

**TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT**

BUDGET MEETING – DECEMBER 9, 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 6:38 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments and Questions – Lainie McHugh, 132 Fresh Meadow Drive, Co-President of PTA Council, encouraged all Trumbull residents to become educated on the Board of Education budget process and noted the PTA Council guide, “The ABC’s of the BOE Budget” is available on the Trumbull Public Schools website. She thanked the Superintendent and the Board of Education for their support in creating the guide. She also asked the Board to consider the educational needs and interests of students when creating the budget request and also asked them to review the Pay to Participate fee structure.

At this time, Superintendent Iassogna noted that he had attended the pasta dinner for the football team and on behalf of the Board and Administration congratulated the team on a great season, conveyed that the high school and Trumbull community are very proud of their efforts and accomplishments, and wished them luck at the State Championship game to be played on Friday, December 10, 2010. Chairman Lovely also congratulated the football team and noted that the Hillcrest Choral group gave a wonderful performance at the Nichols Tree Lighting Ceremony. He also congratulated Board member Steve Wright for being reappointed Secretary/Treasurer of the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE).

Agenda Item II – Personnel

There was no report this evening.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

There were no agenda items this evening.

At this time, it was moved (Chory) and seconded (Herbst) to take Agenda Item VI-B Expendable Trust Approval out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

B. Expendable Trust Approval—Ms. Chory noted the work of the Scholarship Investment Committee who has been reviewing options for repositioning scholarship monies currently held in trust by the Trumbull Board of Education to garner improved returns on investment of these funds. Ms. Reiss, Director of Philanthropic Services for the Fairfield County Community Foundation (FCCF) gave an overview of the Foundation, noting that it is composed of over 500 funds. All monies in the foundation are pooled for less risk of investment and better returns than current bank CD's. Also noted was that Trumbull scholarship monies would be put into a designated fund. Ms. Chory noted that the committee is seeking Board approval to invest these funds with Fairfield County Community Foundation and also needs approved to submit a petition to Probate Court for permission to reclassify 6 permanently restricted accounts to unrestricted accounts as these accounts no longer have a contact person. Ms. Chory also noted that committee members, John Ponzio and Joseph Cassidy, were unable to attend this evening's meeting. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to table this agenda item until the Monday, December 13, 2010 meeting. Discussion ensued and Mr. Ward withdrew his motion. Further discussion ensued, including risk with investing in FCCF, responsibility of recordkeeping, deposits to account, and additional work for Board staff. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Herbst) to table this agenda item until the Monday, December 13, 2010 meeting. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Wright) to take Agenda Item VI-A Policy/Second Reading out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item VI – Old Business

A. Policy/Second Reading/Approval

1. Privately Owned Vehicles, Policy Code 3541.4—This new policy was presented to the Board for a first reading on April 13, 2010. Ms. Fisher reviewed this policy which concerns the use of privately owned vehicles when transporting students on field trips, sporting events or for emergency purposes. It was noted that the policy reflects that the use of privately owned vehicles is not condoned but can apply only as a last resort when all other methods of transportation have been exhausted. A brief discussion ensued. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to approve this policy as stated in the Board packet and as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor of those present during the vote (Ms. Chory briefly left the room when the vote was taken.)

Agenda Item IV – New Business

A. Policy/First Reading

1. Field Trips, Policy Code 6153—Ms. Fisher noted that this policy is being reviewed to reflect changes that would coincide with the new Use of Privately Owned Vehicles policy. These changes are also reflected in the appendices and field trip forms. Also clarified is that Board approval is required for overnight field trips in which students miss two or more days of school and all out of country trips. Mr. Ward asked the Policy Advisory Committee to review all field trips involving overnight stays. This policy will come back to the Board for a second reading/approval.

B. Continuation of Budget Review and Discussion—Mr. Sirico continued his review of the budget, noting that the Curriculum Department's budget shows a significant increase as their current budget was cut for 2010-11. Also reviewed were professional development mandates, legal services, service and maintenance contracts, consultants, professional services, utilities, repairs, transportation costs, interns, mileage, AV equipment and the effects of the funding cliff. Mr. Iassogna noted that the elementary principals developed their budgets together as well as the middle school principals and used per pupil expenditures for supplies, texts, workbooks, and library books. He also noted that the 2011-12 budget proposal mostly contains funding cliff items and those accounts that have not been addressed for the past three years.

A brief recess was called at 8:45 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 8:56 p.m.

Mrs. Norcel, Frenchtown Principal, presented on behalf of the elementary schools and noted their priorities in this order: first, maintain reading and math specialists at current staffing levels; second, maintain class size according to Board of Education guidelines; third, maintain requested monies for text/workbooks; fourth, maintain monies for library book account; fifth, maintain professional development monies both at the building and district levels; sixth, maintain monies for periodicals; seventh, maintain ELMO program. Mrs. Norcel also noted that the elementary schools would like to add a third intern to each school to assist with coverage for planning time and meetings and working with students needing extra help, and asked the Board to consider enrollment at the various schools when formulating any budget cuts. Mrs. Norcel also noted that several textbooks have been pre-purchased for use in 2011-12 and funding is needed for in-service to teach the curriculum to the teachers. At the request of Mrs. Labella, the elementary principals noted items cut from the 2010-11 budget that impacted their schools: Frenchtown—coverage for common planning time, less professional development, decreased supplies, less support staff; Jane Ryan—decreased supplies, less responsive to individual teacher needs; Tashua—decreased cadre days, decreased supplies; Middlebrook—limited resources for SRBI, RTI, teacher coverage, building repairs; Booth Hill—less professional development, decreased supplies, decreased cadre days. Dr. Wheeler, TECEC Coordinator, noted that his programs are running fine, although starting the year with 220 students and projects by the end of the school year to have 280 students and could use more support. Most elementary principals noted that their buildings are in need of repairs. Also noted were unfunded mandates such as SRBI and the increased goal for Annual Yearly Progress (AYP). Mrs. Seaman, Hillcrest Principal and Mrs. Forshaw, Madison Principal, reviewed the middle school budget requests. Both schools are seeking a .6 additional math teacher to increase instruction time for Tier 2 and Tier 3 students, an additional intern for small group interventions and tutorial and additional monies for equipment and textbooks; Hillcrest—increased science teaching time and a 1.0 special education teacher for increased student enrollment. Both principals noted the 2010-11 budget cuts impacted equipment accounts and longer response time for maintenance issues. Mrs. Perkins, Transportation Coordinator, reviewed efficiencies enacted included redesigned kindergarten routes, savings from decreased summer school transportation, ride sharing with area districts, and use of outside vendors to transports out of district student placements. Mr. Hackett, Technology Coordinator, reviewed his budget and noted the need to replace of old, outdated equipment as 60% of district computers are outdated and cannot handle new software used in instruction. He also noted that in January 2011, the district will go to the Town to request bonding for \$415,000 for new equipment, the second phase of a three part phase-in plan for updating technology.

Agenda Item V – Reports

There were no reports this evening.

Agenda Item VII – Receive and File

These items were received and filed.

Adjournment

The Board gave unanimous approval to adjourn this Public Session at 10:05 p.m.