

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – June 9, 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 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.

B. Recognitions: Mr. Iassogna

2020 Connecticut Scholar-Grace Xiong

The Connecticut Scholars Committee of the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) has selected Grace Xiong as a 2020 Connecticut Scholar. Grace was chosen for this prestigious honor for her outstanding academic talents, PSAT scores and submitted essay. The University of Connecticut recognizes Connecticut Scholars with an Academic Excellence Scholarship. This scholarship will be awarded for each of four academic undergraduate years. The Board commended Grace Xiong on this outstanding achievement.

2019-2020 Board of Education Student Reps and Policy Committee Student Members

Trumbull High School seniors Nancy Lee and Anushka Sharma are commended for their contributions to the Board of Education and the community as Board of Education student representatives throughout the 2019-2020 school year.

Trumbull High School senior Howard Qian is commended for his contribution to the Board of Education and the community as Board of Education Policy Committee student advisory member since 2018.

The Board congratulated Nancy, Anushka, and Howard and wished them well in all of their post-high school endeavors.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Norcel) to move the following agenda item to this portion of the meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

III. Report Action Items

G. Approval/Acceptance of Booth Hill/Jane Ryan Window Replacement Projects

The Booth Hill and Jane Ryan window replacement projects have now been fully completed as of May, 2020. Chair of the committee Rich Deecken presented this information to the Town Council on June 1, 2020 and requires full Board of Education approval at this time.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Booth Hill/Jane Ryan Window Replacement Projects. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

C. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel

The Board received approximately 253 emails from Trumbull residents, the majority of the communications dealt with restorations to the budget. Many residents wrote in support of specific staff/programs/activities and also included: Booth Hill issues, K paras, TAG, sports, class size and Band. Many wrote with concerns with THS graduation and end of year ceremonies for grades 5 and 8. Lisa Fero and Emily Maiocco offered suggestions for diversity training and available resources. Ruth Fontilla offered the help of the PTA with the Superintendent search process. More than 25 THS students wrote explaining how valuable freshman sports had been for them. Kate Quinn, Sara Fowler and Julie DeMarco requested information regarding the opening of school.

D. Public Comment-The following 19 Trumbull residents spoke via Zoom: Rachael Bryan, Michaela Durand, Whitney Tosh, Jessica Miller, Dawn Switzer, Tristan Lawrie, Raney Nelson and Aarika Friend all spoke to restore valuable Booth Hill staff and the need for a dedicated art/music room at BH; Ruth Fontilla spoke in support of tech integrators, the TAG program and asked to keep elementary school buildings open for after school programs and activities; Brenda Windsor, Lisa Demshak, Rachael Dustin, Danielle Dunleavy and David Weitzman stated we need our teachers, specialists and paraprofessionals now more than ever; April Lang offered the suggestion of redistricting; Terri Girard asked to keep the resource room at THS; Cortney Hamilton asked to keep TAG funding in place; Luis Ortiz stated the essential role of the TLC program; and Frank Squicciarino spoke of the importance of proceeding with our Superintendent search.

E. Superintendent Report- Mr. Iassogna spoke on the following topics:

- Trumbull Public Schools has been asked by the Connecticut State Department of Education Institute to speak on Reaffirming Education in the Digital Age at the July meeting.
- Thanks to Principal Marc Guarino and the graduation advisory committee on planning the THS graduation that adheres to the stringent guidelines from the state. The THS graduation is scheduled for Saturday, June 20, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.
- Mr. Iassogna shared a video created by two Tashua teachers: Music Teacher Tyler Cohen and Physical Education Teacher Todd Richard. The video also appeared on Fox 5 Good Day New York and News12 and already has soared in the number of hits it received on the internet.
- Mr. Iassogna thanked the public for their comments regarding the proposed budget and stated that the budget will continue to evolve before the start of school.

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

- Our most sincere thanks to our Acting Superintendent, Mr. Iassogna for returning to Trumbull and sharing his remarkable expertise in turning our district in the right direction during this unprecedented time.

- Thanks to all the Trumbull community who wrote to the Board with their recent concerns. The Board will prioritize the return of teachers to their classrooms and is committed to providing the best education possible to our Trumbull students.
- The candidates for Superintendent have been informed that we will hold in person interviews as soon as health and safety protocols permit.
- Two Board members attended the PTA Council meeting sponsored by PTA President, Ruth Fontilla.
- The Board extends their best wishes to grade 5 and grade 8 students as they step forward to middle school and congratulations to the 2020 Trumbull High School graduates.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting 5/26/2020

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

B. Personnel – Mr. Iassogna presented the following retirements:

Certified:

Cassidy, Margaret; library media specialist at Tashua Elementary School since August 2008, resigning effective June 30, 2020.

Ryan, Lisa; Language Arts and Reading Instructional Chair/Specialist teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 1997, retiring effective June 30, 2020.

Yash, Kathy; grade 2 teacher at Daniels Farm Elementary School since August 1992, retiring effective June 30, 2020.

Non-Certified:

Hauge, Rosalie; assistant to the manager of information services at the Long Hill Administration Building since July 1985, 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, Mr. Cameron

Given many restrictions, Mr. Iassogna is pleased to report that the BOE can garner a 2020-2021 balanced budget to meet the needs of our students with an allocation of \$110,051,882. Mr. Iassogna presented the revised monetary financial proposal that includes additional monies that were received that allowed us to restore some key positions and programs.

\$109,025,882	Budget from Town
+276,000	Bank of America lease
<u>+750,000</u>	Negotiated bus refund
\$110,051,882	Total BOE monies available

By adopting the budget at this evening’s meeting, we can notify 14 certified staff that their positions have been restored. The Board can continue to implement additions and deletions to the budget before the start of school. Mr. Ward asked to move the question and it was seconded by Mrs. Norcel.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to adopt the 2020-2021 budget in the amount of \$110,051,882 as presented by the Superintendent on June 9, 2020. Unanimous in favor.

D. Curriculum Committee Report – Mr. Ward

Mr. Ward reported that the Curriculum Committee met on June 3, 2020 and reviewed new course text proposals. Dr. Budd presented the following for full Board approval:

Approval/New Course Text Proposals – Dr. Budd

1. *Algebra and Trigonometry*, 4th ed. (Core: Honors Algebra II)
2. *Principles of Criminal Law*, 7th ed. (Core: Honors Justice & Law: Criminal Law)
3. *Sentieri: Attraverso l’italia contemporanea*, 3rd ed. (Core: Honors Italian II, Italian II, & Italian Conversation & Culture II)
4. *Campbell Biology: Concepts & Connections*, 10th ed. (Core: CP Biology)

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

E. Later School Start Time

At the May 12, 2020 Board of Education Meeting, the formation of a Later School Start Time Committee was discussed but tabled to a June meeting. Tonight, the Board of Education revisited this proposal and discussed the best way to proceed with a committee that will provide a recommended course of action to the Board of Education.

It was moved (Fearon) and seconded (Kerr) to fill the existing Board based Committee with the following members:

Mrs. Jen Neumeyer
Mr. John Mastrianni
Mr. Marc Guarino
Mr. Peter Sullivan
Dr. Fearon
Mr. Scott Kerr
Ms. Marylena Kourounis

In favor- Kerr, Fearon Against-Petitti, Norcel, Timpanelli, Gallo, Ward Motion fails

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve a school based Later Start Time Committee. No vote taken.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to amend the motion to approve a school based Later Start Time Committee with the following members:

Dr. Jonathan Budd, Chair
Mr. Marc Guarino
Mr. Bryan Rickert
Mrs. Jen Neumeyer
Mr. John Mastrianni
Mr. Mike King
Mrs. Dawn Perkins
Mr. Tom Edwards
Ms. Sara Scrofani
Mr. Stuart Schwartz
Ms. Marylena Kourounis

The Board affirmed the need for a transparent process. Vote: In favor-Gallo, Ward, Petitti, Norcel, Timpanelli. Against-Fearon, Kerr. Motion passes 5-2.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Ward) to dissolve the Board based Committee.
Vote: In favor- Gallo, Ward, Petitti, Norcel, Timpanelli. Against-Fearon, Kerr. Motion passes 5-2.

F. Financial Committee Report – Dr. Fearon

- Financial Reports as of April 30, 2020

The April financial reports were presented at the May 26, 2020 BOE virtual meeting, but no vote was taken.

It was moved (Fearon) and seconded (Gallo) to accept the above financial reports as of April 30, 2020 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At the end of the meeting, Dr. Fearon announced her resignation as a Trumbull Board of Education member, effective June 10, 2020. Board Chair, Mrs. Timpanelli thanked her for her service.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:12 p.m.