

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Special Meeting – May 4, 2011
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 7:10 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Mr. Kelly noted that the Board received several emails in support of small class size, TAG, sports, Pay to Participate fees, and keeping Jane Ryan School from closing.

At this time, Chairman Lovely thanked Mrs. Herbst for conducting last evening's meeting in his absence and congratulated and thanked the retirees for their many efforts on behalf of the Trumbull Public Schools. He also congratulated Ginny Girouard, elementary physical education teacher, for her 30-year participation and efforts in the American Heart Association's Jump Rope for Heart program.

Agenda Item II – Old Business

- A. Continuation of 2011-12 Budget Discussion—Mr. Iassogna noted that last evening he reviewed for the Board his recommendations for reducing the 2011-12 budget. He also noted that there was \$177,000 available in the Federal Jobs Fund. It was moved (Wright) seconded (Herbst) to accept the Superintendent's April 28, 2011 recommendations for reducing the budget. Discussion ensued. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to amend the motion by increasing the budget line item for Channel 17 by \$7,200. Vote: 1 in favor (Ward) 6 opposed (Chory, Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Lovely, Wright). It was moved (Chory) seconded (Wright) to further amend the motion by reducing the budget line item for Curriculum Director District Support by \$144,000. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mrs. Labella noted that the \$177,000 from the Federal Jobs Fund and the \$144,000 from the Curriculum Director District Support could be used to save 4 teaching positions. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to further amend the motion by reducing the budget line item for THS Advisors by \$18,525 and to fund advisors through the THS Student Activity Account. Discussion ensued with Mr. Iassogna noting that some clubs may be eliminated. Vote: Unanimous opposed. It was moved (Kelly) to further amend the motion by increasing the budget line item for Unemployment Benefits by \$30,000. Discussion ensued. Mr. Kelly withdrew his motion. Discussion ensued concerning the elimination of freshman sports and opportunities for freshman to participate in sports. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to further amend the motion to indicate that [reduction in athletics] \$95,584 be directed to the elimination of freshman sports of boys' and girls' volleyball, field hockey, boys' and girls' soccer, baseball, softball and football. Vote: Unanimous in favor. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Herbst) to further amend the motion by reducing the budget line item for Reserve for Negotiations by \$135,890. Mr. Iassogna recommended that the Board move into Executive Session to

discuss this issue. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to move into Executive Session to discuss the Reserve for Negotiations and invite the Superintendent and Business Manager to be a part of the discussion. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Executive Session began at 8:18 p.m. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Labella) to come out of Executive Session. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Meeting resumed at 8:30 p.m. Vote on motion: 1 in favor (Chory) 6 opposed (Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Lovely, Ward, Wright). Motion fails. It was moved (Herbst) seconded (Chory) to eliminate 3 elementary math specialists, totaling \$210,000 and use those monies to fund 3 elementary teachers to retain small class size. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of math specialists as opposed to small class size. Vote: 1 in favor (Herbst) 6 opposed (Chory, Kelly, Labella, Lovely, Ward, Wright). Motion fails. It was moved (Chory) seconded (Kelly) to use the Federal Jobs Fund and other monies to fund two TAG teachers. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of math specialists, class size and the TAG program. Several elementary principals noted that their priorities were the math specialists and small class size and the TAG students could receive enrichment from the math and reading specialists. It was moved (Ward) seconded (Chory) to call the question,. Vote: 2 in favor (Lovely, Ward) 5 opposed (Chory, Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Wright). Motion fails. Mr. Kelly noted that he would make a motion at the Board's July meeting to ask the Board of Finance for a supplemental appropriation to fund the TAG program and Mr. Wright noted he would second the motion. Vote on motion [use of Federal Jobs Fund]: 1 in favor (Chory) 6 opposed (Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Lovely, Ward, Wright). Motion fails. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Wright) to use \$281,000 [\$177,000 from Federal Jobs Fund and \$144,000 reduction in Curriculum Director District Support] to restore 4 elementary grade 2 teachers. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Mr. Kelly noted that he would like the budget line item for Unemployment Benefits to be monitored.

At this time, a recess was called (9:20 p.m.) Meeting resumed at 9:33 p.m.

Mr. Sirico reviewed the monetary changes to the budget and Mr. Iassogna noted that if the insurance monies are not returned to the BOE operating budget, the Board will have to further reduce its allocation by \$1,074,000 and the Board would have to review closing an elementary school and/or reducing staff. Vote on original motion as amended: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:41p.m.