

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – March 23, 2021
Via Audio/Video Conferencing

***Amended 4/27/2021**

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.

The Board asked for a moment of silence in memory of Joe Cavagnuolo, a well-respected former TEA President.

B. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence: Megan Zanesky, Sarah Levin and Jennifer Colello wrote in favor of the Board approved budget. Marjorie Brown wrote in favor of our Trumbull schools. Andrew and Melynda Mickool ask that we keep the hybrid model for the rest of the school year. Jean Kenley supports policy 9140 and the budget.

C. Public Comment

Frank Squicciarro spoke about the Policy Committee. Marylena Kourounis, Lynn Brown, Ruth Fontilla, John Congdon, Lisa Cerulli, Kelly Csizmadia, April Lang and Vicki Tesoro all spoke in favor of keeping and/or revising BOE policy 9140; Lisa Zielinski and Pam Flynn also spoke in support of the Superintendent’s budget request.

D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel

- Congratulations to the THS 2020 Trillium yearbook, “We Make History. This is How,” for being a Pacemaker finalist as reported by the National Scholastic Press Association. It is one of only 51 high school yearbooks, as well as the only yearbook in all of New England, selected as a finalist.
- It is our pleasure to share with you the members of our TPS District Equity Leadership Team (DELT). In addition to our meetings once a month throughout the school year, SERC will be facilitating high school student focus groups. Updates will be on our website and via school messenger system.
- We are proud of our food service team for their hard work in providing meals to our children. We have closed the deficit gap and have managed to decrease losses due to food being distributed over weekends and holidays. Thank you to our families who are participating.
- Dr. Iwanicki reported on the professional learning day for teachers on March 22, 2021. There were 27 instructional forums that included digital online learning, special ed, wellness and self-care, just to name a few.

- Our 3.81% budget request is currently in the hands of the BOF and we are hoping for approval to rebuild our schools with critical staff and necessary recommendations from the operational review. Please see our website for details.

E. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli paid tribute to Joe Cavagnuolo, former TEA President, who recently passed away. Mrs. Timpanelli reiterated the BOE’s support for Dr. Semmel’s 3.81% budget. She summarized steps taken to comply with the operational review noting action was taken immediately upon the Board being informed of issues. She complimented the work achieved by Dr. Semmel and Mr. Hendrickson, expressing confidence in their abilities to move the district forward.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. TPAUD Update

Melissa McGarry and Lori Hayes O’Brien gave a presentation on the work of TPAUD, a partnership that addresses underage drinking and drug use. TPAUD analyzes parent/student surveys and substance use data to create prevention activities and programs. TPAUD remains a strong presence in Trumbull that helps advocate for our youth.

B. Minutes: Regular Meeting – March 9, 2021

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

C. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignation/retirement:

Frillici, Patricia; principal at Middlebrook Elementary School since August 1996, retiring effective June 30, 2021

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

D. SBAC Update - Dr. Iwanicki

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Iwanicki gave a presentation on the 2021 SBAC tests for grades 3-8 in our district. SBAC is a computer adaptive test used to gauge achievement and growth of a student. The State Department of Education asks that students come to school for SBAC testing, but remote testing is also a possibility only for those students who no other option is available. The 2019 historical data was presented showing that TPS students met or exceeded State of Connecticut goals as well as studies on positivity and perspective in approach to testing.

E. Reopening Update - Dr. Semmel

- The CDC has updated its guidelines stating that 3 feet distancing between students in classrooms is acceptable. Adults who have received their second vaccine plus 14 days no longer have to quarantine.
- Starting this Wednesday, March 24, 2021, TPS students will return to their classrooms on Wednesdays.
- On Monday, March 29, 2021, middle school students will return to their classrooms on a 5-day schedule.
- We are targeting April 26, 2021 as the latest date for a return to full classroom learning at THS. Survey data is being analyzed to help plan for a safe environment for our students and staff.
- With the warmer weather, Dr. Semmel encourages students to please use our bus system. All are wearing masks and the windows are open.

F. Policy Committee Report - Dr. Iwanicki presented two policies for review.

1. Policy 9140 - Teacher Board Representative
2. Policy 9172.6 - Virtual Courses of Study

Both policies were discussed and are under review.

G. Finance Committee Report- Mr. Hendrickson

The Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on March 18, 2021 and included the review of the financials through February 28, 2021. Accounts highlighted during the meeting were the operating budget, special revenue funds and food services. Training sessions are scheduled for the Business Office and Human Resources to meet the requirements of the Operational Review.

There was a unanimous roll call acceptance to combine Spanish and French Honors Societies accounts into one account as requested by the THS World Language Department.

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Norcel) to transfer \$500,000 from the cash account of the lunch program “Due to Others” account. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Kerr) to approve the financials as presented. Vote: all in favor.

H. Update on Facilities/Building Projects - Scot Kerr and Mike Ward

The Facilities Committee met on March 18. John Morello provided status updates on 10 of the current projects and reviewed plans for the upcoming summer projects. Details of the current projects were discussed at this evening’s meeting. The Middlebrook Roof Building Committee* is meeting on March 24 to determine the timeline for the Middlebrook Roof Project.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 10:00 p.m.

*Amended 4/27/2021