

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – July 13, 2021
Long Hill Administration Building

The Trumbull Board of Education convened at Long Hill for a Regular meeting on July 13, 2021.

Members present:

L. Timpanelli, Board Chair
T. Gallo, Vice Chairman
J. Norcel, Board Secretary
S. Kerr
M. Petitti
A. Squiccimarro
M. Ward

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Petitti) to go into Executive Session at 6:04 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business Administrator and all other Non-Affiliate positions (OT/PT, Behavior Analysts, Signing Aide, Cafeteria Aides, Webmaster, Payroll & Insurance Manager, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Superintendent's Secretary). All Board members were present. The Superintendent and Attorney Floyd Dugas were invited into Executive Session. Vote: All in favor.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to come out of Executive Session at 6:44 p.m. Vote: All in favor.

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: The Board received many emails from Trumbull residents regarding the removal of masks in our schools. Gloria Manna wrote regarding ADL, SERC and CRT. Jenn Record thanked Hillcrest for the excellent education they provided to their students for the 2020-2021 school year.
- C. Public Comment-
The following people spoke in favor of removing the mask mandate at TPS: Patricia Kelly, Elizabeth Buonicore, Lisa Hughes, Jamie Molgard, Melissa Steeves, Danielle Pampillonio, David Steeves, Joy O'Meara, Felicia Czumble and Meredith Martin. Gloria Manna and several other Trumbull residents voiced their concerns and spoke about curriculum.
- D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel
 - Dr. Semmel thanked all the parents who came to this evening's meeting to voice their concerns.
 - We are pleased to report the end of year ceremonies at our schools were a huge success thanks to the efforts of our administrators, students and their families.

- We are in the final stages of hiring a Director of Human Resources and in the first round of interviews for a Director of Operations.
- At this time, TPS has no plans to teach critical race theory in our schools nor, has it even been discussed. There is a specific review process for any introduction of new curriculum.

E. Board Chairman Report

Board Chair Lucinda Timpanelli was glad to see all the parents who attended the first public Board of Education meeting in a long time and welcomed their participation. The Board is currently involved in the hiring process for the Director of Human Resources and the Director of Operations. In August, Board members will participate in a retreat for an update on new State policies and current legal issues.

- F. Teacher Board Representative Report - The Board welcomed the new Teacher Representative, Nick Banks who reported that teachers completed an unprecedented school year and are looking forward to “as normal as possible” school year in the fall. We thank Karen Rodriguez and Stefanie Barnett at THS for their initiative to foster positivity and look forward to receiving feedback from teachers to keep the Board and the public informed.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. Approval - Superintendent, Assistant Superintendent, Business Administrator and Non-Affiliates and Non-Central Office Position Increases – Attorney Dugas

Non-Central Office

- Trumbull Public Schools Signing Aide - Grant this position an increase of 1.75% from \$22.43 to \$22.82
- OT/PT (Therapists) - Grant five of these seven positions an increase of 0.68% from \$71.41 to \$71.90; one position an increase 0.68% from \$72.61 to \$73.10; and one position increase of 2.50% from \$58.19 to \$59.64
- Behavior Analyst - Grant these two positions an increase of 0.68% one from \$68.77 to \$69.24 per hour and one position from \$68.46 to \$68.93
- Cafeteria Aides - Grant these positions an increase of 1.75% from \$14.05 to \$14.30
- Trumbull Public Schools Webmaster - Grant this position an increase of 0.68% from \$8,216.30 to \$8,272.17

Central Office/Non-Affiliates

- Grant the Payroll & Insurance Manager an increase of 2.00% from \$89,171.60 to \$90,955.03
- Grant the Secretary to the Superintendent an increase of 2.25% from \$72,768.80 to \$74,406.10
- Grant the Executive Assistant to the Superintendent an increase of 2.25% from \$79,200.16 to \$80,982.16
- Business Administrator- Grant the Business Administrator an increase of 2.00% from \$169,500 to \$172,890.
- Assistant Superintendent – Grant the Assistant Superintendent a 1% salary increase as presented by Attorney Dugas.
- Superintendent – Grant the Superintendent a 2% salary increase as presented by Attorney Dugas.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the salary increases for the Non-Central Office and Central Office/Non-Affiliates as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor

B. Approval Minutes – Regular Meeting, June 8, 2021

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Board of Education minutes of the June 8, 2021 meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations:

Vivaldi Demas, school social worker at Trumbull High School since August 2017, resigning effective June 28, 2021.

Holly Rowland, school psychologist at Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center since August 1995, retiring effective June 30, 2021.

Sara Scrofani, technology integration specialist at Trumbull High School since August 2016, resigning effective July 9, 2021.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to accept the three resignations as presented. Vote: All in favor.

Dr. Semmel presented one request for Leave of Absence:

Lina Valenzuela, special education teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2019, 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.

A motion was made (Gallo) and seconded (Ward) to approve the request for a personal leave of absence for Mrs. Valenzuela as presented. Vote: All in favor.

D. ELITE Presentation – Dr. Hartman

Dr. Hartman and the ELITE team gave a presentation on the ELITE program that gives young adults the necessary resources to achieve success in school and in our community beyond high school. ELITE creates partnerships within Trumbull and diversifies work opportunities to maximize employment benefits to participants and the community. Currently, ELITE is introducing, *The Next Chapter*, a project to support lifelong literacy. They are working on site development for a bookstore/cafe in Trumbull. The public is encouraged to drop off new/used books at Madison Middle School from 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. They are hoping to be up and running by this November.

E. SERC (State Education Resource Center) Update – Dr. Iwanicki

Dr. Iwanicki introduced the educational consultants from SERC that were to present highlights of their work, however this was tabled for a later date.

F. Middlebrook Roof Building Committee Report

Committee Chair Pat Borghesan discussed the fiscally prudent plan for the Middlebrook Elementary Roof project.

A motion was made (Kerr) and seconded (Norcel) to authorize the Superintendent and Business Manager to submit a School Construction Grant Application to The Office of School Construction Grants & Review (OSCG&R) for the Middlebrook Roof Project. Vote: all in favor.

G. 2021-2022 Enrollment Update – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the current enrollment numbers to the Board and will continue to monitor enrollment numbers as the summer progresses.

H. Reopening Update – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel discussed the updates on reopening of school:

- Our goal for the 2021-22 school year is to reopen our schools as normal as possible. Facilities is working on returning furniture and resources back to our classrooms and we are hoping to have lenient quarantine requirements in the fall.
- Currently, the Department of Health says there is no need to wear masks for vaccinated staff and students. We are expecting new guidance from the State and the CDC regarding safety measures for the upcoming school year. There is still time to have your child vaccinated before school starts.
- Dr. Semmel would like to inform the public that there is no connection to wearing masks in our schools to Federal dollars. The wearing of masks is directed by the State Department of Health. Trumbull's acceptance of the Federal grant is directly tied to giving teachers opportunities to support students from loss of learning due to the pandemic.

I. Digital Learning Update – Mrs. Hefele, Mr. Hackett

Mrs. Hefele and Mr. Hackett presented a digital learning update for the 2020-2021 school year that included a re-cap of professional development sessions offered, necessary digital resources that were implemented, updated data and systems and a summary of infrastructure and operations. Also included was a preview of planned projects for the upcoming 2021-2022 school year.

J. Curriculum Committee Report – Mr. Ward

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following Curriculum Guides for approval:

- UCONN Multivariable Calculus/Linear Algebra
- Kindergarten Social Studies

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the two Curriculum Guides as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

K. Finance Committee Report – Mr. Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson updated the Board on:

- Financial Reports as of May 31, 2021 -Trumbull has spent 81.3% of its annual budget as of May 31, 2021. The Business Office is currently working with Dr. Hartman on the ECR budget. Highlights of the report are: UI incentive payments, savings in transportation, Covid Relief Fund, the school security grant, special revenue accounts, and school lunch financials. Mr. Hendrickson also discussed the town accounts.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Ward) to approve the May 31, 2021 financial reports as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Operational Review - Mr. Hendrickson updated the Board on the 66 BOE operational review recommendations. As of this date, 57 have been completed, 6 are in progress and 3 are not started that require work with the new Human Resources Director. Item 33 payroll lunch and item 58 lunch program allocation were also discussed.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:55 p.m.