

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – November 10, 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

Executive Session

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Ward) to enter into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. for the purpose of discussing pending litigation/settlement of Bridgeport Magnet School tuition. All Board members were present, except for Mr. Palo. Superintendent Dr. Semmel and Business Manager Mr. Hendrickson were invited into Executive Session. Vote: All in favor.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to come out of Executive Session at 6:45 p.m. Vote: All 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 – Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence: Liz Parenzan is concerned about several signs at THS; Peter and Laura Yarusavage are concerned about climbing Covid19 numbers and new cases. Rasha Tarek believes bringing children back doubles their exposure. Victoria Kuantan and Kavita Mehta thank the school system for providing Temporary Remote Learning.
- C. Public Comment - There were no residents signed up to speak at this evening's meeting.
- D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel attended the celebration of "Mary Ellen Way" at Jane Ryan on November 6, 2020 to commemorate the life and work of Mary Ellen Bolton.
- E. Board Chairman Report- Mrs. Timpanelli attended the dedication ceremony for Mary Ellen Bolton with Marie Petitti on November 6 at Jane Ryan. She also congratulated Tony Pijar on his retirement and spoke of his commitment to his position as Dean of Students at THS.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to move Agenda Item C Reports/Action Items- Approval/Trumbull Custodial-Maintenance Employees Bargaining Unit Agreement to this portion of the meeting. Vote: all in favor.

III-C. Approval/Trumbull Custodial-Maintenance Employees Bargaining Unit Agreement
Attorney Floyd Dugas presented the agreement between Trumbull Public Schools and the Trumbull Custodial/Maintenance (UPSEU) Union Agreement.

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the Trumbull Custodial Maintenance Employees Bargaining Unit Agreement as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Student BOE Representatives Report - Gabriella Bondi and Jack Allen reported on THS: students are concerned about an attendance policy issue and the impact on midterm exemptions, Mrs. Timpanelli advised them to address this issue with Principal Guarino. Students are looking forward to spirit week on November 16-20 and are encouraged to participate. Clubs and the success of our sports teams were reported.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval Minutes – Regular Meeting 10/27/2020

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

B. Personnel- Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified retirement and leave of absence:

Paklaian, Lauren; science teacher at Madison Middle School since August 1999, retiring effective June 30, 2021.

Angelovic, Jennifer; grade 4 teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School since November 2006 is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay effective November 24 through June 30, 2021. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above Retirement and Request for Leave of Absence as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. See above.

D. Trumbull School Reopening Plan Update – Dr. Semmel is extremely proud of the exemplary work of our teachers and staff and cited current local health data that is guiding the course of our schools staying open. Currently in Trumbull, there is approximately one new Covid19 case per day in our school system and 14 staff are quarantined. Our two most important criteria for keeping schools open are the number of cases in each of our buildings and the ability to contact trace; and the number of staff that are out on any given day. The district has decided to continue with the hybrid model for grades 6-12 at this time and is purchasing desk shields for elementary students with monies from the Covid Relief Fund. There is no indication that the virus is spreading in our buildings. Our schools will remain open only as long as our local health data supports us to do so to keep all our students and staff safe in our schools.

- E. School Start Time Update – Dr. Budd & Committee Members addressed the Board outlining the Committee’s progress presenting four options. Two options appear workable, however, they require further information. The Committee will proceed to investigate impact and report back to the Board.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Petitti) to authorize the continuation of the work of the exploratory Later Start Time Committee. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- F. Bridgeport Magnet School Tuition – Mr. Hendrickson

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Ward) to authorize the Superintendent to approve the Bridgeport Magnet School tuition settlement agreement as presented. In Favor: Timpanelli, Norcel, Ward, Gallo, Petitti, Kerr. Abstain: Palo. Vote: Motion passes.

- G. Financial Update – Mr. Hendrickson

September 30, 2020 Financial Report - This report was presented at the October 27, 2020 Board of Education meeting, but was not approved by the Board at that meeting.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the financial reports as of September 30, 2020 presented at the October 27, 2020 Board of Education meeting. Vote: all in favor.

Mr. Hendrickson updated the Board on COVID-related spending and grants. A discussion ensued.

- H. Curriculum Committee Report – Mr. Ward

Dr. Budd presented the following:

Approval/New Course Proposals – Dr. Budd

1. Health 11: Mindfulness & Movement (Wellness)
2. African American / Black and Puerto Rican / Latino Studies (Social Studies)

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Palo) to approve the above new course proposals as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor

Approval/Curriculum Guides – Dr. Budd

3. Visual Art & Design
4. Mixed Media
5. Web Design: HTML & CSS
6. The Business of Fashion
7. Investing and the Stock Market
8. Child Development
9. Automotive Systems
10. Competitive Recreational Games

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

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:54 p.m.