

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

BUDGET MEETING – DECEMBER 6, 2011

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:

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

Members absent:

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag – Vice Chairwoman Deborah Herbst called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. followed by a Salute to the Flag.

B. Correspondence – Mr. Kelly noted that the Board received emails from parents both in support of full day kindergarten and in support of restoring programs/positions previously reduced from the budget before implementing kindergarten.

At this time, it was moved (Labella) seconded (Chory) to take Agenda Item III – A, Election/Board of Education Officers out of order. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item III – New Business (out of order)

A. Election/Board of Education Officers—Vice Chairwoman Herbst noted that elections for Board officers should take place and asked for nominations. Mrs. Labella nominated Stephen Wright for position of Board Chairman and Mr. Kelly seconded the nomination. With no further nominations, Stephen Wright unanimously was voted to the position of Board Chairman. Mrs. Seaman nominated Deborah Herbst for the position of Board Vice Chairman and Mrs. Chory seconded the nomination. With no further nominations, Deborah Herbst unanimously was voted to the position of Board Vice Chairwoman. Mrs. Labella nominated Thomas Kelly for the position of Board Secretary and Mr. Ward seconded the nomination. With no further nominations, Thomas 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.

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

C. Comments and Questions – Tammy Baillargeon, President of the Trumbull Educators' Association, invited the Board to visit the schools and talk with teachers before making decisions on the budget which might create changes to the district. Cindy Penkoff, 101 Columbine Drive, noted that opportunities have been missed as over \$3,000,000 has been returned to the Town over the last several years and asked the Board to review these missed opportunities and think about combining resources. Dana Misner, Stoneleigh Road, and Mark Lotstein, 163 Governor Trumbull Way, spoke in support of full day kindergarten. Kristen Gerrity, Meadow Road, asked the Board to restore

programs previously cut from the budget before implementing full day kindergarten. Kathy Dornbush, Linley Road, noted that there are no real cuts to the budget as State Statute dictates that a Town must allot the same amount or more than the previous year's budget for the Board of Education. She also noted that cuts should be reported as cuts to the proposed increase in the budget. Fred Palmieri, District 2 Councilman, spoke in support of restoring programs previously cut before implementing full day kindergarten. Veronica Lenzen, 52 Woodhaven Drive, spoke in support of full day kindergarten.

Agenda Item II – Consent Agenda

- A. Approval/Minutes- Regular Meeting -By unanimous consent of members present and voting at the November 15, 2011 meeting, the Board approved the minutes as presented.

Agenda Item III – New Business

- B. Budget Presentation and Discussion – Superintendent Iassogna gave a Power Point presentation of the 2012-13 administration's proposed budget request in the amount of \$91,803,405 or 4.98% increase over this year's allocation. He noted that his recommendation evolved from Board, administrators, teachers, support staff, parents, town officials and community input. Mr. Iassogna presented a core budget of \$90,584,434 or a 3.59% increase and added restorations consisting of 2.0 elementary secretaries, 8.0 interns, and curriculum totaling \$336,741, established initiative of full/extended day kindergarten in the amount of \$873,730, and new mandates/requests at a cost of \$7,500, for a total recommendation of \$91,803,405. He noted 4 areas of focus used in creating his recommendation which includes maintaining class size guidelines, operational responsibilities, restoration of areas reduced in the 2011-12 request, and full/extended day kindergarten. Also noted was that 4.51% of the request is composed of salaries, benefits and restorations. Also noted were district accomplishments and efficiencies and academic accolades. Also noted was that Trumbull's per pupil expenditure ranked 15th out of 18 Fairfield County districts. Mr. Sirico gave a lengthy review of the budget by object beginning with salaries. Discussion ensued including the impact of reduced secretarial time at the elementary schools, loss of interns and computer paras, reduced monies for curriculum and professional development. It was also noted that the Town and Board had met to discuss the possibilities of combining services such as health insurance and custodial/maintenance and both agreed to ask a panel of 4 outside consultants to review the needs of both the Board and Town and to devise a plan if feasible.

A 10 minute recess was called at 8:55 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 9:08 p.m.

Discussion continued with international field trips and the need for substitute teachers, and full/extended day kindergarten including retaining a half-day program, shortened day bussing, and available space in schools for the program. Mr. Iassogna noted that he would be meeting with Educational Consultant Wayne Verderber to review space requirements for full/extended day kindergarten and the possible need to surgically shift students from one elementary school to another to accommodate the program. Several elementary principals discussed the need for restoring the second secretary to full time and the second intern. Both middle school principals noted the need for restoring the intern to help with interventions and the loss of the reading specialist.

Adjournment

The Board gave unanimous approval to adjourn the Public Session at 10:20 p.m.