

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – March 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 – THS Mock Trial Team
The Trumbull High School Mock Trial Team won the 2019 Connecticut High School Mock Trial State Championship. This is Trumbull's 5th championship in the past 7 years as well as the 3rd consecutive state championship. This year's title gives Trumbull High School the most mock trial state championships of any school in the 47 year history of the competition. The team presented a mock trial to the Board that reflected their aptitude in winning the State Championship. Trumbull now moves on to represent the state of Connecticut at the National High School Mock Trial Competition in Athens, Georgia May 14 through May 19, 2019.
- C. Correspondence – Helen Carranza asked the Board to consider a later start time for our middle schools to improve the physical and mental well-being of our children; Charles Voss is encouraging the Board to continue its review of later start times and overcome administrative hurdles in favor of our children's health; the Board received an invitation from Frenchtown to attend the multicultural dinner on March 29, the making for Ben's Bell Mural on April 4, and Unveiling the Sensory Pathways on April 22 and an invitation from the THSGEMB to attend the Winter Percussion Show and Winter Guard Championships on March 30, 2019.
- D. Public Comments – There were no public comments this evening.
- E. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Chory reported on the following:
- March 14 Board of Finance Public Hearing
 - March 16 Performance of *Chicago*
 - March 21 First Selectman's Annual Address to the Trumbull Chamber of Commerce
 - March 22 Rotary Club Middle School awards
 - March 22 Daniels Farm Celebration of the Arts

- The Board sent letters to the State Legislature’s Judiciary Committees and General Law Committees opposing the legalization of marijuana. See copies attached.

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

- The Board of Finance meeting is this Thursday, March 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the BOE budget, with a final vote scheduled for Monday, April 8, 2019.
- Parent info sessions to discuss standardized assessments are scheduled:
 - March 27 for grades 3-5 parents at 7:00 p.m. at Madison Middle School
 - April 2 for grade 11 parents at 7:00 p.m. at THS
 - April 10 for grades 6-8 parents at 7:00 pm. at Middlebrook
- THS junior, Cyrus Asgari has been selected as one of the 2019 Connecticut Governor’s Scholars and will be honored at the Governor’s Scholars Luncheon on May 16, 2019.
- THS senior, Kyle Beck is the winner of the DAR Northeast Division Competition and will advance to the National Competition.
- The Middlebrook PTA sponsored a community event on March 19, 2019 to focus on the importance of internet safety.
- The 20th annual Celebration of the Arts was held at Daniels Farm on March 22, 2019.

G. Teacher Board Representative Report - Mrs. Rubano reported: Daniels Farm School held their 20th annual Celebration of the Arts; Madison Middle School student Tyler Kunkel qualified for the National Geographic geography bee and Vanessa Maignan and Anne Codd were the winner and runner up in a Women’s History essay contest; thanks to Michaela Durand, IT specialist for organizing an event for students and community members titled *Random Hacks of Kindness*. At THS: 40 World Language students travelled to Quebec and Montreal to experience French culture; DECA competed in the State Leadership Conference and several members will advance to the International Career Development Conference in Orlando, Florida; the Future Business Leaders of America of THS competed in the Spring Conference and placed in several categories; Model UN participated in the Eaglemunc Model UN conference hosted by Boston College and the production of Chicago was a huge success!

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/THS Mock Trial Trip to Athens, Georgia

Advisor Mr. Eric August presented the trip for the THS Mock Trial Team to travel to Athens, Georgia to participate in the National High School Mock Trial Competition. Students participating in this trip will leave on the afternoon of Tuesday, May 14, 2019 and return on Sunday, May 19, 2019 resulting in three days out of school. The cost is supported by the ACE Foundation and all other expenses are paid for by program fundraising and the students/parents.

It was moved (Fearon) and seconded (Donofrio) to waive the 90 day notice field trip policy provision. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Timpanelli) to approve the amended THS Mock Trial Trip to Athens, Georgia as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/THSGEMB World Color Guard Competition Trip to Dayton, Ohio

Mr. Peter Horton presented the trip to Dayton, Ohio for Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band World Guard to participate in the WGI World Championship. The trip is

scheduled from Wednesday, April 3, to Saturday, April 6, 2019 and requires a three day absence from school. Arrangements are handled through the Band Parent organization.

C. Approval/THSGEMB Winter Percussion Competition Trip to Dayton, Ohio

Mr. Peter Horton presented the trip for the THSGEMB Winter Percussion to travel to Dayton, Ohio for students to participate in the WGI World Championship. The trip is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, to Saturday, April 13, 2019 and requires a three day absence from school. All arrangements are made through the Band Parent organization.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Fearon) to approve the THSGEMB Winter Percussion Competition Trip and the THSGEMB World Color Guard Competition Trip to Dayton, Ohio as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 3/12/2019

It was moved (Donofrio) and seconded (Timpanelli) to approve the minutes of the March 12, 2019 Board of Education meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Personnel Report

Dr. Cialfi reported one certified retirement and two resignations.

Meghan Plunkett, special education teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2009 (currently on a personal leave of absence), resigning effective June 30, 2019.

Kristin Roman, special education teacher at Trumbull High School since August 1997, resigning effective March 1, 2019.

Rachel Wolfe, grade 5 teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School since September 2007, retiring effecting June 30, 2019.

It was moved (Timpanelli) and seconded (Norcel) to accept these resignations/retirement as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. 2019-2020 BOE Budget

Dr. Cialfi addressed the Board in response to the proposed budget reduction by the First Selectman of \$2.3M from the budget approved by Board of Education. A comprehensive report was submitted to the BOF to answer questions the BOF had submitted regarding the budget proposal. Dr. Cialfi is carefully reviewing all operational areas for potential cost savings; teaching positions that will not impact class size are also being considered. The Board of Finance meeting is scheduled for March 28, 2019 to discuss the BOE budget with a vote on April 8, 2019.

G. Policy Committee Report – Mrs. Norcel

Dr. Budd presented the following:

Policies, Second Readings

1. English Language Learners, Policy Code 6141.311
2. High School Attendance / Loss of Credit, Policy Code 5113
3. Attendance Grades K-8, Policy Code 5113.1

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Timpanelli) to approve the above second reading policies as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

H. Curriculum Committee Report – Mrs. Petitti

Mrs. Petitti reported that the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education met on Thursday, March 21, 2019 and reviewed several curriculum guides.

Dr. Budd presented the following:

Approval/Curriculum Guides

1. Grade 1 Science Curriculum Guide
2. Grade 2 Science Curriculum Guide

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

3. Grade 7 Social Studies Curriculum Guide

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

I. Finance Committee Report

Mr. O’Keefe reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on March 21, 2019 to review the financials through February 28, 2019. In addition to the financials, the Committee also continued a discussion of Food Services price increases, the breakfast pilot program, an update on full year 2018-2019 and a discussion of 2019-2020 budget.

It was moved (Timpanelli) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the financial reports as of February 28, 2019 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:36 p.m.

Dear Members of the House General Law Committee:

As members of the Trumbull Board of Education and advocates for our students, we oppose HB 7371, a bill that would legalize the retail sale marijuana in Connecticut. Our school district has a concentrated effort in place to teach our students to make healthy choices every day. We ask that you not dismiss the harmful message that use of recreational marijuana would send to our youth just because it would be illegal for those under 21.

We ask you to consider the following marijuana-related health concerns:

- Marijuana use may affect the physical structure of the brain. The exact affect, whether it is reversible, and what the potential health implications are, remains unknown.
- Early and continuous use of marijuana significantly increases risk of not completing high school, not enrolling or completing college, low educational achievement and lower income.
- Marijuana use among high school students negatively impacts academic outcomes. The more a student uses, the worse the outcomes.
- The research on the relationship between marijuana use and academic outcomes is almost sufficient to show a cause-and effect link between the two.
- Youth in more vulnerable situations (e.g. those already experiencing behavior and mental health problems) are more likely to experience a negative academic outcome due to marijuana use.

For the sake of our students, please vote NO on HB 7371.

Loretta Chory, Board Chairman
Lucinda Timpanelli, Vice-Chairman
Jacqueline Norcel, Secretary
Jeff Donofrio
Marie Petitti

Dear Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee:

As members of the Trumbull Board of Education, we oppose SB 1085, a bill that would legalize the retail sale of marijuana in Connecticut. Our school district has a concentrated effort in place to teach our students to make healthy choices every day. We ask that you not dismiss the harmful message that use of recreational marijuana would send to our youth just because it would be illegal for those under 21.

We ask you to consider the following marijuana-related health concerns:

- Marijuana use may affect the physical structure of the brain. The exact affect, whether it is reversible, and what the potential health implications are, remains unknown.
- Early and continuous use of marijuana significantly increases risk of not completing high school, not enrolling or completing college, low educational achievement and lower income.
- Marijuana use among high school students negatively impacts academic outcomes. The more a student uses, the worse the outcomes.
- The research on the relationship between marijuana use and academic outcomes is almost sufficient to show a cause-and effect link between the two.
- Youth in more vulnerable situations (e.g. those already experiencing behavior and mental health problems) are more likely to experience a negative academic outcome due to marijuana use.

For the sake of our students, please vote NO on SB 1085.

Loretta Chory, Board Chairman
Lucinda Timpanelli, Vice-Chairman
Jacqueline Norcel, Secretary
Jeff Donofrio
Marie Petitti