

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – September 8, 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 7:02 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:
Jess DiBuono, Josette Keklik, Stephanie Bergamo, Lindsey Richard, Colette and Mike Dobosz, and Christopher De Cruze, all expressed concern regarding a teacher shortage and asked for updates. Beth Coley and Karen DeRose wrote concerning the cut of the Math Team asking the Board to reconsider this. Matt Singer, Melissa Chamberlin, Jayne Macintyre, Rob Harry, Jess Cintron Henry, Douglas and Gaetana DiLeo, and Lauren Hoenig were opposed to the Jane Ryan protocols for walkers. Dana Misner, Aimee Tiu-Wu, Jennifer Lindade, Christopher De Cruze, Allison Vallance and Elaine Durbano sent lists of questions, issues and suggestions. Angela Mc Dermott, Andrew and Katherine MacDonald and Patricia Roth asked for more creativity in returning to school because our children need and want to be back. Michael Redgate is requesting use of the pool starting September 9 for practice 5:30 – 8:00 pm. Pamela Smith sent 4 areas of concern regarding the financial impact on families, Distance Learning for young children, communication and future learning plan.
- C. Public Comment - Michael Barker, a concerned Jane Ryan parent of a remote Kindergarten student, is requesting a clear schedule and understanding of his child's distance learning plan; Denise Faiella thanked Mr. Iassogna for the wonderful job he has done as Acting Superintendent since January. His leadership, knowledge of the district and strong experience have been Trumbull's asset during a time of many difficulties. First Selectman, Vicki Tesoro thanked Ralph Iassogna for his service to our community and expressed her sincere gratitude for his remarkable leadership and expertise. Mrs. Tesoro also thanked our TPS staff and community members for their support as we return to school and asked that we give the current plan time to work.
- D. Superintendent Report- Mr. Iassogna
1. Mr. Iassogna announced that Jack Allen and Gabriella Biondi have been chosen to be our Student BOE Reps for the 2020-2021 school year.

2. The State of Connecticut has approved giving free breakfast and lunches to any student of TPS. This program, entitled Seamless Summer Option, was approved and received by our Food Services. This is a significant change from previous years and it is projected that the monies to cover food costs will be forthcoming from the State of Connecticut.
 3. The CIAC has ruled that football will not be played in the fall this season and volleyball will go on, but players must wear masks during play. It was a very difficult decision between CIAC and the Department of Health and any further modifications will be shared.
 4. Al Cameron, Interim Business Manager will be transitioning with Paul Hendrickson, our newly hired Business Administrator, who will join us on September 17th.
 5. Mr. Iassogna conveyed that Mrs. Donna Seidell, Interim Principal at Jane Ryan Elementary School, will be leaving on September 16th. Mrs. Seidell did an exceptional job in covering for Mary Ellen Bolton. Patricia Colello, former Principal of Middlebrook Elementary School with 15+ years of service in that position, will assume the role until a new principal is hired.
 6. The community should be aware that on September 3, 2020, a staff member at TECEC tested positive for COVID-19. This person was in “close contact” with three other staff members, but never had contact with students. According to protocols, and confirmed with Health Director Luci Bango, all of these staff members cannot return to school until they meet the established “return to work criteria.” You should also know that the Facilities Department thoroughly sanitized the rooms at TECEC and the small section at Middlebrook that were occupied by these affected employees.
 7. Mr. Iassogna expressed his heartfelt thanks for the opportunity of serving Trumbull as the Acting Superintendent and extended Dr. Semmel his best wishes as Trumbull’s new Superintendent beginning on September 14, 2020.
- E. Board Chairman Report - Board Chair Lucinda Timpanelli thanked Board Members who visited schools prior to the opening to assess the state of PPE, etc. Mrs. Timpanelli presented comments regarding the Acting Superintendent Ralph Iassogna’s efforts during his time with TPS.
- F. Teacher Representative Report - TEA President John Mastrianni thanked teachers for a successful opening day and is looking forward to working with Dr. Semmel. He expressed concerns with some lingering issues to be addressed in an effort to keep safety a priority: masks, cleaning supplies, and more detailed professional development for technology and delay for schedule for elementary schools. He would like to continue with meaningful discussions with the District regarding synchronous learning.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Minutes – Regular Meeting 08/25/2020

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Ward) to approve the above minutes with the sentence: Maintenance Supervisor, John Morello was present to answer questions about facilities issues. Vote: all in favor.

Amended Minutes of the January 6, 2020 Special Meeting of the Board of Education.

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the above amended minutes as presented. Vote: In favor: Timpanelli, Norcel, Gallo, Petitti, Kerr, Ward. Abstain-Palo. Motion passes.

- B. Personnel – Mr. Iassogna presented two retirements:
Garra, Diana; technology integration specialist at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2014, retiring effective January 5, 2021.

Shultz, Kirk; social studies teacher at Trumbull High School since November 2004, retiring effective November 2, 2020.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to accept these two resignations as presented.
Vote: all in favor.

- C. School Reopening Update – Mr. Iassogna

Mr. Iassogna is proud of all of our staff for their perseverance and cooperation in reopening our schools. He remarked by working together, we have made great strides in order to provide a safe school environment in meeting health and wellness requirements based on health department protocols. Today's opening went relatively well with minimal issues that are being addressed as our hybrid learning plan continues to evolve.

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

Dr. Budd updated the Board on student enrollment numbers at all of our schools and the average class sizes during the start of our hybrid instruction. Also shared was the number of in classroom and remote students. Since the August 25 BOE meeting: 1 additional grade 4 FT class added; 1.1 additional K-5 art added, .2 additional K-5 music added and .2 additional K-5 PE added.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:13 p.m.