
TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Regular Meeting – January 7, 2014

Long Hill Administration Building

Lorraine R. Smith Assembly Room

7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER

II. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

- A. Pledge of Allegiance
- B. Correspondence
- C. Comments and Questions

III. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Personnel – Dr. Cialfi
- B. Approval/Minutes – Budget Session 12/11/2013 & Special Meeting 12/30/13

IV. REPORTS/ACTION ITEMS

- A. Approval/THSGEMB Trips
 - 1. World Color Guard Trip to Dayton, Ohio – Mr. Horton
 - 2. Winter Percussion Trip to Dayton, Ohio – Mr. Horton
- B. Approval/THS World Language Trip to Italy – Mrs. Conti
- C. Policies/First Reading
 - 1. School Ceremonies and Observances, Policy Code 6115 – Mr. Banks
- D. 2014-15 Budget Request – Dr. Cialfi
- E. Update on Hiring of Athletic Director – Dr. McGrath

V. OTHER

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
Regular Meeting, January 7, 2014

Dr. Cialfi

Agenda Item III-A

Personnel

Appointment - Certified

Adrian, Terri-Ann; MA/6 grade 4 teacher at Tashua
Elementary School, effective January 2, 2014.

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
Budget Meeting – January 7, 2014

Dr. Cialfi

Agenda Item – III-B

Approval/Minutes

Budget Meeting
December 10, 2013

And

Special Meeting
December 30, 2013

Administrative Recommendation:

Approve the minutes of the above noted meetings.

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Budget Meeting – December 11, 2013
Long Hill Administration Building
Lorraine R. Smith Assembly Room

The Trumbull Board of Education convened in the Long Hill Administration Building for a Budget Meeting.

Members present:

D. Herbst, Chairperson
L. Chory, Vice Chairperson
R. Seaman, Secretary
J. Donofrio, Board Member
S. LaFrance, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Members absent:

J. Peddle, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 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. Seaman conveyed that the Board received several emails in support of the Trumbull High School (THS) musical, “Rent” and an email regarding the delayed opening of school earlier this week. She read a letter from former THS student, Sam Maloney, conveying his support for “Rent”. Mrs. Seaman also read a letter from parent Jennifer Mottolese supporting Superintendent Dr. Cialfi’s proposed 2014-15 Board budget (attached).
- C. Comments – Student Zac Gottschall spoke in support of returning the performances of Rent to their original dates in March 2013, citing the late April/early May dates will create conflicts for many of the students involved in the musical. Mrs. Herbst asked that anyone making comments to the Board refrain from using a person’s name, especially [district] personnel. She further conveyed that it is the position of this Board that no public comment will be acknowledged if there are personal attacks, and the names of personnel are not to be used in a negative or inflammatory manner. Student Robin Wyckoff spoke in support of returning the performances of Rent to their original dates in March 2014 and offered to assist with creating educational opportunities for all students. Student Gabby Tropp spoke in support of returning the performances of Rent to their original dates in March 2014. Parents Gina and Tim Gallo expressed their disappointment in the manner in which the cancelation of Rent was handled and the lack of communication with parents from the THS principal regarding the situation. They offered their assistance in creating a learning plan for students and urged the administration to return the performances to their original March dates. They also presented the Board with a letter that was sent to Principal Guarino from the Dramatists Guild of America. Parents Cindy Katske and Linda Bartolucci, representing the THS PTSA, stated their support of THS Principal Marc Guarino and his willingness to work with all organizations while keeping the welfare of his students his top priority. They expressed their sadness in the way the press and social media has negatively portrayed Mr. Guarino and urged the Superintendent and Board of Education (BOE) to give him greater public support during the Rent controversy. Mrs. Katske and Mrs. Bartolucci also stated their

support for Dr. Cialfi's budget request for THS and especially additions to teaching staff for the expansion of course offerings, interns, and a social worker. Parent Jonathan Tropp spoke in support of returning the performances of Rent to their original performance dates and expressed his disappointment in the Board for not supporting Principal Guarino. Parent Rick Bolton also spoke in support of returning the performances of Rent to their original dates in March 2014. Student Larissa Mark shared results of a survey she took among Thespian students, stating that late April/early May performance dates for Rent would conflict with many of these students' other activities, including the choir performance trip to Europe in April, spring sports, AP testing, Mock Trial and We the People national competitions, spring vacation plans. She asked that the original performance dates be restored. Student Tina DeLucia asked that the performances of Rent be restored to their original dates and commented that the educational plan [referenced in THS Principal Guarino's letter dated December 3, 2013] can be delivered within that timeframe. Student Amanda Lee spoke in support of the original performance dates for Rent. Student Bena Jacob spoke of her personal difficulties and conveyed that musical theater helped her through crises and strongly urged that the performances of Rent be restored to their original dates. Student Nathan Clift spoke in support of Rent being performed during the original dates. Parent Denise Mather commented that all of the topics contained in Rent have been covered in students' health classes beginning in middle school and questioned why further education is needed before this musical can be performed. She urged the Board to stand behind the THS principal. Mrs. Herbst thanked the speakers for their comments and conveyed that the Board interpreted the action [regarding Rent] as a postponement, not a cancellation. She stated on behalf of the Board that she was very pleased to hear that Principal Guarino has had meetings and is willing to compromise so the musical can be performed and senior students can participate this year. She noted that the BOE is a policy making body and supports the administration. Mrs. Herbst further conveyed that it is not in the purview of the Board to make administrative decisions. She asked the students and parents to work with the principal and Superintendent on this issue.

At this time (7:15 p.m.), a brief recess was called. The Public Session resumed at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

A. Personnel – Superintendent Dr. Cialfi noted that three resignations were received that needed Board action. Mr. Ward conveyed his appreciation of Mr. Herbst's many years of service to the district. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Donofrio) to accept the following resignations: Michael Herbst, Athletic Director at Trumbull High School since September 1975, retiring effective January 31, 2014; Maureen Mas, special education department chairperson/teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2006, retiring effective June 30, 2014; and Kathleen Seipel, special education teacher at Trumbull High School since September 1969, retiring effective June 30, 2014. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At this time, it was moved (Seaman) seconded (LaFrance) to take Agenda Item IV-C out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports/Action Items

C. Continuation of 2014-15 Budget Presentation and Discussion—Dr. Cialfi reviewed the THS request including increases in the budgets for marching band and student activities, additional interns, and the need for additional staffing in the following areas: 1.0 social worker [contained in Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) budget]; 1.0 culinary instructor; .4 Latin; .5 art; .2 music; .4 math; and .2 English/theatre arts. Considerable discussion ensued on the following: Channel 17 studio and ability to broadcast student activities; students shut out of classes due to lack of seats available; number of students in study halls due to not enough course offerings available; adding higher levels of Latin (.6

teacher) so students are offered 4 years of this language; expanded course offerings in art, music, algebra and theatre; interns; need for an additional social worker; and security. THS administration explained the proposed culinary program, noting a state of the art commercial kitchen was included in the THS renovation and is not currently used. They conveyed that the goal of the program is to open a café at the high school; and the program has garnered significant interest as evidenced by the number of students shut out of cooking/bake shop classes. When asked about the priorities of the high school budget, Dr. Cialfi responded that requested staffing was most important. High school administration conveyed their priorities as follows: Latin, culinary, art, music, and math. Principal Marc Guarino stressed the importance of an additional social worker since there is currently only one social worker to service the diverse needs of all students. Discussion ensued regarding role of social workers. Further discussed was student enrollment at the high school level, the need for expanded art offerings and other elective courses, security items such as cameras, swipe cards and guards for after school activities, and the role of interns.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- B. Approval/Minutes – Budget Meetings, 12/3/13 and 12/5/13—By unanimous consent of members present at those meetings, the minutes of both meetings were approved as presented.
- C. Approval/Financial Reports as of 10/31/2013—Business Manager Sean O’Keefe reviewed summary financial reports, attainment analysis and year to year analysis, for the 4 months ending October 31, 2013. He also reviewed the School Lunch financials, noting that the program has lost approximately \$164,000 since the beginning of the fiscal year, mostly due to health insurance claims. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Seaman) to accept the Board of Education Financial Reports for the 4 months ended 10/31/13 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

At this time, Board Chair Mrs. Herbst commented on Board questions regarding the PPS budget and asked for clarification of the request for additional 2.0 clerical positions and 1.0 middle school special education department chair. PPS Director Pauline Smith and Assistant Superintendent Dr. McGrath reviewed the need for the clerical positions, citing the amount of paperwork involved in Individualized Education Plans. It was noted that the clerical work now is being done by school psychologists/social workers which is taking time away from their direct involvement with students. They conveyed that these clerical positions would assist with paperwork due to increased mandates and state/federal reporting, especially with special education, and the necessity of having accurate records so as to avoid possible litigation. Also discussed was the addition of a 1.0 middle school special education chair and the varied duties associated with the position. It was noted that presently a 1.0 department chair services both middle schools, leaving that person little time to interact with students; adding the 1.0 position would give both middle schools .6 teaching time and .4 SE chair time.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- A. Board Committee Appointments—Board of Education— Mrs. Herbst conveyed that Board members serve on affiliated subcommittees in addition to serving on the Board of Education. A list of such subcommittees and suggested appointees was included in the Board packet. Board members were appointed to the following subcommittees: Curriculum Review Committee – Joseph Peddle, Rosemary Seaman, and Michael Ward; BEI Representatives—Joseph Peddle and Rosemary Seaman; Trumbull Education/Cable TV Liaison – to be determined; Liaison to the CES – Michael Ward; Six-to-Six Magnet School Liaison – Michael Ward; Service Contracts Review Committee – Deborah Herbst, Jeffrey Donofrio and Alternate Joseph Peddle; Policy Advisory Committee – Susan LaFrance and Rosemary Seaman; Finance Committee of the Board of Education – Loretta Chory, Susan LaFrance, Rosemary Seaman, and alternate Michael Ward; TAA Negotiations – Joseph Peddle, Jeffrey Donofrio. Mrs.

Herbst conveyed that Mr. Peddle and Mr. Ward submitted names of community members to be a part of the Facilities/Maintenance Committee. They include James Carroll, Michael Giaquinto, Tom Tarantino, and Gino Faiella. It was noted that Plant Supervisor Steve Kennedy would also be included on the committee.

- B. Elementary Enrollment Projections for 2014-15—Superintendent Dr. Cialfi reviewed projected elementary enrollment figures for 2014-15. He conveyed that the number of classes needed is based on Board of Education guidelines. It was noted that while there may be some reduction of classes due to anticipated reduced enrollment, at this time it is too early to consider any additions/reductions in staff. Dr. Cialfi commented that according to the projections, it appears there are 4 classes that could be eliminated [one each for Gr. 5 at Booth Hill and Tashua, Gr. 2 at Frenchtown and Gr. 4 at Jane Ryan]; however, there are 4 classes that may need to be added [one each for Gr. 3 at Daniels Farm, Gr. 1 at Frenchtown, and Gr. 2 and 5 at Jane Ryan], causing no change in staffing at the elementary level. He also reviewed 6 grade levels at various schools that are on the borderline of either adding or removing a class. Discussion ensued including the formulation of projections, elementary enrollment and possible redistricting of students so that enrollment is more evenly distributed among schools.

At this time, Mrs. Herbst shared that no action was taken during Executive Session regarding the milk price audit.

Agenda Item V – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Agenda Item VI – Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment

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

Faiella, Denise

From: Jennifer Mottolese <jennifermaryshea@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 10, 2013 2:17 PM
To: Subsecretary Superintendent
Subject: Education Budget

I am unable to attend tonight's meeting as I have a conflicting work schedule. Please read my letter aloud during Public Comment and enter it into the record. Thank you.

Dear Board of Education,

I am writing in support of the education budget proposed by Dr. Cialfi. I am the mother of three children in the Trumbull public schools. In particular, I support the addition of Technology Integration Specialists. I recently had the opportunity to review a practice SBAC test. I am concerned that with the test's rigor and need to skillfully navigate a computer keyboard, increased test anxiety might negatively impact performance for my children and their classmates. Qualified specialists would prepare our students for this test and their futures. Also, as the parent of an eighth grader, I am interested in seeing increased access to AP and honors classes at Trumbull High. An increase in faculty at the high school is a necessary step in the right direction towards preparing our graduates for college success.

I understand the enormity of the task in front of you in reviewing this Budget and I implore to put the students of Trumbull first in all your decisions.

Thank you,
Jennifer Mottolese
36 Valley View Road

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Special Meeting/Executive Session – December 30, 2013
Long Hill Administration Building
Conference Room

The Trumbull Board of Education convened in the Long Hill Administration Building for a Special Meeting.

Members present:

D. Herbst, Chairperson
L. Chory, Vice Chairperson
R. Seaman, Secretary
S. LaFrance, Board Member
J. Peddle, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Members absent:

J. Donofrio, Board Member

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m.

At this time, it was moved (Chory) seconded (LaFrance) to convene an Executive Session to discuss facilities maintenance and management, including personnel planning and potential restructuring of facilities management operations, including discussion of the impact of Public Act 13-3 and the need to review and comply with just released Report of the School Safety Infrastructure Council, and invite the Superintendent to be part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Executive Session began at 5:04 p.m. It was moved (Chory) seconded (LaFrance) to come out of Executive Session at 6:15 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The Public Session resumed at 6:18 p.m. At this time, Chair Mrs. Herbst read the following Town Council resolution: To consider and act upon a resolution which would approve the request of the Board of Education to authorize the Director of Department of Public Works to provide guidance and oversight of the Board of Education facility operations, grounds, and equipment for a period of 30 to 60 days.

Adjournment

It was moved (Ward) seconded (LaFrance) to adjourn the Public Session at 6:20 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
Regular Meeting – January 7, 2014

Mr. Horton

Agenda Item –IV-A.1 and 2

Approval/THSGEMB World Color Guard
and Winter Percussion Competition Trips

Per Board policy, all trips in which students would miss two or more school days must be approved by the Board of Education.

The THS World Color Guard Championship trip to Dayton, Ohio is scheduled from April 2 to April 6, 2014 and requires a four day absence from school.

Also, the THS Winter Percussion Championship trip to Dayton, Ohio is scheduled April 9 to 13, 2014 and requires a four day absence from school.

These April Championship competitions would enable students to participate in the WGI Regional and the Winter Championships, as well as observe other Winter Guard programs from across the country.

Accordingly, attached please review the field trip requests submitted by Trumbull High School teacher Peter Horton.

Administrative Recommendation:

Approve Color Guard trip and Winter Percussion trip to Ohio as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/ guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellations for any reasons.

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FIELD TRIP REQUEST

- FORWARD ONE COPY OF THE PRINCIPAL'S APPROVED REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT AT LEAST THREE (3) WEEKS PRIOR TO DATE OF TRIP FOR DAY TRIPS, AT LEAST NINETY (90) DAYS PRIOR FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS AND TRIPS TO CANADA, AND AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS PRIOR FOR TRIPS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
- IF SCHOOL OR COACH BUSES ARE INVOLVED THE APPROVED REQUEST WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.
- CONFIRMATION WILL BE FORWARDED FOLLOWING APPROVAL.

Date Submitted 12/5/13 Submitted By Peter Horton Trip Date 4-2/4-6/2014
 School THS Group World Color Guard
 Destination Dayton Ohio Address(Directions) _____

Time: Leave School 4-2-14 Leave Destination _____
 Arrive Destination _____ Arrive At School 4-6-14
 Itinerary Participation in Winter Guard International World Championships.

How will this activity enhance student learning and integrate curricular goals?

Number of Students 27 Grade Level 8-12 Number of Adults 10
 Teacher(s) Peter Horton

Substitute Required? Yes No Nurse Notified OP Date 12-5-13
 Initials

OP
12/5/13

Transportation: School Buses Coaches Parents Driving
 (parents must sign parent driver form)

To be arranged by: Transportation Office School Office

Any Special Considerations All Hotel and Bus arrangements handled by Band Parents Association.

Costs:	Amount	To Be Paid By
Transportation	<u>8500.00</u>	<u>Student Accounts and Parents.</u>
Other <u>Hotel & Meals</u>		

Principal's Approval *Man [Signature]* Date 12/5/13
 Assistant Superintendent _____ Date _____

This section to be completed by Transportation Department. Confirmation will be forwarded.
 The trip schedule will be as follows:
 Leave School _____ Arrive Destination _____ Leave Destination _____ Arrive School _____
 Number of Vehicles _____ Cost per Vehicle _____ Total Cost _____

 Supervisor of Transportation _____ Date _____

**TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FIELD TRIP REQUEST**

- FORWARD ONE COPY OF THE PRINCIPAL'S APPROVED REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT AT LEAST THREE (3) WEEKS PRIOR TO DATE OF TRIP FOR DAY TRIPS, AT LEAST NINETY (90) DAYS PRIOR FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS AND TRIPS TO CANADA, AND AT LEAST SIX (6) MONTHS PRIOR FOR TRIPS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
- IF SCHOOL OR COACH BUSES ARE INVOLVED THE APPROVED REQUEST WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.
- CONFIRMATION WILL BE FORWARDED FOLLOWING APPROVAL.

Date Submitted 12/5/13 Submitted By Peter Horton Trip Date 4-9/4-13/2014
 School THS Group Winter Percussion
 Destination Dayton Ohio Address(Directions) _____

Time: Leave School 4-9-13 Leave Destination 4-13-14
 Arrive Destination 4-9-14 Arrive At School 4-13-14
 Itinerary Participation in Winter Guard International World Percussion Championships.

How will this activity enhance student learning and integrate curricular goals?

Number of Students 30 Grade Level 8-12 Number of Adults 10
 Teacher(s) Peter Horton, Tom Whitmoyer

Substitute Required? Yes No Nurse Notified af Date 12-5-13
 Initials

Transportation: School Buses Coaches Parents Driving
 (parents must sign parent driver form)

JK
12/5/13

To be arranged by: Transportation Office School Office

Any Special Considerations All Hotel and Bus arrangements handled by Band Parent Association.

Costs:	Amount	To Be Paid By
Transportation	<u>\$450.00</u>	<u>Student Accounts</u>
Other <u>Hotel & Meals</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>	<u>& Parents</u>

Principal's Approval [Signature] Date 12/5/13
 Assistant Superintendent _____ Date _____

This section to be completed by Transportation Department. Confirmation will be forwarded.

The trip schedule will be as follows:
 Leave School _____ Arrive Destination _____ Leave Destination _____ Arrive School _____
 Number of Vehicles _____ Cost per Vehicle _____ Total Cost _____

Supervisor of Transportation _____ Date _____

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
Regular Meeting – January 7, 2014

Mrs. Conti, Mrs. Guadagnoli

Agenda Item –IV-B

Approval/THS World Language/
Trip to Italy

Attached is a description of a trip to Italy that Trumbull High School teachers Jennifer Conti and Laura Guadagnoli have organized for the World Language Department.

Students participating in this trip will leave on April 11, 2015 and return to Trumbull on April 18, 2015.

This educational trip will allow students to experience the Italian culture, language and historical sites as outlined in the attached backup. In addition, this experience will allow students to strengthen connections across disciplines and develop a global awareness necessary for 21st century learning.

Administrative Recommendation:

Approve trip to Italy as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellations for any reason.

Chun

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
FIELD TRIP REQUEST

- FORWARD ONE COPY OF THE PRINCIPAL'S APPROVED REQUEST TO THE OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT AT LEAST THREE (3) WEEKS PRIOR TO DATE OF TRIP FOR DAY TRIPS, AT LEAST NINETY (90) DAYS PRIOR FOR OVERNIGHT TRIPS AND TRIPS TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES.
- IF SCHOOL OR COACH BUSES ARE INVOLVED THE APPROVED REQUEST WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT.
- CONFIRMATION WILL BE FORWARDED FOLLOWING APPROVAL.

Date Submitted 12/5/13 Submitted By Jennifer Conti Trip Date Sat. April 11 - Sat April 18 2015
 School T#5 Group World Language Dept - Italian
 Destination Italy Address(Directions) N/A
Milan, Venice, Florence, Assisi, Pisa, Rome
 Time: Leave School TBD upon flight Leave Destination _____
 Arrive Destination assignments Arrive At School _____
 Itinerary See attached itinerary

How will this activity enhance student learning and integrate curricular goals?
Students will learn about Italian history, culture, and language in the native country. All students will complete a WeShare research project. As a result, students will be better prepared for college and careers in the global 21st century.

Number of Students 20-40 Grade Level All Number of Adults 5-6
 Teacher(s) Jennifer Conti

Substitute Required? Yes No Nurse Notified XB Date 12/4/13
 Initials

Transportation: School Buses Coaches Parents Driving
 (parents must sign parent driver form)

To be arranged by: Transportation Office School Office Self/Teacher if I can
 Any Special Considerations _____

Costs:	Amount	To Be Paid By
Transportation <u>Coach</u>	<u>\$ 2,000</u>	<u>Students / fundraising</u>
Other <u>Program Fee</u>	<u>\$ 2,855</u>	<u>Students</u>

Principal's Approval [Signature] Date 12/5/13
 Assistant Superintendent [Signature] Date 12/11/13

This section to be completed by Transportation Department. Confirmation will be forwarded.

The trip schedule will be as follows:
 Leave School _____ Arrive Destination _____ Leave Destination _____ Arrive School _____
 Number of Vehicles _____ Cost per Vehicle _____ Total Cost _____

Supervisor of Transportation _____ Date _____

Revised 10/15/13

RECEIVED
 DEC 11 2013
 ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Proposal

Venice, Florence, and Rome with EF Tours

April 11–April 18, 2015 (8 day tour)

Jennifer Conti from the Trumbull High School World Languages Department is proposing an 8-day educational program in Italy from Saturday April 11 to Saturday April 18, 2015. The program includes visits to the major cities of Italy from Milan to Rome. Being in these cities will allow students to study up-close and experience firsthand the Italian culture, language, and history they've only read about in the classroom. This trip will enhance the World Language curriculum and strengthen connections across disciplines. As a result of this tour, students will develop the global awareness necessary for 21st century learning.

Participation in this program will also better prepare students for success in high school and beyond in harmony with the Common Core State Standards Mission Statement for post-high school achievement. Students will experience an educational itinerary that includes experiential learning activities and visits to historical and cultural sites with local guides. An emphasis will be placed on enhancing the curriculum through a self-directed learning project called the WeShare project. In this way, students will be able to make deeper connections with their destinations, returning home with stronger critical thinking and independent learning skills.

Laura Guadagnoli led a very successful learning experience in Italy with a group of students in April 2009. Another successful program was recently completed in April 2013 by Jennifer Conti. Both teachers saw firsthand the deep impact travel had on their students. They were given opportunities that could never be offered in a 47 minute period in the classroom. They practiced the language with real Italian speakers, became engaged in local culture, and connected to the world in a whole new way. These experiences changed students' lives. Many have now expressed interest in studying abroad or even living in Italy to continue to accept challenges and broaden their horizons.

The program will run through EF (Education First) Tours. EF was chosen for its commitment to safety and education. It has more than 40 years of experience and offices in more than 50 countries around the world. This enables them to react quickly and in person wherever we may be. Another factor in choosing EF is that EF guarantees the lowest prices for the highest quality. This company is very professional, accommodating, and thorough, providing great communication before, during, and after departure.

We would like to continue to provide our students with educational opportunities abroad at affordable prices. This is so important for this simple reason: to learn you need to experience.

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
Regular Meeting – January 7, 2014

Mr. Banks

Agenda Item –IV-C-1

First Reading
6115—School Ceremonies and Observances

This policy was last revised in August 2001. The Policy Advisory Committee reviewed School Ceremonies and Observances to coincide with the recently approved Protected Prayer policy. Information was garnered from the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE), as well as receiving input from staff members and parents.

This policy is being presented to the Board for a First Reading.

PAC changes with strikethroughs.

Recommendation:

Review and Discuss

First Reading, January 7, 2014—PAC changes consist of strikethroughs.

SCHOOL CEREMONIES AND OBSERVANCES

Policy

It is the policy of this Board that the Trumbull Public Schools shall, at all times and in all ways, be neutral in matters of religion. This means that the Trumbull Public Schools:

- shall assume no role or responsibility for the religious training of any student; and
- shall not purposely become involved in the religious belief, disbelief or doubt of any student.

This requirement of neutrality need not preclude nor hinder the Trumbull Public Schools in fulfilling their responsibility to educate students to be tolerant and respectful of religious diversity. The district also recognizes that one of its educational responsibilities is to advance the students' knowledge and appreciation of the role that religion has played in the social, cultural and historical development of civilization.

Therefore, the district will approach religion from an objective, curriculum-related perspective, encouraging all students and staff members to be aware of the diversity of beliefs and respectful of each other's religious and/or non-religious views. ~~In that spirit of respect, students and staff members should be excused from participating in activities that are contrary to their religious beliefs unless there are clear issues of compelling public interest that would prevent it.~~

Adopted: 1/04/83
Revised: 7/18/89
Revised: 8/21/01,
2/?/14

References

- First Amendment
- Connecticut General Statutes, Section 52-571b
- Guest Speakers, Policy Code: 6131

6115/School Ceremonies and Observances

Guidelines

Since religious institutions and diverse beliefs have been a force in shaping human experience, past and present, awareness of these significant forces is part of a complete education. It is essential that the teaching about - not of - religion be conducted in a factual, objective and respectful manner.

Therefore, the practice of the Trumbull Public Schools will be to:

1. emphasize that religious themes in the arts, literature and history, both in curriculum and school activities, be only as extensive as necessary for a balanced and comprehensive study of these areas. The curriculum should address a diversity of religions, using materials reflecting secular educational values. Studies should never foster any particular religious tenets or demean any religious or non-religious beliefs;
2. provide a process for students to be excused from this instruction if their parents desire. A student who is excused should be given reasonable alternative accommodations and materials to work on that are of educational benefit. To the degree possible, alternative studies should deal with the subject of pluralism and diversity. The curriculum, however, should be such as to minimize the need for such requests;
3. provide programs that focus on a seasonal theme rather than religious themes inclusive of concerts, enrichment programs and fundraising sales.

Religious holidays provide a natural opportunity to promote an appreciation for and respect of diversity. Therefore, it will further be the practice of the Trumbull Public Schools to:

1. ensure that recognition of religious holidays will not dominate the educational program and must support curricular objectives.
2. ~~ensure that performances, which recognize holidays, must be of an artistic not a religious nature. Religious music must not dominate any school program.~~
3. ensure that parents may exclude their children from programs involving the recognition of religious holidays or a celebration that is in conflict with family beliefs. A written request for exclusion should be sent to the building administrator.

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
Regular Meeting – January 7, 2014

Dr. Cialfi

Agenda Item – IV-D

2014-15 Budget Request

Following a thorough review of the Superintendent's budget request for 2014-15, the Board of Education will finalize its budget proposal that will be forwarded to the First Selectman by January 10, 2014.

Administrative Recommendation:

Approve the Superintendent's 2014-15 budget.

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Report to the Board of Education
Regular Meeting- January 7, 2014

Dr. Michael McGrath

Agenda Item IV-E

Update on Hiring of Athletic Director

The position of Athletic Director is posted. An interview committee has been formed by the THS principal, Assistant Superintendent and Superintendent. This advisory committee includes appropriate staff, parents and community members to represent the entire district. Initial interviews will be held on January 14th, 15th and 16th.

Prior to the interviews, candidates will be screened by Dr. Cialfi, Dr. McGrath and Mr. Guarino to determine which candidates will be brought before the committee.

After these interviews have been completed, recommendations will be made for interviews with Dr. Cialfi and Dr. McGrath. Mr. Guarino will participate in both the initial and second round of interviews. Ultimately, Dr. Cialfi will make a recommendation to the board for appointment.

Recommendation:

Review and Discuss