

**TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT**

BUDGET MEETING – DECEMBER 8, 2009

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:

S. Wright, Chairman
M. Ward, Vice Chairman
L. Chory, Board Member
D. Herbst, Board Member
T. Kelly, Board Member
L. Labella, Board Member
T. Lovely, Board Member

Members absent:

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m., followed by a Salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments and Questions – On behalf of the PTA Collaborative Committee, Lanie McHugh, 132 Fresh Meadow Drive, welcomed new and returning Board members. She noted that although the budget does not cover replication of current programs and services for next year, there has been relief in that class sizes have remained in tact; however, further cuts would send the district backward and erode the foundation of the system. Dawn Cantafio, 72 Tait Road, conveyed that elimination of the House Disciplinarian, which is an integral part of the high school, would affect the safety and security of the students, as the job extends beyond that of its title. JoAnn Zimmerman, 4672 Madison Avenue, stated that as today's children have increased needs it is a difficult task to properly educate children, particularly in light of the mixed-up values of today's society and that children should be put first. Anthony D'Aquila questioned how the work sessions of the Board were going to be divided between Board members and suggested for efficiency and effectiveness all members meet together.

Agenda Item II – Personnel

- A. Personnel – It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to accept the resignation of Shirley Mayo, Assistant Business Manager at the Long Hill Administration building since September 1979, retiring effective December 31, 2009. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes- Budget Meeting -By unanimous consent of members present and voting at the November 11, 2009 meeting, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

Agenda Item IV – Reports

There were no reports this evening.

Agenda Item IV – New Business

- A. Election/Board of Education Officers – Mr. Wright conveyed that it has been a privilege to serve as Board Chairman and looks forward to working with the new Chairman and Board members.

Mrs. Chory nominated Mrs. Herbst for position of Board Chairman. Citing demanding full-time job responsibilities and her relationship to the First Selectman, Mrs. Herbst declined. She then nominated Edward Lovely for the position of Board Chairman. With no further nominations, Mr. Lovely unanimously was voted to the position of Board Chairman.

Mr. Kelly nominated Mrs. Herbst for the position of Board Vice Chairwoman. With no further nominations, Mrs. Herbst unanimously was voted to the position of Board Vice Chairwoman.

Mrs. Chory nominated Mr. Kelly for the position of Board Secretary. With no further nominations, Mr. Kelly unanimously was voted to the position of Board Secretary.

The Board briefly recessed; newly elected Board officers took their respective positions at the Board table.

Chairman Lovely extended his thanks to Steve Wright for his leadership of the Board, and noted that he looks forward to supporting the school system and presenting a responsible budget to the Town.

- B. Approval/Board of Education Meeting Dates – In accordance with Section 10-218 of the CT General Statutes and the By-laws of the Trumbull Board of Education, the Board shall adopt a meeting schedule for the ensuing year. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to approve the Board of Education Meeting Dates for the calendar year 2010 as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

- A. Continuation of Budget Review and Discussion – Mr. Iassogna and Dr. Cialfi presented a PowerPoint presentation that reviewed enrollment projections for the upcoming school year and NCLB mandates requiring AYP for CMT and CAPT. A discussion ensued regarding budgeting to support these unfunded mandates, the RTI model, and allocation/restructuring of funds to meet students' needs. As discussed at a previous meeting, the Superintendent touched upon ARRA monies and the related "budget cliff" if these were to be used to supplant rather than supplement budgeted funds.

The Board unanimously agreed to a brief recess at 8:55 p.m.; the meeting resumed at 9:10 p.m.

Division Heads and principals conveyed that although they were not pleased with the choices they had to make, they understood the reasoning behind the budgeting decisions. Discussion ensued regarding how this reduced budget request would stymie the district, including limited intervention, reduced professional development, impact on the ability to meet NEASC guidelines, limited technology upgrades, less high school electives resulting in more study halls, and a reduction in the maintenance, cleanliness and security checks of the buildings. Discussion also took place regarding the importance of the House Disciplinarian position at the high school, the importance of booster groups to athletics, and the reduction of secretarial positions.

Discussion and questions also ensued regarding the number of teacher curriculum release days and the frequency of groups pulled out, transportation costs for special education, implementation of the 3 Year Technology Plan, special education mandates and reimbursement of excess costs, the Savin Report whereby the public buildings in Trumbull were assessed and the response to that assessment, the possibility of teaming up with the Town with regard to custodial and maintenance services for efficiency and possible savings, and current fees for attending athletic events.

Mr. Kelly stated that he would like to hear from the Student Board Representatives and Teacher Board Representative regarding the budget, and they will respond at the next meeting, which will be a Budget/Work Session meeting to take place on Monday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The Board gave unanimous approval to adjourn this Public Session at 10:40 p.m.