

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Special Meeting – May 8, 2012  
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:

Members absent:

S. Wright, Chairperson  
D. Herbst, Vice Chairperson  
T. Kelly, Secretary  
L. Chory, Board Member  
L. Labella, Board Member  
R. Seaman, Board Member  
M. Ward, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began at 7:05 p.m. followed by a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Comments—Superintendent Iassogna conveyed that several student groups were in attendance this evening to give the Board a report on recent academic and enrichment field trips. Music students Katy Wyckoff and John Grischuk gave an overview of the recent choral performance trip to France, highlighting their visits to Normandy and Paris. They conveyed that the students performed in historically significant venues throughout the French countryside and Paris and experienced the culture. The students were especially impressed and moved by their visit to the American Cemetery in Normandy where they performed the Ave Maria. The students thanked the Board for allowing them the opportunity to participate in the trip. DECA Advisor Todd Manuel gave a brief report on DECA’s trip to the DECA International Conference and Marketing Competition which took place in Salt Lake City, Utah. Eight students participated in the competition involving over 15,000 students. Mr. Manuel noted that in addition to the competition, students were exposed to the area’s scenic/cultural sights including visits to the Great Salt Lake, area mountains, Olympic Village and the Mormon Tabernacle. Student Matt Newcomer reviewed the various aspects of the DECA competition, noting that he and Robert Nickson received a medal for being in the top 20, and conveyed that students participated in marketing and public speaking workshops and learned valuable life skills. Mr. Manuel and Mr. Newcomer both thanked the Board, ACE Foundation, BEI, the community, and Superintendent for their support of DECA. Students Stephanie Delvento, Kunal Jhaveri and Owen Polzello reported on the recent world languages/social studies trip to Spain. The students spoke about the history, culture and architecture of their visits to various cities including Madrid and Barcelona. Teacher/advisor Sarah Giordano conveyed that students had the opportunity to use

the Spanish language when ordering in restaurants or asking for directions. She also noted that students were excited to experience the language and history in person and was most impressed with the way students conducted themselves on the trip. Both she and the students thanked the Board for allowing them to travel to Spain. Anthony D'Aquila, 29 Valley View Road, asked the Board to stop charging students a Pay to Participate fee for sports and other student activities as it may be unconstitutional and requested that the revenues from Pay to Participate be removed from the Board's operating budget. Veronica Lenzen, 52 Woodhaven Drive, conveyed that with the recent problems with First Student (Trumbull's student transportation provider) as noted in the newspapers, the Board and/or Superintendent should provide parents with written correspondence on how the problems are being addressed and what the district is doing to ensure student safety on school buses. Ms. Lenzen also provided the Board with information on a product to control ticks/rodents in response to a letter sent to parents/guardians regarding ticks and how the district is addressing the issue.

#### Agenda Item VI – Old Business

A. 2012-13 Final Budget Action—Superintendent Iassogna conveyed that at their April 10, 2012 meeting, the Board approved 3 resolutions to be forwarded to the Town utilizing Connecticut State Statute 10-248a as the vehicle to provide a maximum of 1% in unspent Board monies to be added to its 2012-13 budget. Board action was contingent upon the Town Council approving the First Selectman's and Board of Finance's request of 3.47% increase for next year, and such approval was reached at the Council's April 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Directly related to the above actions, the Board of Finance set the machinery in motion for the Board to receive on July 1, 2012 unexpended monies in the Board's 2011-12 accounts, with such monies, a maximum of \$875,000, to be deposited in the Board of Education non-lapsing account established by the Town for the exclusive use of the Board of Education. In accordance with these actions, the Board of Education's budget request of 5.07% must be reduced from the total Town ultimate appropriation of 4.47%. As such .6% or \$525,000 must be reduced at this time, resulting in the amount of \$91,353,623, a 4.47% increase for the 2012-13 budget. Mr. Iassogna conveyed his appreciation of the monies allocated to the Board and noted the monies will be used wisely and appropriately. He noted that positions being eliminated were new positions in the 2012-13 budget and recommended the following reductions to achieve the allocated funding: Curriculum Department \$125,000; 1.0 Data Specialist \$75,000; 0.4 Speech Clinician \$30,000; 0.6 ELL teacher \$45,000; and 0.5 Trumbull High Teacher \$37,500. He also conveyed that there would be some reconciliation in Transportation amounting to \$112,500 and electricity savings of \$100,000. It was moved (Labella) seconded (Herbst) to implement the reductions of \$525,000 as outlined in the Superintendent's recommendations in Agenda Item VI-A. Discussion ensued regarding items eliminated, transportation savings, electricity savings, and curriculum reductions. Mr. Iassogna reviewed transportation savings, also noting that the Curriculum Department would receive monies amounting to what the department spent in the 2011-12 school year, and those monies would be combined with grant monies to fund necessary items. Mr. Wright conveyed that Dr. Cialfi has done an excellent job in securing grant monies, especially given that Trumbull is not a priority district. Dr. Paslov briefly reviewed curriculum needs as it relates to mandates such as Common Core State Standards, NEASC accreditation review, and Student Success Plans. Business Manager Steve Sirico reviewed electricity savings. Mr. Kelly asked if the teacher salary account could be utilized to fund the eliminated .5 Trumbull High teacher and the curriculum department. Mr. Iassogna conveyed at this point in the budget process, he would not advise using

the teacher salary account as monies need to be available if additional teaching staff is needed due to increased enrollment. Mrs. Chory conveyed she supports full day kindergarten, and that due to the economic times, she thought a 4.47% increase in the Board budget was excessive but will support the motion. Mr. Wright stated that the increase of 3.47% and the supplemental [approximately \$875,000 to be carried over from the 2011-12 budget per Connecticut State Statute 10-248a] was supported by the First Selectman, Board of Finance, and the Town Council and the Board of Education will make do with what it receives since the Board's responsibility is to provide the children with a fair and appropriate education. Vote: 6 in favor (Herbst, Kelly, Labella, Seaman, Ward, Wright) 1 abstention (Chory). Motion passes.

At this time, Mrs. Labella requested under Agenda Item VII—Other, an update on the status of the initiative regarding consultants to review potential [Board/Town] efficiencies and shared services. As Mrs. Chory was involved with the interview process, she reported that the committee interviewed 4 consulting firms and a decision would be forthcoming in the next two weeks. Mrs. Labella also requested a copy of the RFP or similar document, outlining the expectations/duties of the consulting firm. Mr. Wright addressed the Pay to Participate fees, noting that in speaking with CABA (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education), towns having fees for athletics offered more opportunities for sports (i.e. freshman teams) than towns who fully fund sports teams and his preference is to provide as many opportunities possible for student involvement in school.

#### Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:20 p.m.