

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – September 28, 2021
Long Hill Administration Building

The Trumbull Board of Education met at Long Hill Administration Building for a Regular Meeting.

Members present:

L. Timpanelli, Board Chairman
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.

Mrs. Timpanelli asked for a moment of silence for Lisa Beers, a veteran teacher from Booth Hill, who passed away this summer.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

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

The Administration is proud to announce that the following staff members have attained tenure status for the 2020-21 school year with the Trumbull Board of Education:

Booth Hill Elementary	Taylor Baker
Frenchtown Elementary	Gina Prisco, Principal Nicole Maresca Colleen Swaller Randi Whitley
Jane Ryan Elementary	Michaela Cutney Jaime Greco
Middlebrook Elementary	Melissa Collins Jessica Grossman
Hillcrest Middle School	Dana Firmender, Assistant Principal Jenna Saley Emily Schuessler
Madison Middle School	Marisa Lucuk Morgan Mancini James Pjura

The entire Board congratulated the above on attaining tenure.

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Norcel) to add item III-H Reports/Action Items, the approval of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for a lease agreement for the ELITE program, to this evening's agenda. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- C. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence: Felicia Czumble sent an article regarding masks; Karen Packter sent an invitation to a CAS dinner honoring Todd Manuel; Helen Cohen sent an invite to the THS Band Classic; First Selectman Tesoro invited the BOE to the Board and Commissions Dinner; Ellie Grosso thanked the Superintendent and the BOE for a job well done; Pete Yarusavage is thankful for the Covid dashboard; Lara Walden has a concern about Hillcrest and Andrea Fonseca wrote about the need for a curriculum update.

D. Public Comment

The following people spoke: Frank Squicciarro spoke in favor of later school start times at the middle and high schools; Jonathan Dizney feels working together as a community improves our school system; Cat Lamy commented in support of later start times; Daniel Durden spoke about CRT and its impact on students; Andrea Fonseca spoke of equity gap and its relation to curriculum; Joy Colon spoke in favor of curriculum revisions; Andre Figueroa talked about the importance of diversity in curriculum; Ellie Grosso supports true American history.

E. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel

- Dr. Semmel thanked all of the Trumbull Public School staff for all their hard work and dedication as we progress into the 2021-2022 school year.
- Currently in Trumbull, in the 12–17-year-old age range – 74.62% have been fully vaccinated and 81% have received one shot of the Covid vaccine.
- Dr. Semmel received an email from the Governor today that stated the extension of the Executive Order for wearing masks in our schools.
- Thank you to our bus drivers who have been working extra hard to ensure all of our students arrive at school safely.
- At this time, SERC is unable to attend a BOE meeting, but the TPS equity leadership team will schedule a presentation at a future meeting.
- We are happy to have the Golden Eagle Marching Band back on our fields; all of the band members are excited to be able to perform again.

F. Board Chairman Report

Board Chair Lucinda Timpanelli reported on visiting the Positive Psychology Workshop held at Long Hill last week. The topic was to choose happiness and we look forward to seeing this practice implemented in our schools. Board members attended the Band Classic at THS.

G. Teacher Board Representative Report- Mr. Nick Banks

Teachers are excited to start the year with all of their students in class and are following the safety protocols. We extend our congratulations to the candidates for teacher and paraeducator of the year. Teachers are happy to see the district's equity goals resume this year as Trumbull continues to make strides in hiring practices and representation in our schools and curriculum. We also hope to hear SERC's presentation and see the work of the District and School-based Equity Teams in the near future. With a number of retirements and resignations over the summer, we would encourage the district to continue to conduct exit interviews with outgoing staff members.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. Approval/Trumbull High School Golden Eagle Marching Band Field Trip to the University of Maryland
Mr. Joshua Murphy, THSGEMB Band Director presented the field trip scheduled for October 8-10, 2021 for students to participate in the Bands of America Mid-Atlantic Regional Championship.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the THSGEMB field trip to the University of Maryland as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- B. Approval Minutes:

Regular Meeting, September 14, 2021

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the Regular Board of Education minutes of the September 14, 2021 meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- C. Personnel – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified appointments:

Miller, Kathleen; 6+15/12 (\$83,281) reading teacher at Hillcrest Middle School effective September 23, 2021.

LaSella, Ryan; MA/6 (\$62,468) science teacher at Madison Middle School effective September 20, 2021.

LeVasseur-Burke, Justine; MA/21 (\$105,496) elementary level special education teacher effective September 14, 2021.

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

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignation:

Bryk, Linda; art teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 2000, retiring effective December 31, 2021.

Stec, Gene; social studies teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2005, retiring effective June 30, 2022.

Zimmer, Donna; library/media specialist at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 2000, retiring effective June 30, 2022.

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

- D. Human Resources Update

Human Resource Director Regina Williams presented an update to the Board on current vacancies. Currently there are 3 certified vacancies. With regard to vaccination compliance - the vast majority of staff have been vaccinated with approximately 35 certified staff to submit to

weekly testing. She also updated the Board on recruitment plans and current hiring practices/technology opportunities.

E. Using Data to Plan Future Learning

Assistant Superintendent Dr. Iwanicki presented ways in which TPS will use data to measure any learning losses as a result of COVID and determine the growth of students as we deliver instruction this year. SBA 2021 data K-8 were presented. Moving forward, TPS will look at formative and summative data while embedding nationally normed measures, such as iReady, in addition to our local measures.

Director of Digital Learning Ms. Christina Hefele presented the iReady assessment that will provide universal screening at TPS. Ms. Hefele cited the need for a new assessment tool and the criteria used in the selection process. Also discussed was the implementation timeline and further steps in the process.

F. Curriculum Committee Report

Dr. Iwanicki presented the curriculum guides below for approval. Additionally, drafts of the Grade 2-5 Social Studies pilot curricula were submitted for initial review; they will be updated and submitted to the Curriculum Committee for approval during the next school year.

- Social Studies Grade 1
- Sociology
- The Adolescent Experience with text approvals
- English 11

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

Student Survey Approvals-Dr. Iwanicki

Dr. Iwanicki presented the two surveys on of TPAUD Director Melissa McGarry for full Board approval.

Dr. Iwanicki also presented the District Climate Survey for full Board approval on behalf of Dr. Tammy Hartman.

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the TPAUD and District Climate surveys as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Finance Committee Report – Mr. Hendrickson

Mr. Hendrickson updated the Board on:

- Financial Reports as of July 31, 2021

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

H. BOE approval of MOU for lease agreement

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the MOU for a lease agreement for the ELITE program at 2 Daniel Farms Road, Trumbull, Connecticut as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:13 p.m.