

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

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Recognition – Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), Bonnie B. Carney Communications Award of Excellence
Trumbull Public Schools is the recipient of the Bonnie B. Carney Award of Excellence for Educational Communications this past fall of 2019. Mr. George Kurtyka of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) was in attendance and presented this award to the district. The Superintendent and the entire Board of Education commended the district on this prestigious award.
- C. Correspondence - Mrs. Norcel reported that the Board received 52 emails regarding the Superintendent's budget proposal, many residents are concerned about the potential cuts and the negative impact it will have on our students; 14 parents of children enrolled in the TAG program wrote of the importance of this program and are asking the Board to keep funding in place; Catherine Martini shared a link to a petition for later school start times; Haley McCarthy sent the Board an article, *The Power of Play* to advocate for the social/emotional development of our children; Kristen Sabad wrote in opposition to removing the religious exemption for vaccinations in our schools; Meghan DePanfilis wrote in support of our kindergarten paras and the important role they play.
- D. Public Comments - Cat Lamy and Catherine Martini spoke in support of later school start times citing that the scientific evidence on the positive impact of sleep on our teenage students; Pete Yarusavage, a parent at Frenchtown stressed the importance of smaller class size; Ruth Fontilla spoke in support of the Superintendent's budget request; Chelsea Galioto stressed the importance of social/emotional learning for our children to help with their cognitive development; Rob Martini asked the Board to help improve our teens well-being by instituting later start times; Marty Isaac spoke in support of later start times; Ellie Grosso expressed her thanks to the Board for all their hard work and expressed greater transparency with our financials to avoid another budget crisis;

two elementary school students enrolled in TAG spoke to the Board about how much they love the TAG program.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to add to the agenda a discussion and possible vote on the Superintendent's request to address the coronavirus. Vote: all in favor.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to accept the Superintendent's request to suspend all field trips until further notice. Vote: all in favor.

- E. Board Chairman Report - Mrs. Timpanelli gave a brief overview of recent activities and events that Board members participated in our district.
- F. Superintendent Report – Mr. Iassogna is in constant contact with the Center for Disease Control and the Connecticut State Department of Public Health to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Trumbull Health Director, Luci Bango will continue to send e-blasts to our community with important health precautions.

Mr. Iassogna announced the following measures regarding the coronavirus:

- Maintenance/custodial staff will focus on cleaning and sanitizing our schools.
- Parent teacher conferences scheduled for March 12 (grades preK-5) and March 19 (grades 6-8) will be conducted via telephone.
- TPS is developing optional enrichment learning opportunities based on grade level. TPS will be surveying parents regarding individual students' ability to access these opportunities from home; parents in need of devices will be loaned devices from TPS.
- All field trips scheduled between March 11-31, 2020 have been cancelled.
- All remaining CIAC winter championship tournaments have been cancelled by CIAC.
- Updates will be posted on our school website daily until further notice.

- G. Student Board Representatives Report – The THS Student Rep reported that on March 25 juniors will be taking the SAT at THS and there will be an info session for the NGAA science assessment next Wednesday, March 18 at 7:00 p.m. at THS. All juniors and their parents are invited to attend.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Trumbull Day 2020 Special Request Alcohol Waiver

Mr. Preston Merritt, Mr. Marc Lepore and Mrs. Kathleen McGannon were in attendance to ask the Board of Education for approval for the Trumbull Day Commission to use Hillcrest Middle School and Trumbull High School on Friday, July 3, Saturday, July 4, and (rain date) Sunday, July 5, 2020. The Trumbull Day Commission is requesting that the Board of Education waive its Policy 1330, Use of Public School Buildings and Sites for three (3) days to allow for an alcohol concession on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High Schools. If approval is granted, all other provisions of the Board Policy will be adhered to and alcohol distribution and consumption must be properly monitored and controlled by the Trumbull Police Department, First Selectman's office, and Trumbull Day Commission members, to insure that this concession is regulated in a responsible and appropriate manner.

It was moved (Fearon) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the Trumbull Day 2020 Special Request Alcohol Waiver for the Town of Trumbull to allow an alcohol concession booth on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High School in conjunction with Trumbull Day on

Friday, July 3, Saturday, July 4, and, if necessary, Sunday, July 5, 2020. Vote: in favor- Timpanelli, Gallo, Norcel, Fearon, Kerr, Petitti. Against-Ward. Motion passes: 6 to 1.

B. Later School Start Times

Dr. Sarah A. Raskin is the Psychology and Neuroscience Director of the Neuroscience Program at Trinity College. Dr. Raskin gave a presentation on Adolescent Health and School Start Times: Science and Strategies and presented documented evidence for the positive impact of later start times on teenagers.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to add to the agenda as an action item a discussion and possible vote regarding later school start times. Vote: all in favor.

It was moved (Fearon) and seconded (Kerr) to establish an exploratory committee on healthy school start times. Vote: all in favor.

C. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 2/11/20 and Special Meetings 2/18/20 and 2/20/20

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

D. Personnel – Mr. Iassogna presented two resignations:

Heewon Lim, math teacher at Trumbull High School since January 2019, resigning effective June 30, 2020.

Matthew Paola, special education teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2019, resigning effective March 2, 2020.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to accept these resignations as presented. Vote: all in favor

E. Financial Committee Report-Financial Reports as of January 31, 2020

Mr. Cameron reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on February 25, 2020 and reviewed the financials through January 31, 2020. Also, discussed at that meeting was the fiscal end of year forecast.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the financial reports as of January 31, 2020 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Budget Discussion – Mr. Iassogna, Mr. Cameron

Mr. Iassogna and Mr. Cameron updated the Board of Education with the most current status of the 2020-2021 budget, sharing the results of the meeting with the Board of Finance held on Thursday, March 5, 2020.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:34 p.m.