

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – May 11, 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. Recognitions -

Frenchtown Heroes – Teacher Rachel Dustin reacted swiftly to perform the Heimlich maneuver on a student while being assisted by Miss Gabby Vega, Ms. Sheela Gadkar, Nurse Merry Joy Naher-Olsen and Security Guard Mr. Ray Osborne who all immediately responded. The student is fine due to the combined efforts of these outstanding staff members.

Trumbull Nursing Staff - Our school nurses have been frontline heroes through the entire pandemic. We celebrate them tonight for their hard work and dedication to the Trumbull students and staff.

C. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence: Michelle Doris, Terry Buckingham and Carol St John sent a thank you for their teacher appreciation gift. Nijole Inkrata, Felicia Czumble-Lombardo, Nikki Capozzo-Hennessy, Kristen Sabad, James Molgard, Kara and Martin Giacobbe and Oliver Thompson wrote to explain their opposition to their children wearing masks at school and included resources. Sophie Olenchuk, a Hillcrest student shared an essay. Jon Russo asked the BOE to consider adopting firearm safety curriculum. Mrs. Kolinsky shared a letter of appreciation to Mr. Guarino and his staff for their support of her daughter through her illness.

D. Public Comment - There was no public comment this evening.

E. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel

- We began the interview process for the Middlebrook principal position.
- There is a Town Council Public Hearing regarding the budget on May 15 at 10:00 a.m. The Town Council Finance Committee will be meeting online on May 17 and the full Town Council on May 20 at 7:00 p.m.

- Congratulations to two TPS students for their winning entries in the recent Reflections Contest sponsored by the PTA,
- Our District Equity Leadership Team is meeting once a month.

F. Board Chairman Report

- Board Chair Lucinda Timpanelli expressed words of appreciation to our Trumbull nursing staff for their superb care of our students and staff during the pandemic.
- Thank you to the staff at Frenchtown for their life saving response to a student in need.
- Mrs. Timpanelli attended the Agriscience plant sale and fair that was held on May 8-9 which was a successful event.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval Minutes – Regular Meeting, April 27, 2021

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the Board of Education minutes of the April 27, 2021 meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations/retirements:

Robert Mongillo, technology education teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August, 2000, retiring effective June 30, 2021.

Lisa Pope, kindergarten teacher at Tashua Elementary School since August 2000, retiring effective June 30, 2021.

Leigh Westberg, social worker/SRP department chairperson at Frenchtown and Middlebrook Elementary School since August 2007, retiring effective June 30, 2021.

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

Dr. Semmel presented the following non-certified resignations/retirements:

Diane Camara, secretary at Trumbull High School since July 2005, resigning effective August 6, 2021.

Linda Dunn, secretary at Middlebrook Elementary School Since August 1999, retiring effective June 30, 2021.

Evelyn Feola, secretary at Daniels Farm School since January 1998, retiring effective July 23, 2021.

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

Dr. Semmel presented one request for Leave of Absence:

Gina Zuk, math teacher at Madison Middle School since August, 2003 is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay for the 2021-2022 school year. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the above leave of absence as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Approval/Healthy Food Certification for 2021-2022 School Year – Mr. Hendrickson

1. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Board of Education or governing authority certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of *July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022*. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to, school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or by non-school organizations and groups. **Exemption for Food Items:** *If the Board of Education or governing authority votes “yes” for the healthy food option, the Board of Education or governing authority must also vote “yes” or “no” on whether to allow food exemptions.*

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the Healthy Food Certification 1. for the 2021-2022 school year as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

2. The Board of Education or governing authority will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Healthy Food Certification 2. for the 2021-2022 school year as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Beverage Sale – Mr. Hendrickson

2. C.G.S. Section 10-221q addresses requirements for the sale of beverages to students in public schools, and allows exemptions if beverage sales meet specific conditions. Beverage exemptions are **not** part of the annual HFC Statement, which applies only to food sales. If the district chooses to allow beverage exemptions, the CSDE recommends that the Board of Education or school governing authority conducts the vote on beverage exemptions at the same time as the vote on HFC participation and food exemptions. The Board of Education will allow the sale to students of beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: **1)** the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; **2)** the sale is at the location of the event; and **3)** the beverages are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting or extracurricular activity. The “school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held, and must be the same place as the food sales. Since employing the above conditions worked well in past years, the administration supports Board continuation of such.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Ward) to approve the sale of beverage items after school and/or at school events and activities contingent upon the three conditions listed above for the 2021-2022 school year as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Reopening Update – Dr. Semmel

- Dr. Semmel is happy to report a downward trend of COVID cases in Trumbull. New guidelines for mask wearing are soon to be announced. Currently, there is only one reported case in our schools and all Trumbull schools are fully reopened. The percentages of students attending in person learning are: 95% at our elementary schools, 87% at our middle schools and 67% at our high school.
- 12–15 year old children are now eligible to be vaccinated. A vaccine clinic is being scheduled in the Town of Trumbull.
- We are asking parents to reconsider taking our school buses that are safe for all students to ride. Trumbull is experiencing local traffic congestion issues around drop off and pick up times at our schools.

F. Agriscience Update – Dr. Linda Paslov

Agriscience Director Dr. Linda Paslov gave an update on the Agriscience/Biotechnology program that consists of four curricula: plant science, animal science, biotechnology and agricultural mechanics. The program serves 9 sending towns. Dr. Paslov discussed the selection process, students' typical schedules, fundraising sales, annual events/competitions and resources in technology.

G. Policies - Dr. Iwanicki

Second Reading

- Policy 9140

Dr. Iwanicki reported on the status of Policy 9140 with the following suggested changes:

- reinforce the positive and advisory aspects of the position
- remove language that should be governed through the TEA
- add clarity to the role of the position

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Ward) to approve the revised Policy 9140 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

H. Finance Report – Mr. Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson updated the Board on:

- TECEC Tuition – This was presented at the April 27, 2021 Board of Education Meeting and requires a motion, second and vote.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the increase in TECEC tuition from \$3,300 per year to \$3,600 per year starting with the 2021-22 school year as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Operational Review – Mr. Hendrickson updated the Board on the status of the compliance with the Operational Review.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:26 p.m.