

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Regular Meeting – September 14, 2021  
Long Hill Administration Building

The Trumbull Board of Education convened at Long Hill Administration Building for a Regular Meeting on September 14, 2021.

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.

Mrs. Timpanelli asked for a moment of silence to honor the life and service of Philip Napolitano, a former teacher at Booth Hill School, who recently passed away.

Mrs. Timpanelli reminded all BOE meeting attendees that they must wear a mask during BOE meetings and in all town buildings as per Town of Trumbull public mandate.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Gallo) to move Public Comment to this portion of the meeting.  
Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Public Comment

The following people spoke: Austin and Alex Bussen and Melissa and David Steeves spoke about unmasking our students, SERC and CRT; Julia McNamee spoke about TPS equity goals and the hope that the needs of all children are being addressed; Lisa Nuland thanked the BOE for their support of the ELITE bookstore, K paras and Covid spending; Danielle Pampillonio talked about an education system where our children can thrive; Catherine Pulliam read Joy Colon's statement in support of masks and SERC; Laurel Walsh shared her thoughts on mask wearing in children with learning disabilities; Michael Barker asked if the BOE Finance Committee meetings can be online and thanked Board members for their service and Catherine Pulliam talked about the current climate at BOE meetings and the need to reschedule the SERC meeting.

C. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence: The BOE received numerous emails regarding the wearing of masks in our schools and also in support of equity training; Monica Terry asks that we reconsider remote learning; Dean Lederfeind supports a late start at THS; Elizabeth Parenzan has a question about Hillcrest; Tara Figueroa, Austin Bussen and Tim Plummer wrote about BOE protocols; Kelly and David Barrett wrote about quarantine

protocols; Felicia Flembardo sent an article regarding classroom management; Susanne Carew, Liz and Tim Juselin and Scott Seaman thanked the BOE for their service and for adding classes. Rachel Giordano thanked us for a great school start and the TPS Parent Engagement Hotline.

#### D. Superintendent Report

- Dr. Semmel apologized for the scheduling conflict with Back-to-School Night and tonight's BOE meeting.
- As we begin a new school year, Dr. Semmel is visiting our schools and talking to teachers and students who are happy to return to their classrooms as we focus on safety and reducing the learning gap.
- The Town Council has approved the lease at 2 Daniel Farms Road for the ELITE program, and the BOE will vote on the lease at this evening's meeting.
- Currently, there is a bus driver shortage and the Transportation Department has been working hard to streamline bus route schedules and ensure all students have a safe ride on our school buses.
- We remind parents to encourage their students to take advantage of the free breakfast and lunch program being offered at all of our schools.

#### E. Board Chairman Report

- Board Chair Lucinda Timpanelli remarked on the success of this year's Convocation ceremony in welcoming staff back to a new school year.
- We congratulate Michele Molloy on being named Teacher of the Year and her presentation to staff.
- Board Members Lucinda Timpanelli, Alison Squicciarro and Mike Ward visited schools on opening day where it was evident that students were happy to return to in-person learning.
- We thank Paul Hendrickson for his leadership role in addressing our budget and his continued diligent work on the operational review.

#### F. Student Board Representatives Report

The Board introduced the new Student Board Representatives for the 2021-2022 school year: THS seniors Eman Seyal and Edrina Laude. They reported on successful new school year openings at all of our schools to include Back to School Nights. Principals at our elementary schools are visiting classrooms and reading stories to get acquainted. Students are happy to return to their classrooms to be fully engaged, and clubs and sports are now underway.

### Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

#### A. Bargaining Unit Contract Approvals – Attorney Dugas

- CILU Supervisors
- CILU Support

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to table the approval of the CILU Supervisors and Support contracts until a later meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Paraprofessionals

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

B. Approval Minutes:

Board Retreat, August 17, 2021

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the minutes of the Board of Education Retreat on August 17, 2021 as presented. Vote: abstain-Gallo. Unanimous in favor.

Regular Meeting, August 17, 2021

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Kerr) to approve the Regular Board of Education minutes of the August 17, 2021 meeting as presented. Vote: abstain- Gallo. Unanimous in favor.

C. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the following appointments:

Broderick, Erin; MA/5 (\$60,572) grade 3 teacher at Booth Hill Elementary School.

DeCesare, Kaeli; MA/4 (\$58,734) grade 4 teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School.

Ferrante, Mariah; 6/4 (\$63,357) social worker at secondary level schools.

Marzulli, Samantha; MA/4 (\$58,734) grade 1 teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School.

O'Hara, Nicole; MA/11 (\$73,336) kindergarten teacher at Daniels Farm Elementary School.

Riecker, Natalie; MA/6 (\$62,468) kindergarten teacher at Tashua Elementary School.

Romano, Isabella; BA/4 (\$53,657) literacy consultant at Frenchtown Elementary School.

Smith, Lauren; MA/11 (\$73,336) grade 3 teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School.

Watts, Megan; BA/6 (\$57,137) kindergarten teacher at Booth Hill Elementary School.

The above appointments were unanimously received and filed by the Board.

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations:

Bayer, Alison; special education teacher (.5) at The Early Childhood Education Center since August 2019, resigning effective September 15, 2021.

Ceccolini, Jaclyn; grade 3 teacher at Booth Hill Elementary School since August 2009, resigning effective August 31, 2021.

Magazine, Kristin; special education teacher/department chairperson at Trumbull High School since August 2012, resigning effective September 15, 2021.

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

D. Approval/Head Start Food Agreement – Mr. Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson presented the annual agreement between the Trumbull/Monroe Head Start program and the Trumbull Board of Education Food Service Department, who will furnish meals to that joint program. Board approval is needed for compliance with Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP).

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the Head Start Food Service Agreement for 2021-2022 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- E. 2021-2022 Enrollment Update – Dr. Semmel reviewed current enrollment numbers at each of our schools.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Petitti) to move the approval of the Middlebrook Roof motion to this portion of the meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Middlebrook Roof Motion

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Ward) that the Board of Education approve the Education Specifications for the Middlebrook Elementary School Roof Replacement Project as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- F. Reopening Update – Dr. Semmel

- Teachers are doing a great job managing safety instruction and social interaction of students using best strategies as we return to in classroom learning.
- We encourage everyone to use the TPS website Covid dashboard that is updated daily that details Covid cases at all the schools. Currently there are 35 quarantined students that equals 0.5% of the total student body. At the elementary level, teachers reach out to those students at home and in grades 7-12, students access instruction on the Google platform.
- In Trumbull, 80% of the 12–17-year-old population and 88.5% of the 18-24 population have received their first dose of the vaccine.
- At this time, all TPS staff must be vaccinated or submit to weekly testing by September 27, 2021. Vaccine clinics with Griffin Health are scheduled for September 15 and 16 from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

- G. Policy Committee Report – Mr. Gallo

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policies for Second Reading and approval:

- 4111.1/Non-Discrimination in Employment
- 0521/Non-Discrimination

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

- H. TPS Teacher & Administrator Evaluation Plans Based on CSDE Flexibilities 2021-2022

Dr. Iwanicki presented the adjustments to this year's teacher and administrator evaluation plans which are based on the state department's Flexibilities document. In addition to the adjustments, according to the plan, this year's goals will focus on supporting social and emotional learning and the overall well-being of staff and students, equitable learning opportunities for all students, culturally responsive teaching and learning practices, academic achievement and engagement with families.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Kerr) to approve the TPS Evaluation Plans as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

I. August, 2021 Professional Learning Update

Dr. Iwanicki presented an overview of the August Professional Learning days for teachers that included goals for teaching and learning at each of our schools, navigating new curriculum, discussing progress monitoring and assessments by subject, supporting the whole child with specialized services and continuing to support students with positive psychology.

J. Finance Committee Report – Mr. Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson updated the Board on:

- Financial Reports as of June 30, 2021

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Kerr) to approve the financial report including year-end transfers as of June 30, 2021. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Transfers

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Kerr) that the Board of Education approve the transfer of \$500,000 from the Food Services' cash account to the "Due to Town" account. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Non-Lapsing Account

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Norcel) that the Board of Education request that the Board of Finance place the year-end financial surplus of \$901,412.97 in the non-lapsing account. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

K. ELITE Off-Site Program

Dr. Hartman presented the proposed lease agreement for the off-site ELITE program that will serve as a community hub for the program and an employability training platform for students in the form of a bookstore café.

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Norcel) to approve a five-year lease between Trumbull Center, LLC and the Town of Trumbull for the ELITE Off-Site Program. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:26 p.m.