

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee
of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Special Meeting

Trumbull High School Main Office Conference Room
Friday, May 10, 2019 – 9:30 am

MINUTES

I. Call to Order/Introduction – The meeting was called to order by Ms. Petitti at 9:30 am.

Members present

M. Petitti, chair

L. Timpanelli

M. Ward

J. Budd, Ph.D., ex officio

Other

M. Guarino, Trumbull High School Principal

L. Costantini, Spanish teacher, Trumbull High School

M. Manso-Garcia, Spanish teacher, Trumbull High School

II. Public Comment – There was no Public Comment.

III. New Business

- a. New Course Text Proposal: *Auténtico* (Core: Spanish 7, Spanish 8, & all levels of Spanish I, Spanish II, Spanish III)

Dr. Budd noted that the need for a textbook purchase for Spanish courses at the middle and high schools has existed since at least 2015-16, and has moved to top priority. Review of all available textbook series having been accomplished by middle and high school teachers of Spanish over the past six months, the team, represented by Ms. Costantini and Ms. Manso-Garcia, brings *Auténtico* to the Committee this morning. Ms. Manso-Garcia discussed the critical necessity of a new text at this point in time, and supported *Auténtico* as a strong text toward global learning. Ms. Costantini commended the scope and sequence of *Auténtico*, including in terms of grammar instruction, the text's thematic presentation of culture, and the foundation set by the text for upper-level Spanish learning. Ms. Timpanelli noted the text's strong ancillary materials and approach to all strands of the ACTFL Standards for world languages. Ms. Petitti observed the need for this new text series, and Mr. Ward commended the continued success of world

languages learning in Trumbull. Ms. Petitti moved to bring the new course text proposal to the Board of Education for approval at its meeting scheduled for May 28, 2019, and Mr. Ward seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

- b. Report, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessments
Dr. Budd noted that the work of the Curriculum Committee had been highlighted in the April 2019 issue of the *CEA Advisor*; a copy is attached to these Minutes. He also called the Committee members' attention to the upcoming TPS Student Art Exhibit's Opening Reception on Thurs., May 23, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. in the Sacred Heart University Art & Design Gallery; a copy of the invitation is attached to these Minutes.

Ms. Petitti moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 am; Ms. Timpanelli seconded. The motion was unanimously agreed to.

RETIRED TEACHERS ACTIVE ON LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION

Advocating for better learning, teaching conditions

"Teachers don't just shut off the lights and close the classroom door when they retire," says CEA-Retired President Gloria Brown. "They continue to be advocates for children and public education."

Brown points to a number of CEA-Retired members—including her longtime former Wolcott colleague Kathy Cordone—who are as involved as ever in advocating for public education.

"I retired from Wolcott Public Schools in 2009," says Cordone, "and I was elected to the Wolcott Board of Education two years later." After serving for a term, Cordone took a break because, in her words, "I wanted to be free to inform the public about my opposition to

Retired—or retiring soon?

Stay active with your union and your education community. Visit cea.org/cear/volunteer and check out opportunities to volunteer, join standing committees, become part of CEA's Rapid Response Team, and more.

Common Core and the amount of testing and test prep that I felt was taking the joy out of teaching and learning."

Over the following four years, she wrote more than 35 letters to the editor of Waterbury's *Republican-American*, her local newspaper, as well as her local monthly, *Wolcott*

Community News.

"I also penned op-eds for the *Connecticut Mirror*, testified before the State Board of Education twice, and submitted testimony to the legislature's Education Committee."

Knowing the power of social media to mobilize people and influence change, Cordone joined Facebook groups for teachers and attended nationwide rallies.

"I guess you could say I became an activist, researching and reading about the current state of education policy in this country and state almost every day," she says.

Second chance In 2017, she decided to give involvement in her local Board of Education another shot, "to see if my voice would be more effective." She says, "I am very connected and devoted to Wolcott, having lived here since I was 11 and spending my whole 37-year teaching career here, and I feel the knowledge I have obtained from my research and my experience as a teacher are an asset to the Board."

Cordone, who was Wolcott's Teacher of the Year and a semifinalist for the Connecticut Teacher of the Year in 1991, says, "I know the community and am still connected to many teachers. My greatest concern is the pressure our

youngest students and their teachers are experiencing, because our little ones are being expected to perform in developmentally inappropriate ways. Early childhood organizations have voiced their concerns about this, but their input has not been heeded. Kindergarten has truly become the new first grade."

Cordone believes strongly that overtesting is harming both young children and the teaching profession.

"The purpose of test data should always be to inform instruction, not to categorize students and evaluate teachers and schools," she says. "Teachers now spend an excessive amount of time and energy on data collection to prove they are doing their jobs. Lessening that burden would translate to teachers having more time and energy to spend on their students directly. I do voice my concerns and those of my fellow teachers to our administrators and other Board members, though I know state mandates can make it difficult to bring about change."

She adds, "Learning should be joyful and empowering, but in this current climate of high-stakes testing and developmentally inappropriate expectations, teachers struggle to foster that love of learning every day.



Retired high school math teacher Marie Petitti brings her perspective to her local Board of Education, where she chairs the Curriculum Committee.

I am in awe of those teachers who are able to do that in spite of the demands placed upon them."

Clear perspective

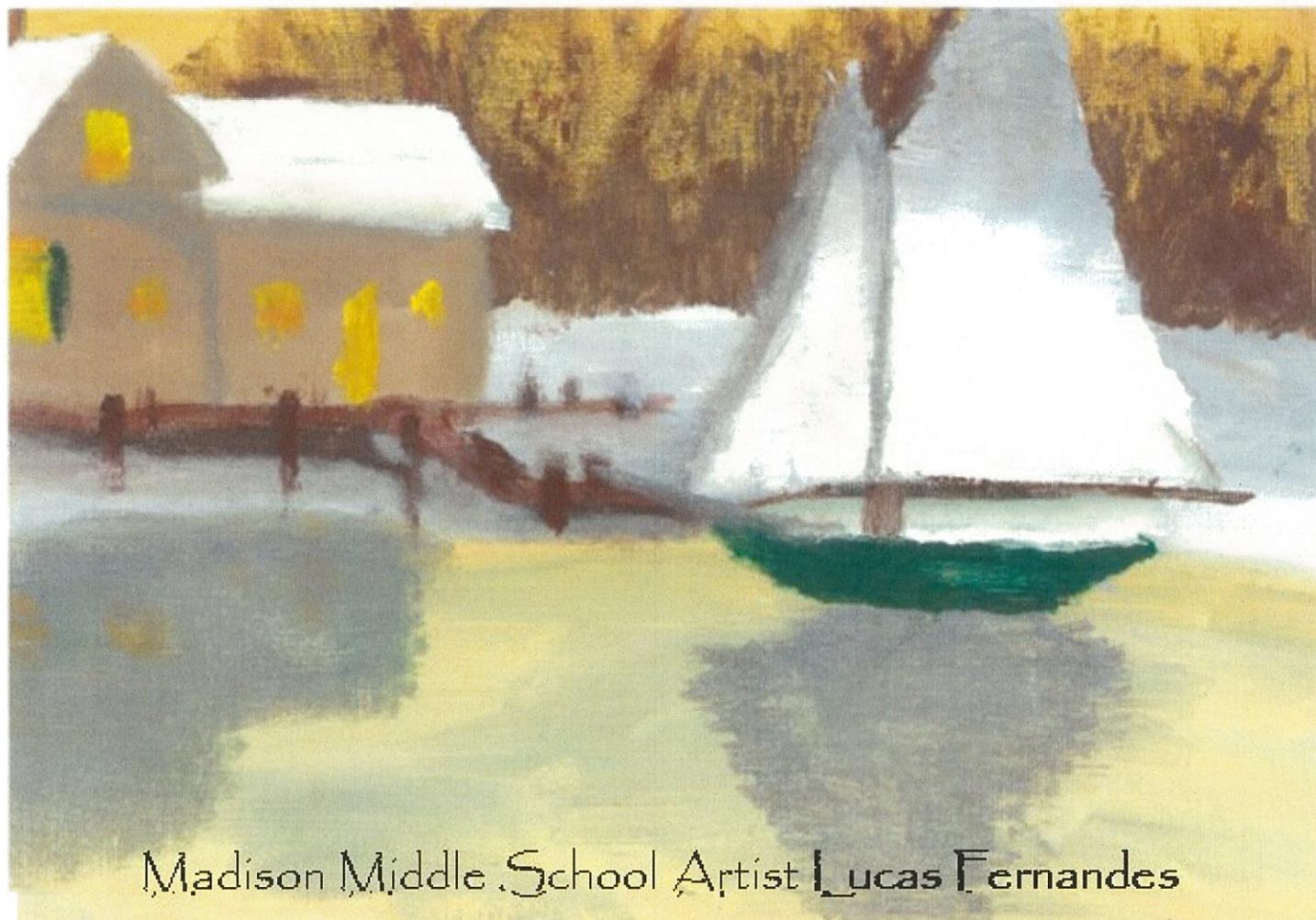
Also active in local education issues is retired Bridgeport High School math teacher Marie Petitti, who is completing her second term on Trumbull's Board of Education, where she chairs the Curriculum Committee and is a member of the

Policy Committee.

The Curriculum Committee includes other retired educators who hear from active teachers about collaborative projects, textbook suggestions, and other ideas they have about improving educational outcomes.

"As a former teacher," she says, "I have a clear perspective of the workings of a school district, including policies, fiscal responsibilities, and school climate."

"Our CEA-Retired members are valuable assets to the teaching community throughout the state," says CEA President Jeff Leake. "They know firsthand what it means and what it takes to help children reach their full potential, and they are out there advocating for all the resources and support our current teaching professionals need to be their best."



Madison Middle School Artist Lucas Fernandes

TPS Student Art Exhibit

Opening Reception:

Thursday ~ 23 May 2019~ 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

The Art & Design Gallery

Sacred Heart University

5151 Park Avenue, Fairfield , CT 203.371.7737

TPS art educators proudly present the fourth annual student art exhibition.

Exhibit runs May 23 - June 3

Gallery hours 10:00 am—5:00 pm

Special extended hours Wednesday and Thursday 10:00 am—8:00 pm