

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – September 24, 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. Timpanelli, Vice Chair  
J. Norcel, Secretary  
J. Donofrio  
K. Fearon  
M. Petitti  
M. Ward

Members absent:

L. Chory, Chairman

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 – Mrs. Lisa Cerulli – Trumbull’s Teacher of the Year  
Our 2019-2020 Trumbull Teacher of the Year is Lisa Cerulli. Lisa is an extraordinary educator with a broad range of achievements and impressive qualifications. She will be recognized at the Connecticut Teacher of the Year Ceremony which will be held on December 4, 2019 at the Bushnell Memorial Center in Hartford, Connecticut. State Representatives Laura Devlin and David Rutigliano presented her with a special citation at this evening’s meeting during which the Board congratulated Mrs. Cerulli for her outstanding achievement.
- C. Correspondence - Ellie Grosso thanked the BOE for adding 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade sections at FT but is questioning why it took so long and how the BOE makes decisions on how to appropriate money in the education budget; Beth Gilman is asking that the current policy for determining the number of class sections be evaluated to meet efforts to decrease student anxiety and better meet the needs of our students; Lainie McHugh thinks that any search committee formed for the position of Superintendent should include all vested stakeholders; Ruth Fontilla has gathered names of 9 parents who would like to be on the search committee for the new Superintendent.
- D. Public Comments - Parent April Lang and two Middlebrook 3<sup>rd</sup> graders told the Board how hot and overcrowded their classroom is and that there is no space to learn; Tara Figueroa spoke on behalf of 43 Middlebrook parents concerning the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade class size at Middlebrook and shared documentation on the enrollment history of this class. Mrs. Figueroa cited important rationale to support smaller class size to benefit our students and asked the BOE to address this concern and offer a viable solution to provide equity across the district; Jennifer Mottolese stated that parents must serve on the Superintendent search committee to ensure that Trumbull gets the best candidate; Ellie Grosso thanked the Board for adding class sections at FT and insists that we use allocated funds for needed teachers; Jim Zygmunt thanked the Board for adding FT sections and said we must now advocate for our Middlebrook students; in regard to the Superintendent search

committee, Timothy Gallo, would like the community to be involved in this important decision; Ruth Fontilla submitted a list of parents (one from each school) who would like to serve on the Superintendent search committee and feels it should be a national search and Lauren DeLong spoke about the search committee and that teachers voices need to be heard.

E. Board Chairman Report – There was no report at tonight’s meeting.

F. Superintendent Report – Dr. Cialfi reported:

- At the PTSA meeting held on September 24, 2019, Dr. Cialfi explained the significance of the Annual Report that is submitted to the BOE for approval and then to the First Selectman. (This item is on this evening’s agenda.) Dr. Budd provided an overview of the strong 2019 Standardized Assessments as well as the Advanced Placement enrollment and scores as per the college approved standard.
- Parents of ELL students are invited to attend an info session on Wednesday, September 25, 2019 at the Long Hill Assembly room at 7:00 p.m. Information will include how children’s learning can be supported at home.
- Volunteers are invited to participate in this year’s Annual Read Aloud Program, sponsored by the Trumbull Rotary Chapter on:  
Monday, October 21 at 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. at TECEC  
Tuesday, October 22 at 9:00 -10:00 a.m. at Daniels Farm, Frenchtown and Tashua  
Wednesday, October 23 at 9:00 -10:00 a.m. at Booth Hill, Jane Ryan and Middlebrook  
Please email Cathy Bostley at [cbostley@trumbullps.org](mailto:cbostley@trumbullps.org) or Dr. Budd at [jbudd@trumbullps.org](mailto:jbudd@trumbullps.org). to participate.

G. Teacher Board Representatives Report – Mrs. Rubano reported on the opening days of school and welcomed Dave Erwin to the district; teachers would like to build stronger communication between the BOE and Long Hill Administrators and would like to instill a positive school climate; the TEA is encouraging the BOE to take advantage of the CEA Blitz opportunity. The CEA and the TEA can survey teachers to identify needs within the district. The TEA would like greater transparency in the transfer process of teachers; with Wi-Fi issues and is asking for a completion on an audit addressing security risks for open houses.

### Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Agriscience Equine ECE Class Trip to Springfield, Massachusetts

Ms. Cunningham reported that the Agriscience Equine ECE Class has been invited to attend the Equine Affair event held at the Eastern States Exposition Fairgrounds in Springfield, Massachusetts on November 8, 2019. The students will be attending equine performances and educational presentations.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Fearon) to approve the Agriscience Equine ECE Class trip to Springfield, Massachusetts as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/ THS Model Congress Field Trip to New Haven, CT: December 5-8, 2019

Advisor Ms. Katie Boland and member students presented the trip request for the Trumbull High School Model Congress Team to participate in the 2019 Model Congress Competition to be held at Yale University on Thursday, December 5, 2019 to Sunday, December 8, 2019. Approximately 20 grade 9-10 students are to participate accompanied by 2 teacher chaperones.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Donofrio) to approve the December 5-8, 2019, field trip for students to participate in the 2019 Model Congress Competition to be held at Yale as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- C. Discussion and possible action on the establishment of the full Board as a Personnel Search Committee for purposes of recommending a candidate or candidates for the position of Superintendent of Schools.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the full Board as a Personnel Search Committee for purposes of recommending a candidate(s) for the position of Superintendent of Schools as presented. Vote: 5 in favor- Timpanelli, Donofrio, Norcel, Petitti, Ward. Abstain: Fearon. Vote: Motion passes.

- D. Approval/Annual Report to the First Selectman – Dr. Cialfi  
Dr. Cialfi presented the 2018-2019 Annual Report to the Board of Education prior to submitting to the First Selectman. The report highlighted district growth and accomplishments achieved in student performance and operational areas.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Donofrio) to approve the 2018-2019 Annual Report to the First Selectman as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- E. Approval/Minutes, Regular Meeting 09/10/2019  
It was moved (Donofrio) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2019 BOE Regular Meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- F. Personnel – Dr. Cialfi  
Dr. Cialfi reported one certified resignation:  
Jennifer Gibson, physical education teacher at Tashua Elementary School since August 2004, retiring effective January 2, 2020.

It was moved (Fearon) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the resignation as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- G. Policy Committee Report – Mrs. Norcel  
Mrs. Norcel reported that the Policy Committee of the Board of Education met on August 27, 2019 and reviewed second reading policies.

Policies, Second Readings – Dr. Budd

1. Food Allergy Management, Policy Code 5141.260
2. Student Wellness, Policy Code 6142.101
3. Gifted and Talented Identification and Programming, Policy Code 6141.313
4. Curriculum Development, Policy Code 6141

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Ward) 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, September 19, 2019 and reviewed several curriculum guides and a survey.

Approval/Curriculum Guides – Dr. Budd

1. Grade 8 Language Arts Curriculum Guide
2. Grade 8 Reading Study Curriculum Guide
3. Advanced Placement Chemistry Curriculum Guide

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above curriculum guides as presented.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Approval/Surveys — Dr. Budd

4. TPAUD High School Student Questionnaire, November 2019, & Middle School Student Questionnaire, November 2019

It was moved (Fearon) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above TPAUD survey as presented.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:26 p.m.