

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Budget Meeting – December 5, 2013
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:

Members absent:

D. Herbst, Chairperson
L. Chory, Vice Chairperson
R. Seaman, Secretary
J. Donofrio, Board Member
S. LaFrance, Board Member
J. Peddle, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Agenda Item I – Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m.

Agenda Item II – Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag. At this time, Board Chair Mrs. Herbst shared that a former district English teacher, James Higgins, passed away. Mrs. Seaman remarked that Mr. Higgins was an outstanding educator who was dedicated to lifelong learning.
- B. Correspondence – Mrs. Seaman conveyed that the Board received several emails in regard to the Trumbull High School (THS) spring musical, *Rent*.
- C. Comments – Barbara Distintie, parent and theater professional, stated her disappointment in the cancellation the THS spring musical, *Rent*, urged the Board/administration to reconsider their decision and asked the Board to make a public statement regarding this issue. Cindy Katske, parent, expressed her disappointment in the new protocols for speaking in Public Comment (time constraints and limitations on who can speak) and urged the Board to consider extending the time for individual comment to 3 minutes. Wynn Gadkar-Wilcox, parent and area university professor, expressed his concerns and disappointment in the reasons for the cancellation of *Rent*. Larissa Mark, student and THS Thespian Society president, expressed disappointment on behalf of many THS students in the cancellation of *Rent* and commented that students have offered to formulate a plan so the musical can be produced this spring. Denise Mather, parent, expressed her extreme disappointment in the Board of Education and administration for the manner in which the cancellation of the *Rent* was handled. Emily Ruchalski, student, spoke in support of *Rent*, citing its main themes are about tolerance, acceptance and love.

Agenda Item III – Consent Agenda

- A. Personnel—There have been no changes since the last Board meeting.

Agenda Item IV—Reports/Action Items

- A. 2014-15 Budget Presentation and Discussion—Superintendent Dr. Cialfi noted that tonight's discussion will focus on the budgets for Middle School, Curriculum, Plant Operations, Technology,

Assistant Superintendent and Athletics. With regard to the budget for middle schools, discussion centered on technology integration specialists, information processing curriculum, and the need for an additional middle school special education chairperson. Dr. Linda Paslov presented the Board with a synopsis of the Curriculum budget request. She reviewed the various areas including classroom supplies, testing, software, online subscriptions and texts/workbooks. Considerable discussion ensued regarding the substantial increase in classroom supplies, STEM program and materials, testing materials, online subscriptions, texts, curriculum writing and professional development. It was noted that many of the items requested are needed to support Common Core State Standards. Also discussed was the importance of technology integration specialists, next generation science standards, and assessments to be used for the Teacher Supervision, Evaluation, and Professional Learning Plan. Both Technology Manager Jeff Hackett and Business Manager Sean O'Keefe reviewed the Technology budget. Discussion centered on the number of computers, leasing of equipment, Smart Boards, age/replacement of computers and availability of WI-FI (wireless network) in all school buildings. Plant Supervisor Steve Kennedy reviewed Plant Operations noting the request is less than the previous year due to savings realized in utilities (electricity and gas). He also reviewed the need for an additional plant/maintenance position for Trumbull High School. Discussion ensued regarding a needs assessment for building/grounds maintenance; the \$2,500,000 earmarked for capital improvement projects; asbestos abatement; replacement of windows at Middlebrook Elementary and roof at Madison Middle School; wall repair/replacement at Madison; summer help; custodial overtime for activities in the schools; security cameras and swipe cards for all buildings; bid process for supplies/projects; and the timeline for the needs assessment report. Assistant Superintendent Dr. McGrath reviewed his budget and a brief discussion ensued regarding tuition for magnet programs and the safeguarding of student databases. Athletic Director Mike Herbst presented the Board with information regarding Athletic items and budget. He noted that the bulk of the increase is for contractual stipends for coaches and the need for track equipment. A brief discussion ensued regarding equalized stipends for coaches.

Agenda Item V – Other

There was no business under this agenda item.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:05 p.m.