

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – October 27, 2020  
**Via Audio/Video Conferencing**

The Trumbull Board of Education met via video/audio conferencing for a Regular Meeting.

Members present:

L. Timpanelli, Board Chairman

T. Gallo, Vice Chairman

J. Norcel, Board Secretary

S. Kerr

A. Palo

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. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence: Emily and Chris Boyle have children in grades K-2 and 3-5 and want their children to stay hybrid until 3-5 returns full time; Stephanie Bergamo would like all students back 5 days a week, she gave a shout out for Daniels Farms efforts with the hybrid model. Andrew Lazowski feels remote learning isn't effective and children need to be in school. Alaina Doris and Kat Lima-Galazka are requesting that the Fashion Club be reinstated. Greg Simms suggests keeping the current remote learning structure until January and reevaluate then. Catherine Martini sent a link to an Adolescent Sleep Health webinar.
- C. Public Comment - Ruth Fontilla is grateful to Trumbull teachers and staff for all their hard work and would like virtual BOE meetings to continue in the future and is asking for an improvement in the audio/visual quality of the online meetings. Ruth is happy to report that parent participation has increased during our virtual meetings.
- D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel
- Dr. Semmel addressed an incident of hate speech that occurred at THS on October 23, 2020, during a virtual club fair. Our IT department and the Trumbull Police are in the process of investigating this incident. Our mission states that every person is a valued member of our community and there is no room for hate in our schools. TPS has recently formed the Coalition for Social Justice Committee to advocate for equity, diversity and social justice.
  - Dr. Semmel asked for a moment of silence to honor two valued TPS employees who recently passed away, Paraprofessional Michele Grischuk and Custodian Jose Joaquim.
  - As we develop our 2021-2022 budget, we are mindful of the significance of the staff that were cut last year and the essential services that they provided. As we plan for the future school year, we are focused on rebuilding TPS to maintain our high-quality level of education.
- E. Board Chairman Report - Board Chair Lucinda Timpanelli reported:
- The Board would like to thank all of our wonderful teachers and staff that are keeping our schools open and running smoothly.
  - Board members will purchase and plant a tree at Jane Ryan to honor the memory of Mary Ellen Bolton.

- There are openings for parents and community members to serve on the BOE Policy Advisory Committee. Applications are available on the TPS website.

F. Teacher BOE Report – Mr. Matthew Bracksieck reported:

- The Professional Development and Evaluation Committee with a teacher rep co-chair signals a return to the cooperation between teachers and administration.
- Teachers are hopeful that the new COVID19 Task Force will increase communication as we make decisions that are in the best interest of the learning community.
- The district has recently added technologies that have been useful learning platforms for students and also a big help with teachers' administrative tasks.
- We applaud Dr. Semmel for adopting a social justice goal and the initiative to create the TPS Coalition for Social Justice.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes - Regular Meeting 10/13/2020

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

B. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel reported that there have been no changes since the last meeting.

C. Trumbull School Reopening Plan Update – Dr. Semmel

- Dr. Semmel has created an advisory team, the COVID19 Task Force to review weekly health data from the Department of Public Health. The team will discuss opportunities and obstacles that are relevant during COVID19.
- As Dr. Semmel visited K-2 classrooms this week, he saw many smiling faces with masks on as students returned to classrooms 4 days a week.
- After careful scrutiny of health data, the District will return grades 3-5 to full classroom learning on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with Wednesday remote learning day for all students, beginning on November 5, 2020. Full remote learning will still be an option for students.
- Dr. Semmel will continue to inform the community on the reopening process as we follow health and safety protocols and the current health data as directed by the Governor and the Department of Health. Please visit the reopening resource page on our website for updates.

D. Later School Start Times Update- Dr. Budd

Consistent with the plan approved by the Board in July, Dr. Budd presented an update based on the recent meetings of the Later School Start Time Committee. The Committee's focus is to determine what implementation of later school start times would look like, and require, in Trumbull. The four main implementation options that will structure the Committee's November presentation regarding start times and transportation are:

1. Keep 2-tier bus structure & times, but swap elementary & secondary
2. Keep 2-tier bus structure, but move all start times later
3. Keep 2-tier bus structure, but move THS times to align with elementary times
4. Add a 3rd tier to the bus structure, and have 3 different sets of times

Dr. Budd will present a detailed overview of key topics and the impact of each potential option at a future BOE meeting.

E. Curriculum Committee Report- Dr. Budd

Approval/Curriculum Guides

1. Honors Justice & Law: Criminal Law

2. Honors Justice & Law: Civil Law
3. Theatre Exploration: The American Musical
4. Cybersecurity

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Kerr) to accept the above curriculum guides as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Policy Committee Report- Dr. Budd presented the following policies:

Second Reading

1. Facilities Committee, Policy Number 9134

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Kerr) to accept the above policy as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

First Reading

2. Face Coverings, Policy Number 5141.9

Dr. Budd discussed the new Face Covering policy with the Board for the first reading.

G. Finance Committee Report

Mr. Hendrickson presented the financial reports as of September 30, 2020. He detailed expense categories; discussed balances and projections and the Coronavirus relief fund grant.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:16 p.m.