

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Regular Meeting – January 5, 2010
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:

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

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 6:40 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag. Chairman Lovely asked the audience to remain standing for a moment of silence in honor of Kristen Appelberg, a 9th grader at Trumbull High, who passed away on December 21, 2009.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence reported this evening.
- C. Comments and Questions – Cindy Katske, 129 Meadowview Drive, spoke on behalf of the PTA’s Presidents’ Collaboration Committee and commended the Superintendent and Board of Education for their commitment to finding ways to maintain class size and quality programming in the budget proposal as it stands. She shared their concerns regarding the 2010-11 Budget Request, include the use ARRA and ECS monies for items that are recurring expenses thereby causing problems in subsequent budgets going forward by creating a funding cliff. She also noted that further reductions to the budget would have a significant impact on staffing and programming, which would negatively affect students. Mrs. Katske emphasized that it is the Board’s charge to promote and protect the education of its students and their duty to make the Town understand this charge.

Agenda Item II - Personnel

- A. Personnel – It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to accept the resignation of Michael Pinto, technology education teacher at Trumbull High School since August 24, 2000, retiring effective June 30, 2010. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – By unanimous consent of members present and voting at that meeting, the minutes of the December 14, 2009 Budget meeting were accepted as presented.

Agenda Item IV – Reports

- A. Mr. Ryan, Chairperson of the Citizens Review and Advisory Committee (CRAC) gave a brief update on the work of the committee up to this point. This included CRAC’s recommendations

of an on-line check register, which is already posted on the TPS website, asset inventory which should be conducted soon, and the submission of two policies, Financial Ethics and Attrition, to the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC) for review. Mr. Ryan noted the following: a review of TPS credit card accounts show that adequate controls are in place; there is good cooperation between the Town and TPS on maintenance items. He also noted future recommendations of the committee which include: conducting an energy audit; reviewing transportation costs, student activity funds, purchasing/bidding practices, IT equipment costs, cell phone costs, software licensing fees, overtime accounts, consultant/contract fees, and curriculum; assessing the master teaching schedule; and reviewing grants. Mr. Ryan also noted that at this time it is the Board's choice as to whether they want to continue with a Board member liaison to the committee as the Superintendent and his staff have been most cooperative in working with CRAC. Mr. Iassogna thanked Mr. Ryan and CRAC for all their hard work and noted that the committee has addressed areas that are mutually beneficial to the Board and Town. Mr. Iassogna also noted that the Board should decide whether they would want CRAC to address such issues as the master teaching schedule, class size, and curriculum review or to keep those items within the Board's domain.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. 403(b) Discussion – Business Manager Stephen Sirico reviewed the Tax Sheltered Annuity Plan adopted by the Board in compliance with the 2008 IRS mandate that each employer who offers a 403(b) plan must create a written, detailed plan as to how it will be monitored and also requires information sharing agreements with other providers. He further shared with the Board that the IRS is now requesting Boards of Education to adopt an amendment to the plan to ensure that all employees are included. The amendment to the 403B plan restates Section 2.1 Eligibility to read as follows: “Each employee shall be eligible to participate in the Plan and elect to have Elective Deferrals made on his or her behalf hereunder immediately upon becoming employed by the Employer.” Discussion ensued. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to adopt and execute the amendment to the Board of Education's 403(b) Plan as presented. Vote: 6 in favor (Herbst, Kelly, Lovely, Labella, Ward, Wright) 1 abstention (Chory). Motion passed.

Agenda Item V – New Business

- A. 2010-11 Budget Approval - It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to approve the November 25, 2009 2010-11 budget proposal as presented by the Superintendent in the amount of \$87,092,540, or 3.53% over the current school year's allocation.

Chairman Lovely thanked the Board for their all their work on the budget. He also thanked the Superintendent and his staff for their efforts and hard work in creating the budget and expressed appreciation for all involved in the process.

It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by reducing the budget by \$1,202,000 and use ARRA and ECS funding as outlined in the Budget Flow Chart of 12/23/09 (attached) with the following changes: delete \$70,000 for 1.0 THS Teacher in “Place in ARRA”; delete \$70,000 for 1.0 Behavior Specialist in “Place in ARRA”; delete \$105,000 for Middle School Digital Whiteboards in “Place in ARRA”; delete \$15,000 for Middle School Digital Whiteboards in “Place in ECS”; add \$260,000 for 3.5 Special Education Teachers in the “Add Back to Budget” to “Place in ARRA”; rename THS Athletic Equipment in both “Remove from Budget” and “Place in ECS” to read THS Sports Supplies. A lengthy discussion ensued including the Budget Flow Chart, eliminating the 1.0 Secretary in the “Add Back to Budget” and the use of ARRA and ECS monies to fund recurring

expenses which would create a “funding cliff” in successor budgets. Vote: 4 in favor (Lovely, Herbst, Kelly, Chory) 3 opposed (Labella, Wright, Ward). Motion passed.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Kelly) to further amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by adding \$210,000 for 3.0 THS teachers and \$115,000 for 2.0 custodians as recommended by the Superintendent in the Budget Flow Chart of 12/23/09. Vote: unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Herbst) to further amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by adding back the 1.0 THS House Disciplinarian. Discussion ensued. Superintendent Iassogna clarified for the Board that if the Budget goes forward as recommended at this point and per discussions with Dr. Tremaglio, the House Disciplinarian position will not be eliminated from the 2010-11 Budget. He also noted that the scenario could change if further cuts are made to the budget. Vice Chairman Herbst withdrew her motion.

It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to further amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by reducing \$110,000 from the Reserve for Negotiations account (01902520-51199) leaving a balance of \$68,389. Discussion ensued. Vote: 5 in favor (Wright, Lovely, Herbst, Kelly, Chory) 2 opposed (Labella, Ward). Motion passed.

It was moved (Kelly) seconded (Chory) to further amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by reducing \$150,000 from the Special Education Out-of-District Transportation Account (01882701-55105). Discussion ensued. Vote: 4 in favor (Lovely, Herbst, Kelly, Chory) 3 opposed (Wright, Labella, Ward). Motion passed.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to further amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by reducing \$27,000 from the Special Education In-District Transportation Account (01882701-55101) Discussion ensued. Vote: 4 in favor (Lovely, Herbst, Kelly, Chory) 3 opposed (Wright, Labella, Ward). Motion passed.

It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to further amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by reducing \$25,000 from the Athletic Sports Equipment Account (01723xxx-57301). Discussion ensued. Vote: 4 in favor (Lovely, Herbst, Kelly, Chory) 3 opposed (Wright, Labella, Ward). Motion passed.

It was moved (Kelly) seconded (Herbst) to further amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by reducing \$12,000 from the Furniture Account (xxxxxxx-57308). Discussion ensued. Vote: 4 in favor (Lovely, Herbst, Kelly, Chory) 3 opposed (Wright, Labella, Ward). Motion passed.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to further amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by reducing \$27,000 from the Intern Account (xxxx1001-55500). Discussion ensued. Vote: 4 in favor (Lovely, Herbst, Kelly, Chory) 3 opposed (Wright, Labella, Ward). Motion passed.

At this time, Superintendent Iassogna pointed out that the reductions enacted thus far are unique in their timing as they usually do not occur until much later in the budget process. He noted that the original budget request of a 3.53% increase over last year’s allocation already has impacted existing staff for the next school year and will start to erode even maintenance of our efforts; and that the school system will be very different in 2010-11 from the present with every department affected and experiencing sizeable reductions. He reminded the Board that the Town could further reduce

the BOE request and if that were to happen, programs definitely will be impacted along with further reductions in personnel.

It was moved (Chory) seconded (Kelly) to further amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by reducing \$4,296 from the Cell Phone Account (01422520-55903). Discussion ensued. Vote: 3 in favor (Lovely, Chory, Herbst) 4 opposed (Kelly, Labella, Wright, Ward). Motion failed.

A brief recess was called at 8:51 p.m. Meeting resumed at 9:01 p.m.

It was moved (Kelly) seconded (Herbst) to further amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by adding back \$143,750 for 2.5 custodians. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of teaching staff as opposed to custodians. Christopher Romano, Student Board Representative, noted that he would like the Board to restore teaching staff before custodians as some class sizes at the high school are large. Vote: 5 in favor (Ward, Lovely, Herbst, Kelly, Chory) 2 opposed (Labella, Wright). Motion passed.

At this time, Chairman Lovely requested a summary of the amount of additions/subtractions made to the 2010-11 Budget Request up to this point. Board Member Chory offered to calculate the percentage increase of the total request over last year's allocation. Discussion ensued and it was determined that at this point the percentage increase for the 2010-11 Budget Request was 2.34% over last year.

It was moved (Kelly) seconded (Ward) to further amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by adding \$70,000 for 1.0 THS Teacher. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Wright) to amend the aforementioned amendment to 2010-11 Budget by adding \$70,000 for 1.0 Behavior Specialist. Vote on amendment: 4 in favor (Lovely, Labella, Wright, Ward) 2 opposed (Herbst, Kelly) 1 abstention (Chory). Motion passes. Vote on motion as amended: 5 in favor (Kelly, Herbst, Labella, Wright, Ward) 2 opposed (Lovely, Chory). Motion passed.

It was moved (Kelly) seconded (Ward) to further amend the original motion on the 2010-11 Budget by adding \$27,000 to the Intern Account (xxxx1001-55500). Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to approve the 2010-11 Budget Request as amended in the amount of \$86,175,290 which represents an increase of 2.54% over the 2009-10 allocation from the Town. Vote: 5 in favor (Kelly, Herbst, Chory, Lovely, Ward) 2 opposed (Labella, Wright). Motion passed.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:30 p.m.