

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – January 28, 2020
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, Board Chairman

T. Gallo, Vice Chairman

J. Norcel, Board Secretary

K. Fearon

S. Kerr

M. Petitti

M. Ward

Executive Session

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Kerr) to go into Executive Session at 6:04 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Pending Litigation regarding Marissa Fernandez (CHRO) and a Pending Claim from Stacy George. All Board members were present. Mr. Ralph Iassogna and Attorney Floyd Dugas were invited into Executive Session. Vote: Unanimous in favor. No action was taken.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Petitti) to come out of Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – The Board received 17 emails from THS parents in opposition to the 20% weighting of midterm/final grades at THS and an email from Felicia Czumble in opposition to a bill to remove the religious exemption to vaccinations in order to attend public school.
- C. Public Comments – Beth Coley, Katie Derose, Rachel Weintraub, Peter Biondi, Alexandra Ferretti, Laura Citarella and Alison Zajac all spoke in opposition to the new 20% weighting of midterms at THS, stating there was no communication from THS regarding the change and many feel it puts added stress on already stressed out students and will negatively impact students GPAs on transcripts. Amy Lehaney asked the Board to consider the new budget to accurately reflect the needs of our students and anticipate Trumbull's increased enrollment. Kristin Egmont said we need to make social and mental health a priority. Marianne Cipolla and Diane Pomposello believe we add stress to students due to expectations of enrolling in accelerated courses. Also, they pointed out that all students learn at their own pace. Danielle Delibro wants to support the needs of all our students. Ruth Fontilla is concerned many budget cuts will result in a negative impact to the district. Pamela Gasparini stated that too much homework and testing overwhelms students and we need to consider the impact on our student's social and emotional well-being. Several speakers commented on the need to focus on the Superintendent search and emphasized the importance of finding the ideal candidate for our District.

- D. Board Chairman Report- Mrs. Timpanelli reported:
- Mrs. Timpanelli thanked the Trumbull community for their attendance at the recent focus groups and encourages them to complete the online survey available on the Town of Trumbull website for our Superintendent search.
 - Mrs. Timpanelli referred to policy code 1312 - Parent/Guardian Complaint Policy that outlines the process by which parents are able to register concerns. She explained the protocol for expeditious results.
 - There is no Board policy regarding mid-term grading at THS. This is a school based issue to be addressed by Administration and Central Office.
- E. Superintendent Report – Mr. Iassogna reported on the following:
- Budget negotiations continue with a more optimistic outcome than previously thought with final deficit numbers to be presented at the next BOE meeting.
 - Parents of THS students attending a conference at Yale were notified of health precautions due to the fact that another student from a different school had the flu at the conference.
 - Dr. Kim Hapken will begin as our Interim Director of PPS on February 13, 2020.
 - Donna Seidell will begin serving as Interim Principal at Jane Ryan Elementary School on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.
 - The Blum Shapiro annual Board/Town audit is complete, with no reported irregularities.
 - With a potential increase in students from the new Trumbull housing development, new students moving into our District will be placed in Frenchtown, Hillcrest and THS, subject to space availability.
- F. Teacher Board Representative Report – Mrs. Rubano reported on THS: last week was midterms and the Ethics Club participated in the Ethics Bowl at Yale University under the leadership of THS advisor, Libbi Intermann. The students came in second place, missing first place by 1.5 points.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. Budget Discussion – Mr. Iassogna, Mr. Cameron
1. 2019-2020 Budget Discussion
Mr. Iassogna reported that the budget deficit is less than originally projected with additional modifications to be enacted to further reduce our deficit. He indicated that cost savings that will include the elimination of one Assistant Superintendent position and one Director of Facilities position; the reassignment of one tech Integration Specialist; the net savings in changes from administrative full time positions to per diem rates and the additional excess cost reimbursement from the state for new EC documentation will save the District \$726,000. Other savings and additional costs will be forthcoming and will be integrated into the 2019-2020 budget analysis.
 2. The 2020-2021 budget was presented and discussed at the December 10 and 12, 2019 Board of Education meetings. Its review and discussion will continue once this year's budget is finalized which is projected to be our first meeting in February.
- B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting January 14, 2020
It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Kerr) to approve the above noted BOE Meeting minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. Personnel – Mr. Iassogna
Mr. Iassogna presented the following certified resignation/retirements:
- Craw, Sheila; grade 2 teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School since September 1986, retiring effective June 30, 2020.
It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above retirement as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Makres-Steinberg, Maureen; Coordinator of Special Education since January 2008, retiring effective February 28, 2020.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above retirement as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Revised 2019-2020 District Calendar – Dr. Budd

The Trumbull Registrars of Voters require the use of Middlebrook Elementary School, Hillcrest Middle School, and Madison Middle School on Tues., April 28, 2020, for the Presidential Primary. Currently, that is a student day of school for TPS; however, for safety, security, and parking reasons, it is not feasible to have school in session while voting is taking place. The Board is therefore asked to approve the following adjustments to the Calendar to allow the district to meet the need of Registrars of Voters and its legal requirements for student and teacher days:

- Make Mon., March 23, 2020, currently a Teacher Professional Development Day, a regular student day; &
- Make Tues., April 28, 2020, currently a regular student day, a Teacher Professional Development Day.

There is no impact on any other element of the Calendar.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Kerr) to approve the above changes to the 2019-2020 District Calendar as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Curriculum Committee Report – Mr. Ward

Approval/New Course Text Proposal – Dr. Budd

1. *A Raisin in the Sun* (Core: English 11-12)

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the above new course text proposal as presented. Vote: Unanimous.

Approval/Curriculum Guides – Dr. Budd

2. Grade 10 Biology Curriculum Guide
3. Grade 11 Chemistry Curriculum Guide
4. Advanced Placement Physics 1 Curriculum Guide
5. Advanced Placement UCONN Environmental Science Curriculum Guide

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

F. Financial Reports as of December 31, 2019– Mr. Cameron

The Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on January 23, 2020 to review the financials through December 31, 2019. In addition to the financials, the Committee also discussed an update on the recently completed and unbudgeted Special Education expense items. Mr. Iassogna/Mr. Cameron summarized a letter received regarding the Town/Board audit which showed no irregularities. This letter will be shared with the Board of Education in the Superintendent's weekly report.

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

IV. Receive and File

- A. Pending Litigation- Mr. Iassogna reviewed one case of pending litigation with the Board.
- B. Negotiations

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:29 p.m.