

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – May 26, 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
K. Fearon
S. Kerr
M. Petitti
M. Ward

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Recognition – Grace Xiong – 2020 Connecticut Scholar
The Superintendent announced that Grace Xiong will be recognized at the next BOE meeting on June 9, 2020.
- C. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence: All emails to the BOE prior to the Town Council meeting on May 21 were answered by our chair Lucinda Timpanelli. Since then we received 34 emails, all regarding maintaining staff and programs. Several are as follows: Laura O’Keefe, Nina Courville, Alyson St Martin, Lisa Bhagirathy, Michelle Hyland, Edward Greenward, Amy and Jeremy Zelinsky, Dina Cohen, Katherine Clyons, Traci Galla, Beth Gilman all expressed concerns on the negative impact budget cuts will have on students and staff; Christine McNamara- do not cut custodians; Dawn Switzerland and Alyson St Martin- restore psychologist; Ryan Southard- restore business teacher; John Annick and Samantha Eisenberg restore Career/College position; Mary Santilli, Susan Devine and Ms. Galindo- return math consultants; Kimberly Moore, Kory Buswell, Jen Crawford, Aarika Friend- restore kindergarten paras; Tammy Russo and Amy Congdon- restore literacy consultants.
- D. Public Comment via Zoom: Dan Neumann of the ACE Foundation and counselor Tracy Cranston stated the importance of the Career and Counseling position at THS; Fernando Carlos, Ken Kegan and Sara Desautels want to retain freshman sports; Geri Proscino and Mary Santilli spoke of the vital role of the math specialist team and the increasing importance of STEM in our schools; Jess Clinton Henry thinks we need to provide more services; Frank Squicciarino is an advocate of our elementary math/reading specialists and kindergarten paras and the Superintendent search; Amy Lehaney wants the Board to look at every line item in the budget and how it will impact our children in the years to come; Kelly Csizmadia said to restore teachers; Lynn Brown and Carolyn Collins are in support of our teachers; Ruth Fontilla stated that our greatest asset is our teachers and the need to keep our tech integrators and late buses;

Siobhan Lidington and Traci Galla asked the Board to maintain a high level of education: John Mastrianni requested the Board strengthen the relationship with the Town Council and exercise proper use of spending going forward.

E. Superintendent Report - Mr. Iassogna reported on the following:

- Last week the Town Council voted to increase the BOE allocation by \$224,000. Our figures now indicate an increase in total funding that includes monies from the list below:
 - \$276,000 (Banc of America lease converting to a Town bond)
 - \$158,757 (CARES Act to be distributed to all of the Trumbull schools, including private)
 - \$213,000 (insurance decrease from 6.5% to 5.0%)
- Pursuant to the Governor's guidelines, senior proms throughout the State have been cancelled. Also, the PPS summer program will proceed online with distance learning, as per the state and health protocols.
- A planning committee is underway to proceed with the schedule for an appropriate THS graduation. Principal Marc Guarino will provide details once the state mandated protocols are finalized.
- We await final word this week from the Governor as to whether summer school will be held this year.
- The Superintendent's office continues to receive compliments for the beautiful sign outside the Long Hill building that was donated by Greg DeSanty of ABC Sign Company.

F. Board Chairman Report - Mrs. Timpanelli reported on the following:

- The THS graduation committee met to discuss all possible options that will meet state and CDC guidelines for a safe graduation ceremony.
- Thank you to Mr. DeGennaro for helping us get additional monies from our Banc of America lease that will help lower our budget deficit.
- Thank you to all of the individuals and organizations that are sponsoring scholarships to our senior class of 2020.
- The Superintendent search will continue as soon as we can have in-person interviews.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 5/12/2020

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Kerr) to approve the 5/12/20 minutes with the following amendment under Later School Start Time Initiative – Dr. Fearon- remove the sentence beginning with Dr. Fearon initiated a discussion and replace with: 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. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel – Mr. Iassogna

Mr. Iassogna presented the following retirements:

Certified:

Blackmore, Jacqueline; Kindergarten teacher at Daniels Farm Elementary School since September 2000, retiring effective June 30, 2020

Pijar, Anthony; Dean of Students at Trumbull High School since September 2004, retiring effective November 1, 2020

Tornillo, Anne; choral music teacher at Trumbull High School since September 1987, retiring effective June 30, 2020

Non-Certified:

Mastrioianni, Richard; Network Administrator since March 1999, retiring effective June 30, 2020.

Virag, John; Technician IV since November 1978, retiring effective June 30, 2020.

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

C. 2020-2021 Budget Discussion – Mr. Iassogna

Last week, the Town Council restored \$224,000 to the BOE and with additional scrutinized savings, our total budget allocation now stands at \$109,025,882. As of this date, the Board needs to cut \$1,345,882 to achieve the budget allocation from the Town. Many residents and staff weighed in on possible cost savings and hopeful restorations to the proposed cuts. With careful consideration, Mr. Iassogna presented a first draft of restorations that prioritizes students' academic, social and emotional needs. Dr. Budd presented additional previously unbudgeted teaching and learning expenses that are essential to include in next year's budget as the circumstances of learning evolve. The Board will continue to discuss all possible savings and restorations before a final vote. With great pride, Mr. Iassogna commended our lunch program staff for their exceptional work in providing meals to our students during the school closure.

D. Policy Committee Report – Mr. Gallo

Dr. Budd presented the following first/second reading policies for approval:

Policies, Combined First/Second Readings – Dr. Budd

1. Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect, and Sexual Assault, Policy Code 5141.4
2. Fire Safety, Crisis Response, & Authority in Emergency Situations, Policy Code 6114.1
3. Pay to Participate, Policy Code 5138
4. Eligibility to Attend Trumbull Public Schools, Policy Code 5111
5. Health Assessments and Immunizations, Policy Code 5141.3
6. Allotment of Student Time ~~for Subjects~~, Grades K-5, Policy Code 6112.2
7. Length of School Year and School Day, Policy Code 6112
8. Promotion and Retention of Students Grades Pre-K – 8, Policy Code 5123
9. Student Conduct on School Buses, Policy Code 5131.1
10. Hazing, Policy Code 5131.91
11. Student Standard of Conduct, Policy Code 5131

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to accept the above first/second reading policies as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Financial Committee Report – Dr. Fearon

Interim Business Manager, Mr. Cameron was unable to be in attendance at this evening's meeting. The financial reports will be voted on at a future BOE meeting.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:34 p.m.