

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Special Meeting – February 23, 2010
Long Hill Administration Building
Lorraine R. Smith Assembly Room

The Trumbull Board of Education convened in the Long Hill Administration Building for a Special 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

Members Absent:

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 7:34 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 Council Collaboration Committee, Cindy Katske, 129 Meadowview Drive, conveyed that they encourage and would help Board members to support the 2.54% budget increase they submitted to the Town on January 5 as the .85% increase recommended by the First Selectman would not meet educational needs. JoAnn Zimmerman, 4672 Madison Avenue, echoed Mrs. Katske's comments and continuation of budget support for the success of K-12 students as any further reductions will adversely affect the very resource we are trying to preserve.

In response to a query from Mrs. Chory, Superintendent Iassogna noted that in checking with the Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, it is acceptable to place approval of minutes on the agenda of a Special Meeting.

Agenda Item II – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting – 2/9/10 - It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2010 as presented. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – Old Business

- A. 2010-11 Budget Status/Review – At a previous Board of Finance meeting, member Tom Tesoro requested a list of potential budget cuts from the Board of Education if the First Selectman's recommended .85% education budget increase came to fruition. Chairman Lovely conveyed that the First Selectman's \$1.45 million cut to the Board of Education's budget request of 2.54% would seriously disrupt the school system. Superintendent Iassogna communicated that he and his staff worked very hard to create a reasonable budget request and that numerous accounts already have been reduced and programs and personnel had been scaled down. Further discussion ensued including: pitfalls associated with the use of ARRA monies to supplant rather than supplement the budget and concerns regarding upcoming years when this funding is no longer available; reiteration that a \$1.45 million decrease in the Board's request will adversely affect the educational system and further erode the academic quality of programs with operations changing significantly as we know it; any further reduction from the 2.54% Board recommended budget would equate to people and programs as 80% of budget is made up of these leaving little room for discretionary spending; with regard to compiling a list, it has been done in the past and has never been beneficial or productive; a list pits community members against each other as each vie for a portion of the budget to support their cause and they lose sight of the larger budget picture; and possible examination of

what can't be cut rather than what can; looking at education as an investment rather than an expense; possible use of monies from the \$15 million Town fund balance as the Bond rating is the same as it was when there was \$3 million in the account.

In response to a general question as to what the \$1.45 million budget cut would equate to, Mr. Iassogna noted that although he would not recommend it, this would equate to 23 teachers. He also noted that district priorities would include maintaining class size, particularly elementary, meeting special education student needs regarding inclusion in classroom; and basic funding for daily operations. All areas would be affected – teachers, custodians, secretaries, programs (TAG, strings/music, athletics). Teacher Board Representative Darlene Ference noted that contractually, teachers need to be notified prior to April 1 if they will be non-renewed.

By unanimous consensus of the Board, it was agreed that a list of potential education budget cuts would not be compiled at this time and decisions regarding budget allocation would take place in May when the Board receives its budget from the Town.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:24 p.m.