

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – November 16, 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  
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.

B. Recognition

The Board and Administration recognized Board Member Mr. Michael C. Ward for his years of dedication and service to the Trumbull Board of Education from July, 1965 to present. Mr. Ward has served in many roles, particularly as principal and then Board Member as well as many committees over the years. He was presented with a plaque in his honor.

The Board congratulated and commended Mr. Ward on his dedication and years of service to the students of Trumbull Public Schools.

C. Correspondence

Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence: Mike Pastore asked the Board to visit Jane Ryan to view safety concerns that exist; Catherine Martini shared a link on the importance of adolescent sleep and well-being; Kristen Sabad has concerns about curriculum; Allison Vallance shared the final amount raised for the Pink Pledge - \$8,052; Ellie Grosso sent a note of praise for Mr. Sullivan and his team of special education teachers; Joshua Murphy thanked the BOE for all their support of the THSGEMB.

D. Public Comment

The following people spoke: Gloria Manna expressed concerns regarding the Allies Program at THS; Emilio Annunziata cited safety concerns at Jane Ryan Elementary

School; Michaela Durand spoke about Mr. Ward's strong and caring presence in our school system and his many accomplishments; Daniel Durden talked about ways to improve the school system and referenced a video; Kristen Sabad read a quote from *The Hiding Place* and stated that our children's innocence is worth protecting.

E. Superintendent Report- Dr. Semmel reported:

- 79.37% of Trumbull's 12–17-year-old children have been fully vaccinated and 83.6% have had at least one shot. Three vaccine clinics have been held by Griffin Health to begin vaccinating the 5–11-year-old children in our community.
- We have begun the screen and stay process in our schools that can allow close contacts to stay in school and not miss valuable in class learning.
- The Covid rate has increased to 4.35% in Connecticut and the Department of Health encourages all who are eligible to get vaccinated.
- Mr. Hendrickson has resubmitted necessary grant approval documentation and we are now waiting to hear back from the state of Connecticut regarding the Middlebrook roof project.
- Congratulations to Susanna Lavorgna-Lye and the World Language department at THS for being recognized as a premier district by the Connecticut Italian Teachers Association.
- Dr. Semmel was fortunate to attend the Veterans Day assembly at THS. Thanks to Mrs. Rubano for presenting a special opportunity for our Trumbull High seniors to hear veterans' powerful stories and honor their service.

F. Board Chairman Report

Board Chair Lucinda Timpanelli lauded the accomplishments of Mike Ward and his many years of service to Trumbull Public Schools. Mike is a positive influence on those who have crossed paths with him. We will miss him on the Board and send him all our best wishes.

G. Student Board Representatives Report

Eman Seyal and Edrina Laude reported on events taking place at TPS: The Veterans Day program featured the Chamber Singers and the Band, the dance team performance; Allies for Angels to raise awareness for children's health issues; the Cross-Country Team made it to the FCIAC and placed in the state finals; Agriscience Fall Farm Fair; the play *12 Angry Jurors*; Mr. Manuel's interactive bulletin board to celebrate teachers and staff; Spirit Week; Harvest Ball for juniors and seniors, the Food Pantry and Homes for the Brave initiatives. At Hillcrest and Madison: Pink Pledge; the success of the cross-country team and National Red Ribbon week. At our elementary schools: Veterans' Day celebrations; trunk or treat; Kindness Club; Vicki Soto race; Gratitude Tree and service projects for the students to give back to the community.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Attorney Dugas (online) presented the following contracts for Board approval:

- CILU Supervisors
- CILU Support

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

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the CILU Support contract as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Field Trip Approvals

Dr. Iwanicki and Band Director Mr. Joshua Murphy presented the following field trips that need full Board approval:

- THS Winter Color Guard to Bethlehem, PA, March, 2022
- THS Winter Percussion to WGI Monroe, New Jersey, March, 2022
- THS Winter Color Guard Trip to Dayton, Ohio April, 2022
- THS Winter Percussion Trip WGI Finals to Dayton, Ohio, April, 2022

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

C. Facilities Report

Mr. Kerr stated the Facilities Committee met on October 13, 2021 to review projects and thanked John Morello for his outstanding service. Director of Operations Mr. David Cote updated the Board on the recent facilities projects: concrete project at Hillcrest; elevator at Jane Ryan; cooling tower replacement at Frenchtown; boiler replacement at Agriscience and the hot water system at THS.

D. Five Year Capital Plan

Mr. Cote updated the Board on the Five-Year Capital Plan and presented the most needed projects: Jane Ryan paving, curbing, sidewalks, drainage and ADA compliance to address safety issues, (managed by the Town of Trumbull); THS wellness and fitness center; Booth Hill roof replacement; and at 6 schools – HVAC improvements. Mr. Cote answered questions and the Board stressed the need to make the Jane Ryan paving project a priority.

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Ward) to approve the Five-Year Capital Plan as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Approval Minutes:

Regular Meeting, October 26, 2021

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the Regular Board of Education minutes of the October 26, 2021 meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations/retirements:

Anderson, Kathleen; family and consumer science teacher at Madison Middle School since September 2006, retiring effective June 30, 2022.

McCallum, Alexandra; social worker at Middlebrook Elementary School, since August 2020, resigning effective November 12, 2021.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above resignations. Vote: all in favor.

G. Approval/District Calendars for 2022-2023 and 2023-2024

Dr. Iwanicki presented the draft district calendars from the Calendar Committee for the school year 2022-2023 and school year 2023-2024 for full Board approval.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Squiccimarro) to approve the district calendar for school year 2022-2023 and school year 2023-2024. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

H. District Professional Learning Update

Dr. Iwanicki presented a Professional Learning Update and discussed the district's goal to address learning loss and strategies to maintain rigor. November 2 was teacher professional development day that emphasized positive psychology and wellness choices; new curriculum and collaboration; and high leverage strategies at THS to inform teaching, learning and school improvement. District Leading and Learning PLC meets approximately once a month to focus on our collective impact on student achievement.

I. Donation to ELITE Bookstore - Dr. Semmel

In accordance with Board of Education Policy 3210, Gifts to the School District, Dr. Semmel presented a donation of \$5,000 from Mr. Peter DiNardo to the ELITE Bookstore.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to accept this donation as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

For his final Board of Ed meeting, Mr. Ward called to adjourn the Public Session at 8:45 p.m. and the Board unanimously agreed.