

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – August 25, 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
A. Palo
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 read the following correspondence
The following Trumbull parents wrote to the Board with issues, questions and suggestions about our reopening plan: Sarah White. Aimee Tiu-Wu, Mercedes Mullins, Emily Boyle. Siobhan Lidington, Shannon Racette. Christine Wadhams. Erika Strohmayer. Sarah Levin, Geri Procino. Danielle Dunleavey. Jennifer Kilcullen. Brandee Gilmore. Melissa and Martin Usseglio. Shayla Devito, Gilda Kumtas, Kristen Sabad, Kelly Kendall and Lisa Nuland. Nicole Hellthaler feels THS social studies is taught through a white perspective and would like a comprehensive anti-racist curriculum. Kerri and Toni Gentile are requesting lower class sizes at HMS in grades 7 and 8 math classes.
- C. Public Comment - Teacher Nick Banks read a statement regarding concerns about the safety of our school reopening plan and that under the current guidelines, teachers request all wear masks and adhere to social distancing guidelines. Clarification and communication on the opening plan is necessary to ensure a complete understanding of the expectations of the plan for all concerned.
- D. Superintendent Report- Mr. Iassogna
1. Congratulations to our National PTSA for being selected as a Phase 2 COVID Relief Funding recipient. This was a competitive grant as only 14% of the applicants received funding. The PTSA will receive \$15,000 to help our district with mental health / social emotional support and professional development. We are very proud of their selection and very grateful of their support.
 2. We have just received the funding breakdown of the total Coronavirus Relief funds for approximately 160 districts. I am very pleased that Trumbull fared quite well with an allocation of \$1,631,155. Numbers were culled from staff input on the potential personnel/non-personnel related supports necessary for the reopening due to COVID-19. We

are very appreciative of the monies received, but you should know that the requests were significantly reduced through the State.

3. Dr. Semmel and I have met several times on the Superintendent transition. A myriad of topics were discussed, with more to be reviewed before he officially comes on Board on September 14.
 4. Our new Finance Director, Paul Hendrickson, will join us soon after September 11, and new Agriscience Director, Dr. Linda Paslov, will begin on Monday, August 31.
 5. A Black Lives Matter protest rally will be held on the grounds of Trumbull High School on Sunday, August 30, from 12:00 – 1:30 with the focus on Social Studies curriculum in Trumbull schools. THS Department Chair Kathy Rubano is heading a committee to implement new course selections with regard to our Social Studies curriculum.
 6. Thursday, August 27, is the first day of school for teachers and we will begin the day with a mini-convocation which will be live-streamed. Our Teacher and Paraeducator of the Year will speak, as well as Mr. Iassogna and Dr. Semmel. Following the meeting, Professional Development sessions will be held.
 7. The CIAC has met on several occasions but no decision with regard to fall sports, particularly volleyball and football, has been made yet.
 8. Following interviews for the Jane Ryan Principal position, the Screening Committee chose 3 candidates to move forward to the next level. Those three candidates were interviewed by the incoming Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Assistant Business Manager, and Interim PPS Director and they recommended one candidate. At tonight's meeting, the majority of Board members discussed that they would like to be involved in the interview process for at least 2 candidates and Mr. Iassogna agreed to proceed with interviews based on the Board's directive.
- E. Board Chairman Report - Mrs. Timpanelli introduced a new Board Member, Andrew Palo, who will complete the remaining term until the special election. Mr. Palo was an accountant and served on the Board of Finance for eight years. He has two children in Trumbull Public Schools. The Board welcomes Andy.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Minutes – Regular Meeting 08/11/2020

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

B. Personnel – Mr. Iassogna

Mr. Iassogna presented three resignations:

Cowan, Marie; Spanish teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2011, resigning effective August 24, 2020.

McGunnigle, Erin; language arts teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2017, resigning effective September 18, 2020

Peterson, Lauren; special education teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School since August 2013, resigning effective August 18, 2020.

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

Mr. Iassogna presented one Request for Leave of Absence

Cutrone, Melanie; Kindergarten teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 2015 is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay for the 2020-21 school year. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above request for leave of absence as presented above and outlined in Policy 4150. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Approval/Child Nutrition Program/CACFP Head Start Signature Change Form

Child Adult Care Food Program: Agreement 144AIC

The Head Start program requested an approval from the Board to enter into an agreement between the Head Start Center and Trumbull Board of Education. Documents are signed and ready to proceed.

CACFP: Signature Change form

The Head Start program is asking for approval of a Signature change form to remove Dr. Gary Cialfi as the #1 signer on the Head Start Management plan and replace Ralph Iassogna Acting Superintendent as the #1 signer.

The Superintendent and Board members approved these two agreements for the 2020-2021 school year.

D. School Reopening Update – Mr. Iassogna

At our last BOE meeting, the District announced that we selected the Hybrid Learning Model and we continue to develop that plan for implementation. Staff members were surveyed to determine their return status based on their medical, child care, and disability needs. As of today, our return numbers are satisfactory but the serious concern is the number of staff forms that have not been processed. That number is high and could affect the Hybrid plan – approximately 20. The worst case scenario is if that not enough teachers return to the classroom, and substitutes are unavailable, we will have to consider a return to the Virtual Learning Model. The Board discussed many facets of the reopening plan- remote and in classroom learning, ventilation, traffic congestion, physical education and the lunch program.

E. 2020-2021 Planning Updates: Student Enrollment Update – Dr. Budd

Dr. Budd presented current enrollment data and the criteria to support the addition of class sections based on BOE guidelines. At this time, a total of 507 students in our District have moved to 5 days of at home temporary remote learning. Thus, based on BOE Policy 6151, the Board has approved the following:

- Add 5th section to Booth Hill Grade 1
- Add 5th section to Daniels Farm Grade 2
- Monitor Booth Hill Kindergarten & Frenchtown Grade 4, and add sections before start of student year if necessary
- Based on needs of teachers approved for work from home - additional long-term substitute teachers will be hired, perhaps over 20

F. Facilities Update – Mr. Kerr

The Facilities Committee met last week to discuss various projects, currently several are on hold until a later date due to lack of funding and manpower. We are currently focused on opening

schools safely. Maintenance Supervisor, John Morello was present and answered questions on facilities. Items to be addressed are upgrading locks, construction of two stage vestibule at Madison, repair air handler at THS, AC air filters, the support of custodial teams and the potential for town shared services.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:50 p.m.