

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – February 28, 2006
Long Hill Administration Building
Lorraine R. Smith Assembly Room

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

Members present:

S. Wright, Chairperson
D. Herbst, Vice Chairperson
J. Tyborowski, Secretary
D. Cassidy, Board Member
L. King, Board Member (arrived 7:55 p.m.)
L. Labella, Board Member

Members absent:

M. Ward, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. There were no Negotiation items this evening.
- B. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 7:18 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- C. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- D. Comments and Questions – Kate Donahue, 83 Meadow Road West, requested that the Board carefully consider the conference scheduling before approving the 2006-07 calendar this evening. Mrs. Donahue also requested that the Board strongly support its original budget request and lobby the Board of Finance to restore the monies cut by the First Selectman.

Agenda Item II - Personnel

- A. Personnel – It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Cassidy) to approve a second personal leave of absence without pay for the 2006-07 school year for Colleen Jacques, math teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 30, 1999. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education *Leave of Absence Policy, GCBD*. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Executive/Regular Sessions – By unanimous consent the Board approved the minutes of the February 7, 2006 Board of Education meeting as presented.
- B. Approval/Financial Reports – Mr. Wright noted that the Finance/Transfer Committee has been meeting and that a report will be presented at the next Board meeting.

Following discussion, it was moved (Cassidy) seconded (Tyborowski) to accept the four Financial Reports as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports

- A. Grant Report – A summary of State and Federal Grants that Trumbull received during the 2004-05 school year was presented. A discussion ensued regarding use of these grants, which total over \$2 million, and the possibility of obtaining a dedicated grant writer or the sharing of one currently being sought by the Town.

It was moved (Cassidy) seconded (Herbst) to take Agenda Item V-A, Approval/Winter Color Guard Trip to Ohio, out of order. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V – New Business (out of order)

- A. Approval/Winter Color Guard Trip to Ohio – Per Board policy, all trips in which students would miss two or more school days must be approved by the Board of Education. The Winter Guard International Championships, to be held in Dayton Ohio from April 4-9, would enable twenty students to participate in preliminary, semi-finals and finals of the Winter Guard Championships. Following discussion, it was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to approve the 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 reason. Vote: unanimous in favor.

By unanimous consent, the Board agreed to take Agenda Item VI-A, Fund Raising, Policy Code KO, out of order.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business (out of order)

- A. Fund Raising, Policy Code KO – As a member of the Policy Advisory Committee, Mrs. Tyborowski presented this policy, which contained changes in wording and format recommended by the Board at its first reading. Accolades were given to parents and fund raising organizations for their diligent efforts in raising much needed funds to support scholastic athletic and educational programs. Mr. Herbst, Athletic Director, addressed the Board regarding this policy and the positive impact the fund raising has on the athletic programs. Following further discussion, it was moved (Cassidy) seconded (King) to approve this policy as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Chairman Wright recognized Chuck Kennedy, 38 Gatehouse Road, who voiced his opinion regarding support for Board restoration of monies to the hockey teams in order to reduce the extensive fund raising. A discussion ensued.

It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to take Agenda Item V-B, Approval/2006-07 School Calendar, out of order. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V-B – New Business (out of order)

- B. Approval/2006-07 School Calendar – Dr. Cialfi presented the proposed 2006-07 calendar. The Calendar Committee, composed of Joseph Cavagnuolo, TEA President; Robert Gabriel, TAA President, Mary Isaac, parent, Roger Smith, TEA Representative for THS; Vicki Tesoro, Co-President, Trumbull PTA Council; and Steve Wright, Board of Education Chairman, recommended that the school year for teachers begin on Monday, August 28 and the first full day for all students take place on Thursday, August 31. They also recommended Wednesday, August 30 as a legal day for Grades 6 and 9 students (morning only) as well as for the “Afternoon Open House” for elementary students. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding the contractual impact of this recommendation. A discussion also ensued regarding the scheduling

of high school conferences for the afternoon hours as well as the overlap of conference days/times for the primary and secondary levels.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Cassidy) to postpone this item until the last agenda item has been addressed. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item IV – Reports (out of order)

B. Academic Monitoring – Dr. Minotti and Dr. Cialfi gave a comprehensive report regarding the manner in which the school system is addressing the new national standard-based reform with increased accountability for student learning. A Power Point presentation was also shown describing how student academic mastery can be improved by linking longitudinal student assessment data to future curriculum, instruction and continuous professional learning development. Following discussion, it was requested that this report be carried over to the next Board meeting for a question and answer session.

Agenda Item VII – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to move into Executive Session at 10:00 p.m. for the purpose of discussing the calendar as it relates to negotiations. The Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent were invited to attend. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to adjourn this Executive Session and move into Public Session at 10:34 p.m. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Tyborowski) seconded (Herbst) to approve the calendar as presented with the following exceptions: teacher start day will begin on August 28 with 3 professional development days; the start day for students will be August 31; and June 15 will be the last planned day of school. The remaining calendar dates will stay the same with the exception of the Trumbull High School conference dates, which the Board requests the Calendar Committee reset for evenings and avoid conflict with the K-8 conference dates. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session 10:38 p.m.