

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – May 12, 2020
Via Audio/Video Conferencing
***Amended Minutes**

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

All Board Members were present via video:

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 7:00 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

There were approximately 150 emails to the Board concerning the proposed budget cuts and the negative impact they will have on our students. Many wrote detailing why the \$500,000 should be restored to the First Selectman's budget. Residents are concerned with the cutting of specific staff members and the elimination of programs/activities. Other emails addressed the early closing of the elementary schools that would impact after school clubs and activities. Two staff emails asked that the BOE not ask teachers to fix the budget situation. Colin Hoben sent a message of thanks and praise to our Trumbull staff who are doing an extraordinary job while our students are learning from home.

C. Public Comment - the following Trumbull residents spoke via video conference:

Cat Lamy cited that many parents are glad that teens are now getting the sleep they need and that it is helping lower their anxiety and making them more productive; JC Cinelli spoke of the merits of scouting that builds character in our youth and asked not to close schools early; Ruth Fontilla thanked the Board for allowing residents to speak during public comment and praised staff for continuing to provide meals to our students and teachers for their remarkable work. Carrie Hall is worried about the long term effects of the cuts that will cost us more in providing services to our students; Frank Squicciarro stated the importance of keeping our teaching staff and would like to give our teachers a round of applause for their hard work.

D. Superintendent Report - Mr. Iassogna reported:

- Many thanks to Mr. Greg DeSanty, owner of ABC Sign Company and a Trumbull resident. Greg donated his company's services that produced the beautiful sign at Long Hill saluting our heroes in fighting COVID-19.
- Congratulations to Selah Simon from Daniels Farm School for her award as a National PTA Reflections Winner. She was selected from over 1000 entries from 40 states.

- We have not yet received an update on the PKF Douglas Town initiated audit.
- Mr. Iassogna wrote to the Governor, the Education Commissioner and the Governor’s Reopen Connecticut Advisory Group asking them to provide every school district with a return to school model they can “tweak” when we plan on reopening our schools.
- TPS administration is planning to allow students who left behind items in our schools to return and collect them. Details will follow.
- With all the machinations of COVID-19, the budget and its financial impact, the meetings with the Town, the Board of Finance, and Town Council, an accomplishment seemed to slip through the cracks and that is the superb job staff, particularly those at Long Hill, did in overcoming a potential \$2.0+ million deficit in the 2019-2020 budget.

E. Board Chairman Report- Mrs. Timpanelli

The Board would like to thank all the Trumbull residents who wrote in response to the proposed budget cuts. Mrs. Timpanelli advised residents that the Town Council at this point can reinstate funds to the BOE budget. The Town Council will be hosting a public hearing on May 16 and all are encouraged to attend.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Trumbull Administrative Support Services (TASS) Bargaining Unit Contract
Atty. Dugas presented the collective bargaining agreement between TPS and the Trumbull Administrative Support Services which was scheduled to expire on June 30, 2020. A one-year successor agreement was bargained during the spring of 2020. Preamble-group now referred to as Connecticut Association of Labor Unions (CALU) #5, Trumbull Administrative Support Services (TASS), (formerly known as UE Local 1222, CILU/CIPU, CILU #85). Board Attorney Floyd Dugas supported the approval since it was completed before COVID-19; it would be less costly than the arbitration process and was a fair and reasonable settlement.

- 2.5% increase plus step movement
- 15.5% contribution toward insurance
- Article 13.3 – removed due to Janus legislation (service fee removed)

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the TASS Bargaining Unit Contract successor agreement as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. 2020-2021 Budget Discussion – Mr. Iassogna, Mr. Cameron

Mr. Iassogna addressed the status of the 2020-2021 budget and will scrutinize all areas of our budget in an effort to save money and retain essential staff. There is a possibility of additional monies coming in from the State of Connecticut, but we also do not know what the future holds regarding the added costs due to the virus. At this time, Mr. Iassogna stated that for any item restored to the budget, another must be cut. We will be able to reinstate some items if we are able to receive the \$500,000. Mr. Iassogna and the Board are working with the Town Council to be fully transparent of the critical nature and the consequences of these cuts.

C. Later School Start Time Initiative – Dr. Fearon

**Dr. Fearon provided clarification on the previously approved special committee of the BOE to explore healthy school start times. A proposed list of members was provided. This will be a fact based committee that will examine the pros and cons of later start times and the impact*

on our students, parents, schools, and budget. Numerous factors need to be evaluated and studied to determine the effect on our Trumbull community. Several Board members questioned the timing of the study and wanted to have input into the formation of the committee before it is final.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Norcel) to table the further discussion of a committee until a later date. In favor- Petitti, Ward, Gallo, Timpanelli. Against-Fearon, Kerr. Abstain- Norcel. Vote: motion passes 4-2-1.

D. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 4/28/2020

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Kerr) to approve the 4/28/2020 minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Personnel – Mr. Iassogna

Mr. Iassogna presented one non-certified retirement:

Hamann, Valerie; administrative assistant at Hillcrest Middle School since July 2002, retiring effective July 5, 2020.

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

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:38 p.m.