November 21, 2019.

Dr. Budd presented the following New Course Text Proposals:

1. *Out of My Mind* (Core: English 11-12)
2. *The Hero Next Door* (Core: English 9-10 & English 11-12)
3. *Travels with Charley in Search of America* (Supplemental: Advanced Placement English Language & Composition)

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Timpanelli) to approve the above New Course Text Proposals as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:00 p.m.