

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – February 23, 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

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:

Dana Miser wrote in support of 5 days in school for elementary students and thinks that middle school students should attend school on Wednesdays. Mrs. Timpanelli responded to questions from Mr. Rosenberg and Kristin Mascola. Angelique Feaster donated 20 classic African American books to Trumbull High School. Ella Grosso would like to see greater diversity in our teaching staff.

C. Public Comment

Frank Squicciarro read correspondence thanking the Board for its support of an activity at the elementary schools and urged parents to reach out to the First Selectmen regarding this year's budget request. THS senior Saige Annakie is an advocate for diversity and spoke about the need for black and brown history via curriculum and community awareness.

D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel reported:

- A communication was sent to parents of student athletes informing them that they can now have 2 guests attend athletic events.
- Congratulations to THS senior Grace Xiong who has been notified by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation that she is a finalist.
- Dr. Semmel thanked parents for participating in the lunch program and encouraged families to pick up meals for their students to help reduce our monthly losses in Food Services. The USDA provides reimbursement for every student meal we provide.
- We hope to have good news regarding our budget request for insurance, as cost projections appear to be less than anticipated. Mr. Hendrickson will continue to provide updates.

E. Board Chairman Report- There was no report this evening.

### Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

#### A. Minutes: Regular Meeting – February 9, 2021

It was motioned (Ward) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### B. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

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

Thomas, Ellen; grade 1 teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School since August 2012 (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 (Petitti) to approve the Leave of Absence for Ellen Thomas as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### C. National High School Athletic Coaches Association (NHSACA) Finalist Marcellino Petroccio

The Board is excited to celebrate our Head Coach for the THS football team and his nomination for NHSACA finalist, Marcellino Petroccio. Mrs. Timpanelli thanked him for his genuine caring attitude, his stellar coaching skills and extended best wishes for the future. Mr. Petroccio stated that he is honored to be nominated and thankful for the support of the Board and administration. He is so happy to represent the Town of Trumbull and proud of the athletes and all their hard work.

#### D. Reopening Update - Dr. Semmel updated the Board:

- The Reopening Committee continues to meet every Thursday to discuss concerns and provide updates. Dr. Semmel participates in weekly meetings with the Department of Health and the Connecticut Department of Education to stay informed of the best practices for our students and staff staying safe and the reopening of our schools.
- We have received excellent news that beginning on March 1, 2021, all building staff will be eligible to receive the vaccine. Dr. Semmel is working with the Trumbull Department of Health to provide the best opportunities for all staff to be vaccinated.
- The district is exploring the best way to bring students back to our classrooms on Wednesdays beginning the third trimester during the week of March 22, 2021. There is overwhelming support from teachers and administrators to keep Wednesdays half day to give staff the much-needed time for professional development and collaboration.

#### E. Social Justice Update

Dr. Iwanicki reported on the news that TPS is partnering with the State of Education Resource Center (SERC) to provide our students with equitable practices in our educational system needed to ensure success for every student in TPS. This will be a long-term commitment by the district that will include reflection on our current practices and help ensure equitable and culturally relevant education for the students and families that we serve.

### Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 7:38 p.m.