

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – April 27, 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 reported: Laurie Trepel, is in support of the TLC program reopening in September.
- C. Public Comment -There was no public comment this evening.
- D. Superintendent Report- Dr. Semmel
- Next week is staff appreciation week and we thank Jenn Record of Impact Trumbull for the contribution of gift cards to approximately 900 participating staff members for Trumbull area restaurants.
  - Congratulations to the We the People team for placing first at the state competition and coming in 9<sup>th</sup> place at Nationals.
  - Congratulations to our Connecticut Colt Poetry Contest winners. THS won 12 medals in all-8 gold and 4 silver at the contest held online this year.
  - We will be offering the “seamless summer option” for free student meals that will continue through 2021-2022, meals are provided by the USDA.
- E. Board Chairman Report  
Board Chair Lucinda Timpanelli sent thanks to Superintendent Semmel, Mr. Hendrickson and our Administrative team for their tireless work to address our budget situation. As of this date, we have a surplus, but remind all that using surplus funds cannot be a means to fund budgets in the future.
- F. Student Board Representatives Report  
Gabriella Biondi reported at THS: we are back full time celebrating spirit week and adopt a senior. THS continues to follow strict mitigation strategies to ensure students safety. Congratulations to our We the People team for their hard work and placing 9<sup>th</sup> at Nationals. At Madison: a virtual book fair and at Tashua: a virtual authors visit and Earth Day.

### Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

#### A. Approval/Trumbull Day 2021 Special Request Alcohol Waiver

Mr. Preston Merritt and Mrs. Kathleen McGannon of the Trumbull Day Commission presented the request for use of Hillcrest Middle School and Trumbull High School on Friday, July 2, Saturday, July 3, and (rain date) Sunday, July 4, 2021 and are requesting that the Board of Education waive its Policy 1330, Use of Public School Buildings and Sites for three (3) days to allow for an alcohol concession on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High Schools. All other provisions of the Board Policy must be adhered to and alcohol distribution and consumption must be properly monitored and controlled by the Trumbull Police Department, First Selectman's office, and Trumbull Day Commission members, to ensure that this concession is regulated in a responsible and appropriate manner.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Kerr) to approve the waiver for the Town of Trumbull to allow an alcohol concession booth on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High School in conjunction with Trumbull Day on Friday, July 2, Saturday, July 3, and Sunday, July 4, 2021. In favor: Timpanelli, Gallo, Norcel, Kerr, Petitti, Squicciarro. Against: Ward. Motion passes 6 to 1.

#### B. Minutes:

Regular Meeting – March 23, 2021

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes as presented with the following change: in the Facilities Committee report, the words Facilities Committee change to Middlebrook Roof Building Committee. Vote: all in favor.

#### C. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented one resignation:

Lemarie, Colette; French teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2019 (currently on a personal leave of absence), resigning effective April 19, 2021.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve this resignation. Vote: all in favor.

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

Galow, Lorraine; grade 5 teacher at Booth Hill Elementary School since August 2016 is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay for the 2021-22 school year. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

Kloster, Mindy; reading teacher (.60) at Hillcrest Middle School since November 2013 is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay for the 2021-22 school year. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above requests for Leaves of Absence as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff/Long Term Replacements

Prior to May 1 of any given year, the Board of Education is asked to non-renew the contracts of non-tenured staff whose employment may not continue. This year, the non-renewal process will include six long-term replacement (substitute) teachers. The long-term replacement teachers were hired for the 2020-2021 school year in a position of fixed duration. The non-renewals recommended are within the scope of the statutory teacher employment and tenure provisions, Section 10-151 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and are consistent with provisions of the TEA Agreement applicable to non-renewals of non-tenured and Long-Term Replacement teachers. Motion to pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, the Trumbull Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of the following staff at the end of their long-term contract or at the end of the 2020-21 school year, whichever occurs first, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Amy Braica – Daniels Farm Elementary School  
Casandra Ekstrom – Middlebrook Elementary School  
Kevin Larkin – Middlebrook Elementary School  
Kimberly Woodruff – Middlebrook Elementary School  
Elaine Hegedus – Trumbull High School  
Nouboukpo Gassesse – Trumbull High School

and further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests which may be forthcoming from these teachers or their representatives pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-151.

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Ward) to approve the above non-renewals of non-tenured staff as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Reopening Update - Dr. Semmel

- On Monday, April 26, Trumbull High was proud to open its doors to all students for in-person learning. Students are happy to return to their classrooms and teachers report an increase in students' energy level and participation.
- As Covid cases continue to decline, our planning committees are coordinating end of year activities to keep students and staff safe. We hope to have an in-person graduation at THS.
- As per the Department of Public Health and the Department of State, there will be in-person learning for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year based on a reduction in Covid cases due to vaccinations and the consensus that in-person learning is far superior to remote learning.

F. Approval/Revised 2020-2021 District Calendar

Dr. Iwanicki presented the revision to the 2020-2021 District Calendar. The following days are proposed to be special early closing days for grades K-12 students. Student contact time at each level will be dictated by our early closing schedule.

- Wed., May 5
- Wed., May 12
- Wed., May 19
- Wed., May 26
- Wed., June 2

- Wed., June 9
- Wed., June 16

Please note, with snow days, the last day of school is now June 18<sup>th</sup>.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the changes to the 2020-2021 District Calendar as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### G. Policy Committee Report

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policy for Second Reading approval:

- Approve Policy 6172.6, Virtual Courses of Study

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the approval of Policy 6172.6 Virtual Courses of Study as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### H. Curriculum Committee Report

Dr. Iwanicki reported that the Curriculum Committee met on March 18, 2021 and reviewed two curriculum guides which were brought forth to the full Board for approval.

- Honors Journalism, Grade 12
- AP English Language and Composition, Grade 11

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

#### I. Finance Committee Report – Mr. Hendrickson presented the financials and discussed the non-lapsing carryover account as per Connecticut General Statue 10-248a, and the status of the Operational Review. Dr. Matt Wheeler discussed the need for an update in tuition. After careful consideration by the Board, the following motions were made:

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Norcel) to approve a \$60,000 transfer FROM account 01912520-51199 (D/W - Admin - Reserve for Negotiations) TO account 01852622-56134 (Facilities - Snow Removal – Supplies) \$ 1,000, 01532220-56420 DFES – Library- \$ 5,000, 01422214-56118 Tech - L/W - Software \$ 54,000. Vote- in favor-Timpanelli, Norcel, Kerr, Ward, Squicciarino, Petitti. Against-Gallo. Motion passes 6 to 1.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Norcel) to approve a \$215,000 transfer FROM account 01011200-51118 PPS - L/W - Curriculum Writing TO: account 01011200-53230 PPS - L/W – Consultants. Vote- Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the non-lapsing carryover account with amended language as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Ward) to approve the financials as of March 31, 2021. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:12 p.m.