

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – January 26, 2021
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
A. Squicciarro
M. Ward

Executive Session

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Gallo) to go into Executive Session at 6:10 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's Mid-Year Goals. All Board members were present. The Superintendent was invited into Executive Session. Vote: All in favor.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Petitti) to come out of Executive Session at 6:58 p.m. Vote: All in favor.

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 - Chris Chase expressed his appreciation to teachers and administrators for their commitment to our students. He suggested we allow students to opt in to 4 day in classroom learning.
- C. Public Comment - There was no public comment.
- D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel reported on the following:
 - Dr. Semmel is enjoying visiting our schools to see students engaged in learning and the remarkable work of our teachers and staff.
 - He attended the Joint Town Council Education Committee and BOE Finance Meeting to discuss the recent operational review and will continue to provide updates to the community regarding recommendations and implementation.
 - He conducted his first meeting with Trumbull educators to have a conversation and listened to concerns and suggestions that will help enhance the learning process and intends to continue the dialogue each month.
 - Dr. Iwanicki gave an update on OLSAT testing and the TAG program that is being implemented in our district.

- E. Board Chairman Report - Lucinda Timpanelli sent thanks to the Town Council Education Committee for the opportunity for the BOE Finance Sub Committee to speak directly with Mr. Joe Centofanti of PKF O'Connor Davies, who conducted the operational review on January 25, 2021.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Minutes: Regular Meeting – January 12, 2021

Mr. Kerr proposed the following amendment to the January 12, 2021 minutes to reflect the following:

Mr. Kerr reported on 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

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

B. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel reported the following certified appointment:

Iwanicki, Susan, Dr.; (\$193,000) Assistant Superintendent of Schools at the Long Hill Administration Building, effective January 19, 2021.

Receive and file.

Dr. Semmel reported one certified resignation/retirement:

Drenkard, Hans; science teacher at Trumbull High School since August 1996, retiring effective June 30, 2021.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded by (Kerr) to accept the resignation as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Reopening Update – Dr. Semmel reported:

- Trumbull teachers are appreciative of the half day Wednesdays that will extend until March 10, 2021. They are using the time for professional development and collaboration.
- The Health Department asks us to not get complacent and emphasizes that we continue to follow strict mitigation strategies in our schools and in our community.

- Connecticut's rate of vaccination is higher than most states for the percentage of the population that are being vaccinated.
- The health data continues to support that the virus is not spreading in our schools. A recent survey at the high school confirms that over 200 students are ready to return to 4 day in classroom learning. Administration is in the process of evaluating current appropriate class sizes that conform to health department standards.

D. Budget Discussion- Mr. Hendrickson

In order to adequately build a budget that supports our District goals and implement several necessary recommendations from the recent operational review, Mr. Hendrickson presented line items to the Board that will increase our budget request for the 2021-2022 school year from the proposed 3.94% to 4.35%. Each item is being scrutinized in detail to determine its absolute necessity.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded by (Ward) to table the approval of the budget until the next Board of Education meeting scheduled for February 9, 2021. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Financial Committee Report-Mr. Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on January 21, 2021 and reviewed the financial reports as of December 31, 2020.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the financial reports as of December 31, 2020 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Operational Review by PKF O'Connor Davies-Mr. Hendrickson

In order to incorporate several recommendations from the operational review, Mr. Hendrickson will be meeting with the Town to create parameters to facilitate financial practices that will include purchasing, transfer policies, Novatime and debt loans. He will continue to update the Board on the status of the review.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:20 p.m.