

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – July 9, 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
K. Fearon
M. Petitti
M. Ward

Members absent:

J. Donofrio

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The regular meeting was called to order at 7:12 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

A. Pledge of Allegiance - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.

B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.

C. Public Comments- Frenchtown parent, Ellie Grosso addressed the Board over her disappointment in regard to recent staff resignations and encouraged the Board to advocate for our students; Deborah Herbst thanked Dr. Michael McGrath for his service to TPS and is uneasy about staff departures and stressed the importance and the impact of the filling of new staff positions; Bree Scott asked the Board to consider all options to reduce class size to create a more productive learning environment for our children; Erica Pierce, a Frenchtown parent asked the Board to add another section for grade 5 at Frenchtown to reduce class size; First Selectman, Vicki Tesoro personally thanked Dr. McGrath and Stafford Thomas for their years of service and wished them well in their new endeavors.

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

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

- The THS World Language department received a citation from Governor Lamont for implementing the standardized biliteracy assessment administered this school year with great success.
- A parent info session on gifted education was held in June to explain the newly formatted program and the expansion of students who are eligible for the TAG program.
- The THS Future Business Leaders of America team members competed at the state level and received accolades for ingenuity, teamwork and professionalism; placing 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the competition.
- The Booth Hill and Jane Ryan window project was included in the Town Council's June 1 agenda. As of this date, the project is running on time and under budget.

- This week, 60 elementary school teachers from TPS are participating in the Teachers College Advanced Teaching of Reading Institute.
- The two BOE requests relating to the 2019-2020 budget will be addressed by the Board of Finance at the meeting on July 11, 2019.
- Dr. Cialfi announced that he will not be seeking an extension to his contract and will be retiring at the end of the 2019-2020 school year effective June 30 in accordance with all terms of his contract. Dr. Cialfi stated that it has been an honor and a privilege to serve the town of Trumbull since 2001 and is looking forward to a productive school year in 2020.

Mrs. Chory expressed gratitude and congratulations to Dr. Cialfi on behalf of the Board for his well-earned retirement which will be effective June 30, 2020 (please see attachment).

F. Teacher Board Representative Report - There was no report this evening.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Gifted Education in TPS

Dr. Budd gave a presentation regarding gifted education in Trumbull Public Schools, including gifted identification, programming and assessments. TPS will continue the gifted program in Trumbull with the newly expanded state protocols.

B. Approval/Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Timpanelli) to approve the revised 2020-2021 school calendar as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. 2019-2020 Enrollment Update

The administration closely monitors enrollment during the summer months. Dr. Cialfi presented a preliminary breakdown of enrollment numbers as of July 8, 2019 and indicated that the numbers are changing daily. Dr. Cialfi will continue to monitor the enrollment as the summer progresses.

D. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 6/11/2019

It was moved (Timpanelli) and seconded (Fearon) to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2019 Board of Education meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Personnel Report -Dr. Cialfi reported the following resignations:

Catherine Christoffersen, math teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2016, resigning effective July 2, 2019.

Laura Cretella, principal at Frenchtown Elementary School since July 2017, resigning effective August 2, 2019.

Jennifer DiLillo, school psychologist at Trumbull High School since September 2014, resigning effective June 30, 2019.

Stafford Thomas, Stafford; principal at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2011, resigning effective July 11, 2019.

Dr. Michael McGrath, assistant superintendent at the Long Hill Administration Building since July 2011, resigning effective July 31, 2019.

Tracey Ormond, technology education teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2012, resigning effective July 5, 2019.

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

F. Board of Education Professional Development - Mrs. Chory

A professional development session for the Board of Education was conducted by a representative from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) on June 25, 2019. The Board discussed the next steps in the professional development process.

G. Policy Committee Report- Dr. Budd presented the following:

Policies, Second 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 moved (Petitti) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above second reading policies numbers 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 9 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above second reading policy number 2, Student Wellness as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Timpanelli) to approve the above second reading policy number 8, Transportation as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

H. Finance Committee Report

Mr. O’Keefe reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on June 24, 2019 to review the financials through May 31, 2019.

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

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:50 p.m.

On behalf of the board members, staff, parents and students of Trumbull Public Schools, with mixed emotion and sincere gratitude, I would like to congratulate Dr.Cialfi on announcing his well-earned retirement at the end of the upcoming school year.

Dr.Cialfi will be retiring after 50 years in education, a career that began in 1969 as a middle school teacher in Vernon CT. He held teaching positions in both the elementary and high schools levels in Port Chester NY, and then as a high school teacher, department chair and Asst Principal in Rye Brook, NY. From 1991 to 2001, he was principal of Harborside Middle School in Milford CT where his school earned a Blue Ribbon School of Excellence Award in 2000.

In 2001, Dr.Cialfi was welcomed to TPS as Head Principal of Trumbull High School. In 2005, he became Director of Curriculum; in 2007, Asst Superintendent and in 2013, he was named Superintendent.

While his professional accomplishments are many, implementing full-day kindergarten is one that will forever be associated with Dr.Cialfi, as will establishing the ACE Foundation which provides funding to many extracurricular clubs and championing social and emotional development throughout our schools.

We are all very proud of the highly respected, professional team he has put together to lead TPS... with every one of our schools earning a School of Distinction Award within the last four years. Under his leadership, TPS earned a top 10 ranking in both the CSDE Accountability Report in 2019 and the statewide Smarter Balanced Assessment in 2018, was only one of 10 CT school districts named to the AP District Honor Roll in 2018 & 2019... and Hillcrest was named as CT Middle School of the Year for 2018-19.

I'm sure that Dr.Cialfi's announcement tonight was not an easy decision for him and his lovely wife Donna to come to... but enough for now, we will have Dr. Cialfi with us for the full school year and will have plenty of time to say farewell and thank you.