

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – January 12, 2021
Via Audio/Video Conferencing
Amended at 1/26/2021 BOE Meeting

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
A. Squicciarro
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.
Mrs. Timpanelli asked for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Steven P. Wright, a former Board of Education Chairman who served the Town of Trumbull.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence.
- C. Public Comment - Frank Squicciarro welcomed the new Board Member and commented on the financial issues; Marylena Kourounis read a statement from the PTSA Council.
- D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel and Mr. Hendrickson will report at this evening's meeting on the specifics of the O'Connor Davies review.
- Dr. Hartman stated that the District was cited for not meeting the Initial Evaluation Timelines during the COVID period. However, this has been rectified and we are now in compliance.
 - Mr. Hendrickson stated that the second stimulus has been released and the Connecticut Department of Education will be receiving \$492M. Information will be forthcoming on how the money will be allocated to each district in Connecticut.
- E. Board Chairman Report - Lucinda Timpanelli read a tribute to Stephen P. Wright, former Board Member and Chairman who passed away in December. She also welcomed new BOE Member Alison Squicciarro. She reported that Board Members submitted questions to Dr. Semmel regarding the review. Mrs. Timpanelli reported that Dr. Susan Iwanicki, new Assistant Superintendent will begin on January 19, 2021.
- F. Student Board Representatives Report- Student Reps Jack Allen and Gabriella Biondi are glad to be back to school and are thankful to the staff at THS for all their hard work. Safety continues to be a priority and students are engaged in the Gratitude Challenge and the Anti-Defamation

League to promote THS is no place for hate. Last week there were rehearsals online for the spring musical and students are grateful for ongoing sports and clubs for a welcome diversion.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. Minutes: Budget Meeting December 3, 2020
Budget Meeting December 8, 2020
Special Meeting/Executive Session December 15, 2020

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

- B. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the following resignation/retirement:

Gaspar, Susan; Grade 5 teacher Frenchtown Elementary School since August 2003, retiring effective June 30, 2021

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

Dr. Semmel presented a new non-certified position:

Full time (1.0) paraprofessional position at Tashua Elementary School.

The entire Board received and filed the above presented position.

Dr. Hartman commented that at times during the school year it is necessary to add staff when we need to accommodate specific needs.

Dr. Semmel presented the following requests for Leave of Absence:

Tomasiewicz, Carrie; special education teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2017 is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay from January 4, 2021 through June 30, 2021. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

Scifo, Jacquelen; school psychologist at Trumbull High School since August 2007 (currently on child rearing leave) is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay through June 30, 2021. 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 requests for leaves of absence as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- C. Reopening Update – Dr. Semmel reported on the following:

- Trumbull Public Schools reopened on Monday, January 11, 2021 to the hybrid model with elementary schools in for 4-day in person learning.

- The new strain of COVID19 has been reported in Connecticut which does not appear to cause more severe symptoms but is more contagious. We continue to focus on our mitigation strategies and prepare for the vaccine for TPS staff.
- Please see our COVID19 dashboard for current Trumbull school's data for each of our buildings. It can be accessed on our website on our Reopening page.
- The Department of Health has changed the guidelines from 14-day quarantine to 10 days for asymptomatic people.
- We are glad to report that staff will be able to be vaccinated in the near future and will be notified via email to schedule an appointment.

D. Budget Discussion- Dr. Semmel, Mr. Hendrickson

Dr. Semmel is the process of reviewing the recommendations of the recent operational review and the implications on our 2021-2022 budget proposal. Recommendations will be prioritized and we will continue to report our progress.

Mr. Hendrickson presented an overview of the report from Joseph Centofanti of PKF O'Connor Davies. He stated calculations need to be reexamined and reissued as errors were found. In order to maintain our proposed 3.94% increase over last year's budget, our current budget proposal needs to be reexamined and adjusted to meet potential variables as we continue to monitor funds and to appropriately prioritize in order to follow the Mr. Centofanti's recommendations.

E. Approval/Revised 2020-2021 District Calendar-Dr. Semmel

Teaching and learning in the Hybrid Phase will benefit from additional teacher time to support both professional learning on technology integration and planning time with colleagues. The administration proposes a revised 2020- 2021 District Calendar that supports built-in professional learning and planning time over the next six weeks. The following days are presented to be special early closing days for grades PreK-12 students: Wed., Jan. 20 • Wed., Jan. 27 • Wed., Feb. 3 • Wed., Feb. 10 • Wed., Feb. 17 • Wed., Feb. 24 • Wed., March 3 • Wed., March 10

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the changes to the 2020-2021 district calendar as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Facilities Committee & Capital Improvement Plan -Mr. Kerr

*Mr. Kerr reported out from the 11/12/2020 meeting of the Facilities Committee, noting the value in reviewing ongoing projects on a regular basis.

Furthermore, Mr. Kerr made a motion and it was seconded by Mrs. Norcel that the Board of Education Capital Plan for CY 2021 be amended from \$7,219,000 to \$6,647,000 as follows:

1. Jane Ryan – Paving: \$1,350,000 => \$1,450,000; an increase of \$100,000
2. Booth Hill – Drainage and Design: \$0 => \$515,000; an increase of \$515,000
3. Long Hill – Paving: \$312,000 => \$390,000; an increase of \$78,000
4. Bus Garage – Paving: \$30,000 => \$65,000; an increase of \$35,000
5. Middlebrook - Roofing: \$1,500,000 => \$1,725,000; an increase of \$225,000
6. Jane Ryan - Roofing: \$1,300,000 => \$1,600,000; an increase of \$300,000; and that this project be moved from CY 2021 => CY 2022
7. Booth Hill - Roofing: \$1,300,000 => \$1,075,000; a decrease of \$225,000

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Financial Committee Report

Mr. Hendrickson reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on January 7, 2021 and reviewed the financial reports as of November 30, 2020.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the financial reports as of November 30, 2020 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:48 p.m.