

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – August 11, 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  
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. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence:

Elaine Durbano, Suzanne Cartell, Katie Targowski, Tara Yamka, Kiran Chhablani, Mei Liang, Aimee Tiu-Wu, Mary Harriau, Alexis Coutu, Sarah Narowski and Alison Squicciarro wrote to the Board with detailed questions and concerns regarding our reopening plan. Shannon Diaz, Pamela Smith and Alison Squicciarro support 5 days of school. Ann Martorana, Christine Wadhams and Siobhan Lidington questioned the large class size at Daniels Farm School in grades 3 and 4 and would like a grade 2 added. Patricia Kelly provided a transcript of her public comment. Max Gambus wrote telling us he would like to work on his Eagle Scout award. Kelly Zatorsky complimented our reopening committee for designing and making changes to a well thought out plan.

C. Public Comment

John Mastrianni spoke in support of our teachers and stated that our reopening plan needs to be modified to remove safety loopholes to help keep students and staff as safe as possible: require masks for everyone including students with medical exemptions and enforce 6 feet of social distancing in our schools, not 3 as stated in Trumbull’s plan, and allow teachers to work from home on the deep cleaning day. Students and staff deserve the safest environment possible. Gabby Tropp is calling for a committee to evaluate diversity in our schools starting with curriculum, professional development and workforce management; Anthony Smith spoke about the reopening plan and stated that distance learning may work for our high schoolers but not for elementary school children who have shorter attention spans

D. Superintendent Report-Mr. Iassogna

1. Mr. Iassogna is pleased to announce that Mr. Paul Hendrickson has been selected as our new Business Administrator. Currently, Paul is the Business Manager in Plymouth/Terryville, CT Public Schools and previously held the same position at Ridgefield Public Schools. Paul received his B.S. in Engineering from the United States Naval Academy and his MBA from Harvard University. Paul joined us on Zoom and we welcomed him to Trumbull.

2. Our Welcome Back Opening meeting is scheduled for next week when we will focus on tweaking our Reopening Plan and making sure schools will be ready to begin in September.
3. Our second School Reopening forum was extremely well-received by over 500 members of the educational community. On August 13, Mr. Iassogna will be participating in the Board of Finance meeting regarding costs submitted to the State of Connecticut for possible reimbursement due to the expenditure funds of the COVID19 pandemic.
4. On July 5 at 2:00 a.m., three young adults entered Trumbull High School. Our security system responded with police arriving on the scene and we were able to identify 2 of the 3 individuals via video surveillance. The case is now being addressed by the court system.

E. Board Chairman Report

Mrs. Timpanelli is in contact with our new Superintendent, Dr. Semmel and is apprising him of items that need his approval. He is also involved with the hiring process as it presents.

Mr. Iassogna is also meeting with Dr. Semmel. We speak bi-weekly with him and are moving forward in this effort. Dr. Semmel will begin his position on September 14, 2020.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Wage Adjustments – Attorney Dugas

Attorney Dugas presented information to support an equity adjustment for the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and the Secretary to the Superintendent. Mr. Dugas recommends an adjustment for the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent's salary from \$34.81 to \$36.37 on 7/1/20 and to \$37.93 on 1/1/21; and an adjustment for the Secretary to the Superintendent from \$30.63 to \$32.74 on 7/1/20 and to \$34.85 on 1/1/21.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Kerr) to approve the above wage adjustments for the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Secretary to the Superintendent as presented.

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel – Mr. Iassogna

Mr. Iassogna presented two retirements:

Bolton, Mary Ellen; Principal at Jane Ryan Elementary School since July 2011, retiring effective December 4, 2020.

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

Semenza, Deborah; district elementary reading specialist (.6) August 2005, retiring effective, August 4, 2020.

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

C. Minutes – Regular Meeting 07/28/2020

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the above minutes as presented with the additional statement: new A House Principal, Chris Siano was on hand to thank the Board for his appointment. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Trumbull School Reopening Plan – Mr. Iassogna

After careful evaluation, at this time, Trumbull has decided to select the hybrid reopening plan, as did 70% of Connecticut districts. Many factors weighed into our decision including safety as our top priority: health requirements, Trumbull's student enrollment of approximately 7000 students and all departments that keep our schools running on a daily basis. Mr. Iassogna stated that our plan continues to evolve as per directives from our Governor and concerns from our community. Trumbull submitted a grant for \$127,338.79 to the Cares Act and encourages the public to check our website for answers to reopening questions and updates from our Administration.

E. Student Enrollment Update – Dr. Budd

Dr. Budd shared a presentation with changes in enrollment since our last meeting and will continue to monitor numbers and how they impact classroom size, with an update to the Board at our next meeting.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:17 p.m.