

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – May 14, 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 – Hackathon

On Saturday, March 23rd, the Trumbull School District in collaboration with Random Hacks of Kindness Junior hosted a “hackathon” for social good. The “hackathon” was organized by Michaela Durand, a Technology Integration Specialist, and Patrice Gans, Director of RHoK Jr., as a community event to introduce students to technology. Students in grades 4-8 worked together to devise apps to address a range of problems facing local non-profits. The event was supported by Trumbull Technology Integration Specialists, THS teacher Scott Kaminski, Ms. Christina Hefele and Dr. Floria Mallozzi.

The entire Board commended the participants and all involved in this successful event.

C. Correspondence – Jennifer Crawford and Erika Pierce asked the Board to be creative in finding a solution to the budget deficit and keep all of our valuable teachers in place; the following parents: Jody Inzitari, Patti Woods, Catherine Martini, Laura Citarella, Carrie Gray, Stacey Brady, Kary Baker, Julieta Wurst, and Kary Carkner all asked for a later start time of 8:30 a.m. to help improve student mental health and reduce sports related injuries and substance abuse; Karen Cherubini wrote to the Board in opposition to later start times; Erin Rooney asked the Board for financial support for the Daniels Farm Odyssey of the Mind team; Ellie Grosso asked that Mrs. Pereira, Integration Specialist, maintain her position at Frenchtown; Alice Ospina, Joanne Mekawi and Jennifer and Jon Capasso all sent positive remarks in favor of the Frenchtown principal; Cathleen Dauenhauer and Jenn and Dan Record wrote letters in support of the TAG and enrichment specialists; Hillcrest Principal Stafford Thomas shared that CSDE testing coordinators visited Hillcrest to see how the SBAC is administered and gave Hillcrest a glowing report.

D. Public Comments – TEA President, John Mastrianni, asked for the Board’s support in saving teaching positions; Ainsley Rossi moved to Trumbull for our excellent schools and discussed the

value of the TAG program; Ellie Grosso talked about her concerns about cutting teachers, the need to add a grade 5 section at Frenchtown and would like transparency regarding the recent situation regarding the Frenchtown Principal; three grade 5 Daniels Farm students spoke to the Board of the benefits of the TAG program and asked the Board not to cut the program.

E. Board Chairman Report – There was no report this evening.

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

- Dr. Cialfi recently attended the Southern Fairfield Superintendents and Cooperative Educational Services meetings. The topic of discussion was consolidation of services: professional development and transportation.
- The School Security Competitive Grant Program awarded \$25,863 to the Agriscience Building and \$200,000 to the Greenhouse Renovation Project. The Agriscience staff was also awarded \$5,000 for the development of an Aquaponics system.
- Sandy Hook Promise that is funded through a Homeland Security grant will present two forums for TPS: May 21 at Madison and May 24 at THS. Topics will include: school climate, school security and mental health initiatives.
- Two Trumbull students have received the 2019 National PTA Reflections Awards which is a national initiative that supports the arts.
- The THS National Honor Society Induction is May 16, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at THS.

G. Teacher Board Representative Report – Mrs. Rubano and the BOE send good wishes to the THS Mock Trial team competing in the nationals in Athens, Georgia; congratulations to six Frenchtown students who were winners in the UConn Invention Convention; the installation of Ben’s Bells Mosaic will take place at Frenchtown on May 14; at Frenchtown, several chicks have hatched in our kindergarten classes and the Kids Heart Challenge raised \$11,620; the TEA would like to thank the Superintendent and the BOE for continuing to work towards the goal of saving teacher positions in the district.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/THS Science Academy trip to Cambridge, Massachusetts

Mr. Marc Guarino presented for Advisor Dr. Linda Goodman the trip for the THS Science Academy to travel to Cambridge, Massachusetts to visit Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). This opportunity allows science academy students who use scientific method performing labs to visit one of the preeminent labs in the world, where scientists, physicians and engineers collaborate in their effort to find cures for human disorders. This trip is scheduled for this coming Friday, May 17, 2019 because Dr. Langer’s (MIT professor) availability for the visit was not known until just recently.

It was moved (Timpanelli) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the THS Science Academy trip to Cambridge, Massachusetts as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/Beverage Sale

Mr. O’Keefe and Mrs. Betty Sinko presented the proposed beverage sale for the Board of Education to allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or

school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be in the same place as the food sales.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the sale of beverage items after school and/or at school events and activities contingent upon the three conditions list above for the 2019-2020 school year as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Approval/Healthy Food Certification for 2019-2020 school year

Mr. O’Keefe and Mrs. Sinko presented the Healthy Food Option: The Board of Education or school governing authority for each public school that participates in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) must vote "yes" or "no" on whether to implement the healthy food option. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2020. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups.

Exemption for Food Items: If the Board of Education or governing authority votes "yes" for the healthy food option, the board of education or governing authority must also vote "yes" or "no" on whether to allow food exemptions. The Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Donofrio) to approve participation in the Healthy Foods Certification in schools for 2019-2020. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. 2019-2020 Budget Discussion

Dr. Cialfi and Mr. O’Keefe presented the status of the 2019-2020 Budget which is at 2.0% approved by the Board of Finance on March 29, 2019 and by the Finance Committee of the Town Council on May 6, 2019. This represents a \$2.38M reduction from the 4.3% originally requested by the Board of Education. Dr. Cialfi is focused on saving teaching positions and discussed with the Board potential areas for saving that do not affect classroom teaching and learning. Examples include: transportation, facilities, professional development and sports related fees.

E. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 4/30/2019

It was moved (Donofrio) and seconded (Timpanelli) to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2019 Board of Education meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Personnel Report

Dr. Cialfi reported one certified retirement and one resignation:

Mary Currie, French teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2007, retiring effective September 30, 2019.

Julia Solustri, language arts teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2016, resigning effective June 30, 2019.

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

G. Policy Committee Report – Mrs. Norcel

Dr. Budd presented the following:

Policies, First Readings – Dr. Budd

1. Fire Safety & Crisis Response, Policy Code 6114.1
2. Student Wellness, Policy Code 6142.101
3. Employee Protection, Policy Code 4148
4. High School Attendance / Loss of Credit, Policy Code 511
5. Attendance Grades K-8, Policy Code 5113.1
6. Auditing Courses, Policy Code 6144.2
7. Adult/Continuing Education, Policy Code 6174
8. Transportation, Policy Code 3541
9. Emergency Bus Evacuation, Policy Code 3541.6

It was unanimously agreed by the Board to bring these policies back for a second reading at a future Board meeting.

H. Finance Committee Report

Mr. O’Keefe reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on April 25, 2019 to review the financials through March 31, 2019. In addition to the financials, the Committee also continued a discussion of Food Services prices; an expansion of the breakfast pilot program to four other elementary schools and the two middle schools; an update on year-end 2018-2019 projection and roadmap to close the gap; and a discussion of some operational savings items currently being looked at to help achieve the \$2.4M of reductions from the 2019-2020 budget.

It was moved (Donofrio) and seconded (Timpanelli) to approve the financial reports as of March 31, 2019 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

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