

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – October 26, 2021
Long Hill Administration Building

The Trumbull Board of Education met for a Regular Meeting at the Long Hill Administration Building.

Members present:

L. Timpanelli, Board Chairman
T. Gallo, Vice Chairman
J. Norcel, Board Secretary
M. Petitti
A. Squicciarro
M. Ward

Members absent:

S. Kerr

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: We received requests to include two Muslim holidays in the 2022-23 calendar; Cat Lamy asked for a full week off for February break; Sarah and Chris Broas sent thanks for the District’s work in diversity education; Challa Flemming spoke about building a culture of belonging for teachers of color; Kara Giacobbe feels SERC training is not appropriate for Trumbull professional development; Allison Vallance sent a thank you to TPS for their generous contribution to the Pink Out project.
- C. Public Comment
The following people spoke: Frank Squicciarro and Jenn Record thanked teachers and staff for their countless hours of service to help our children thrive; Heather Miller, Christine El Eris, Joy Colon, Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox spoke to thank the BOE for presenting culturally responsible curriculum and praised students for speaking at tonight’s meeting so that all voices are heard; Pat Kelly does not want the teaching of critical theory in our schools; Daniel Pampillonio, and Melissa and David Steeves do not support SERC curriculum; Meredith Martin supports equal opportunity; Daniel Durden asked “where is the video”; Gloria Manna quoted contemporary theorists regarding critical theory; Lisa Hughes discussed a seminar about segregation; Laurel Walsh supports early screening of dyslexia.
- D. Superintendent Report -Dr. Semmel
- 12–17-year-old children continue to be vaccinated for a total of 78.11% of the student population. Thus, fewer students need to quarantine when they have close contact with a Covid case.
 - The FDA voted today to recommend the Pfizer vaccine for children 5-11 years old. The CDC will meet on November 2 for approval so children can probably be vaccinated as early as November 4. We plan to work with Griffin Health and will advise parents of opportunities to get their children vaccinated.

- Mr. Hendrickson is the process of re-submitting necessary documentation with signatures to the State of Connecticut for the Middlebrook roof project.
- We are partnering with the community on the Mindfulness Project that will be offering 10 online sessions on self-care for TPS staff members.
- We are thankful to the PTA for bringing the Pink Pledge to Trumbull schools, and students and staff have worked hard to raise over \$6500 for the Norma Freeman Breast Cancer Foundation.

E. Board Chairman Report

Board Chair Lucinda Timpanelli welcomes the TPS School Resource Officers to tonight's meeting to present a clear picture of their roles and responsibilities in our schools to keep our children safe.

F. Teacher Board Representative Report -Teacher BOE Rep Nick Banks

- Teachers have been working hard to keep all students engaged in their studies and safe in school. Even with infection rates down; the stress levels of teachers have been high as we all try to adjust to another "atypical" year.
- Teachers are looking forward to hearing from the District's equity teams and SERC tonight to address diversity goals and practices in our schools.
- In-person clubs and activities have been re-instated to give students opportunities for social emotional learning that are integral to the overall student experience. We thank all of the teachers that continually step up to offer these clubs and after-school activities.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval Minutes: Regular Meeting, October 12, 2021

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the Regular Board of Education minutes of the October 12, 2021 meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel reported the following certified resignations:

Berecz, Steve; physical education/health teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since September 1986, retiring effective June 30, 2022.

Evangelista, Susan; grade 4 teacher at Daniels Farm Elementary School, retiring effective June 30, 2022.

Heifetz, Maureen; physical education/health teacher at Madison Middle School since September 1987, retiring effective June 30, 2022.

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

C. District Equity Planning with SERC

Dr. Semmel and Dr. Iwanicki presented Equity Planning with the State Education Resource Center. Trumbull Public Schools, in partnership with the community, strives to meet the educational needs of all students in an academic environment that empowers each student to become a lifelong learner and to live and participate in a democratic, diverse and global society. SERC provides resources, professional development to educators, families and community

members in collaboration with the Connecticut Department of Education. Focus groups and Thought Exchange data were analyzed and resulted in requests for equity in hiring, curriculum design, and professional development in meeting the needs of all children. Recent testing data is being considered by our professional learning committees as well. At tonight's meeting, students from the high school and middle schools spoke about the importance of clubs and activities at our schools that support inclusiveness and allow all students' voices to be heard.

D. School Resource Officer (SRO) Update

School Resource Officers Scott Duva from THS, Wes Bartosik from Madison and Brian Federowicz from Hillcrest presented the important role of the SRO officer and their day-to-day responsibilities to ensure a safe environment at the schools where they work. These responsibilities include maintaining a secure campus; law enforcer; mediator to negotiate conflicts and counselor to students who need guidance; and educator- teach classes to encourage stress management skills and provide solutions to achieve the best outcomes and educate students on law related topics.

E. High School Report

THS Principal Mr. Marc Guarino and Guidance Department Chair Cathy Hilser discussed the Trumbull High School annual report. There has been 135% growth in the number of AP courses since 2015-16 with 53% growth in passing test scores. Data was also provided for SAT and Next Generation Science Standards. The 2021 graduation rate at THS was 97.9%. The Counseling Department assists students with post-secondary planning, with 75% of the graduating class intending to enroll in a 4-year college.

F. Curriculum Committee Report

Dr. Iwanicki presented three curriculum guides for approval:

- Marching and Symphonic Band
- Latin 1 ACP
- Science Fiction

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Ward) to approve the above-named curriculum guides as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Policy Committee Report – Mr. Gallo

Dr. Iwanicki and Ms. Regina Williams presented the following policies for Second Readings:

- Policy 418.239/4218.239 Required COVID-19 Vaccinations for Certified and Non-Certified Staff.

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

H. Finance Committee Report – Mr. Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson participated in a call with the Town Council Finance Committee regarding the Middlebrook roof project grant application. The application will be re-submitted with necessary revisions. He then reviewed the September financials for Board approval.

- Financial Reports as of September 30, 2021

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Financial Reports as of September 30, 2021. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:31 p.m.