

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

BUDGET MEETING – DECEMBER 8, 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:

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

Members absent:

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.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments and Questions – Cindy Katske, 129 Meadowview Drive, asked the Board and public to review the PTA’s ABC’s of the Budget which lists the programs/staff that have been reduced since 2007. She also asked the Board to review the impact of the decisions on the budget and whether implementing full/extended kindergarten is appropriate at this time. Traci Cleri spoke in support of full day kindergarten. Lainie McHugh, 132 Fresh Meadow Drive, Co-President of PTA Council, spoke in support of restoring the middle school reading teachers, does not support full/extended day kindergarten at the expense of other programs, noted that kindergarten parents have an option to extend the day with TLC, and noted that the PTA’s ABC’s of the Budget provides good information for understanding the Board of Education’s budget process. Diane Pomposello, 44 Woolsley Avenue, spoke in support of full day kindergarten. Monica Welch asked the Board to focus on the core programs, is concerned about programs that have been lost, and spoke in support of full day kindergarten, TAG, middle school reading and math specialists, and extra curricular activities.

At this time Chairman Wright noted his appreciation of the public’s comments and noted the Board will take these into consideration when reviewing the budget and making a final recommendation.

Agenda Item II – Personnel

There was no report this evening.

Agenda Item III – New Business

- A. Board Committee Appointments—Mr. Wright noted that Board members serve on affiliated subcommittees in addition to serving on the Board of Education. Following discussion, Board members were appointed to the following subcommittees: Curriculum Review Committee –Deborah Herbst, Rosemary Seaman, Michael Ward; BEI Representative – Rosemary Seaman; Trumbull Education/Cable TV Liaison – Thomas Kelly; Liaison to the CES Council Committee – Michael Ward; Board of Directors/Six-to-Six Magnet School Liaison – Michael Ward; Superintendent Evaluation Format Committee – Deborah Herbst, Lisa

Labella, Stephen Wright; Service Contracts Review (Agent of Record/Health & Dental Benefits, Legal Services, Facilities Manager, Other Contracts) – Loretta Chory, Stephen Wright; Policy Advisory Committee – Loretta Chory, Rosemary Seaman; Finance Committee of the Board of Education – Thomas Kelly, Lisa Labella; Liaison to Citizens Review Advisory Committee (CRAC) – Lisa Labella; Town/Board Insurance Committee – Loretta Chory, Deborah Herbst, Stephen Wright; Town/Board Combined Services Committee – Loretta Chory, Stephen Wright; CABE Liaison – Stephen Wright; NEASC – Stephen Wright.

Agenda Item IV – Old Business

- A. Continuation of Budget Review and Discussion—Mr. Iassogna briefly reviewed his 2012-13 budget recommendation and provided the Board with information regarding requests amounting to \$2,200,000 from administrators and division heads that were removed before finalizing his recommendation (attached). Trumbull High Principal Dr. Tremaglio reviewed the needs of Trumbull High School, including more teaching staff and increased security personnel. Athletic Director Mike Herbst reviewed the need to replace the turf on the football field and provided the Board with information regarding this initiative. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding class sizes, guidance, master schedule, impact of ongoing construction, security needs, study halls, students being denied classes, security cameras, increased footage of building with no increase in custodians, cleanliness of the building, safety of science classes with over-enrollment. Mr. Iassogna noted that a number of classes are at or over the maximum guidelines and more staff is needed so students will not be denied access to classes. He also noted that the Board could move monies within his budget recommendation but asked the Board to keep his core budget request of 3.59% intact. Discussion continued including the NEASC accreditation which will occur in October 2013 and the impact on scheduling classes and need to meet all NEASC requirements. Also discussed was the implementation of the Grade 9 Freshman Foundations course and at this time the feedback has been positive. Student Board Representative Patrick Curtin noted that the high school has implemented a Student Leadership Council composed of athletic captains, club presidents, class and student council officers. They have met to discuss bullying and its effects on students and plan to give presentations to sophomore classes.

A brief recess was called at 9:01 p.m. and the meeting resumed at 9:13 p.m.

PPS Director Dr. McGrath briefly reviewed the PPS budget which includes additional speech time, increased tuition costs for out-placed students, and increased professional development. Also discussed were secretarial time and increased costs for itinerant mileage. Technology Coordinator Jeff Hackett gave a brief overview of his budget which includes \$46,000 for replacement computers and noted the need to implement Year 2 of the Technology Plan and funding for this initiative would be placed in a Capital Projects request to be forwarded to the Town in January or February 2012. Dr. Paslov reviewed the curriculum budget requests and Common Core Standards which must be implemented by the 2014-15 school year. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding curriculum writing, revising curriculum to meet the Common Core Standards, Student Success Plans, textbooks, on-line subscriptions and ebooks for the media center, and the many items reduced from previous budgets that need to be addressed. Transportation Coordinator Dawn Perkins noted a change in the Transportation narrative in paragraph 4 to read as follows: “1.5% prepayment discount”, not “contractual increase.” A brief discussion ensued regarding buses for an extended day kindergarten program. Discussion continued regarding full/extended day kindergarten and the model that would be used. Plant Operations Coordinator Steve Kennedy briefly reviewed the plant budget and noted efficiencies that have been enacted, the need for summer help and part time cleaners.

Adjournment

The Board gave unanimous approval to adjourn the Public Session at 11:17 p.m.