

**TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT**

BUDGET MEETING – DECEMBER 7, 2010

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:

Edward Lovely, Chairman
Deborah Herbst, Vice Chairman
Thomas Kelly, Secretary
Loretta Chory, Board Member
Lisa Labella, Board Member
Michael Ward, Board Member
Stephen Wright, Board Member

Members absent:

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to move into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's 2010-11 evaluation and invite the Superintendent to be part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Following discussion, it was moved (Herbst) seconded (Wright) to adjourn the Executive Session at 6:30 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor. The Public Session resumed at 6:43 p.m. followed by a Salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Mr. Kelly noted that the Board received several letters; one from Mike McGrath, K-12 Music Team Leader, thanking the Board for their support and attendance at the district Strings concert on November 17, 2010; and the other from Trumbull High teacher Kief Doyle regarding the district's Veteran's Day programs.

At this time, Chairman Lovely noted that author Sharon Taberski published a book involving students at Middlebrook School which was well received; congratulated the THS Golden Eagles Marching Band who recently placed first at the MAC Championships; congratulated the THS Football Team for a great season and wished them luck in the State Championship game to be played Friday, December 10; and commended the Administration for their "Topics of the Month" link on the TPS website which provides pertinent information for parents, staff and community members.

- C. Comments and Questions – Cindy Penkoff, 101 Columbine Drive, commented that the state of the economy is no better than it was last year and should be taken into consideration when deciding on the 2011-12 budget and asked that the Board do what is necessary for Trumbull taxpayers.

Agenda Item II – Personnel

- A. Personnel – It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to accept the resignation of Katrina Henrick, psychologist at Frenchtown Elementary School since August 2003, resigning effective January 3, 2011. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes- Regular Meeting -By unanimous consent of members present and voting at the November 8, 2010 meeting, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

Agenda Item IV – Old Business

A. Policies/Second Reading

1. Student Possession & Use of Electronic Devices, Policy Code 5131.81—This policy was presented to the Board for a first reading on July 20, 2010. Ms. Buck, student representative to PAC reviewed the policy changes. Discussion ensued including teacher discretion regarding use of such devices and minor wording changes for grammar purposes. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to approve this policy with the changes as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.
2. Use of School Buildings and Sites, Policy Code 1330—This policy was presented to the Board for a first reading on July 20, 2010. Superintendent Iassogna noted that this policy is used in conjunction with Board of Education Rules Governing Use of Buildings and Sites. Also noted is that a user fee for outside agencies/businesses renting the new Trumbull High auditorium is included in the policy. The user fee would be implemented for an event coordinator who would oversee all aspects of the rental. Ms. Cantafio reviewed the policy changes. Discussion ensued. Ms. Chory suggested that the fee schedule should be set by an elected body of the Town and the consensus of the Board is to have the Board of Education to approve the fee schedule. Other grammar changes were noted. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to approve this policy with the changes (grammar, Board of Education approval of fee schedule) as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item V – Reports

There were no reports this evening.

Agenda Item VI – New Business

- A. Approval/THS Quebec Trip—Ms. Perusi reviewed this 5 day/4 night trip to Quebec City, Canada during February break, involving approximately 35 to 40 students studying French. Also noted was that no school days would be missed. This trip will allow students to experience North American francophone culture, language and historic sites. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to approve the Quebec, Canada as outlined with such approval contingent upon parent(s)/guardian signing a waiver relieving the school district of any financial obligations due to trip cancellation for any reason. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Approval/First Student Bus Contract—Mr. Iassogna noted that the Board of Education has an opportunity to extend the First Student Bus contract for two years, 2011-12 and 2012-13, which includes a guaranteed 3.5% rate increase for each of the two years and affords a prepayment option for additional savings of \$70,000 in each year (total \$140,000). Ms. Perkins, Transportation Coordinator, reviewed the extension agreement and recommended supporting the contract extension for the following reasons: continuity and driver familiarity with the Town; past satisfactory fulfillment of contract conditions and obligations; and competitive rate schedule as compared with surrounding districts. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Wright) to approve the two-year extension of the agreement with First Student Bus Services. Vote: unanimous in favor.

At this time Mr. Ward noted that First Student has served Trumbull Public Schools well and Mr. Iassogna commended Ms. Perkins and her assistants, Lisa and Diane, for a well run department. A brief recess was called at 7:30 a.m. and the meeting resumed at 7:38 p.m.

- C. Budget Presentation and Discussion – Superintendent Iassogna gave a Power Point presentation of the 2011-12 administration’s proposed budget request in the amount of \$89,856,012 or 5.77% increase over this year’s allocation. He noted that the budget request began with a 1.96% increase due to the funding cliff and without the funding cliff, the increase would be 3.81%. Further noted that there was a mistake in the budget book under Office of the Superintendent and the corrected budget figure for Infinite Campus is \$98,000, with the total budget for that office of \$610,000. Mr. Iassogna noted that it was extremely difficult to create this budget due to the loss of Federal funding, possible State cutbacks, and the current economic uncertainties. He further reviewed the following: priorities, including maintaining core academic tenets, increasing expenditures in areas reducing significantly over the last three years (professional development, equipment, workbook, textbooks, supplies), and ensuring operational responsibilities, particularly those related to safety; efficiencies, including in-house special ed programs, modified zero-based budgeting, negotiations, working with the Town on various projects, modifying elementary PPS staffing model, revising student transportation, and selective filling of vacancies. Also reviewed was a breakdown of the 3.81% increase. A lengthy review of individual accounts began with salaries. Discussion ensued including curriculum writing, reserve for negotiations, secretarial, coaches/advisors, miscellaneous (OT/PT/health aides/cafeteria aides), extra clerical and teacher substitute accounts. Also reviewed were the benefits accounts including medical insurance, life and disability insurance, and administration fees. Also discussed were staff waivers of medical insurance. Mr. Iassogna noted that the principals and division heads would be present at the December 9th and 13th meetings to expound on their budget items as well as answer any specific questions the Board may have.

Adjournment

The Board gave unanimous approval to adjourn the Public Session at 9:53 p.m.