

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Budget Meeting – December 8, 2016
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:

L. Chory, Chairman
S. Testani, Vice Chairman
L. Timpanelli, Secretary
J. Donofrio, Board Member
P. Lavoie, Board Member
M. Petitti, Board Member
M. Ward, Board Member

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – The Board received a letter from the PTA Presidents Collaboration Committee advocating for students in order to provide the best school district possible.
- C. Public Comments –Cher Day-Henig of 132 Teller Road read a letter to the Board from the PTA Presidents Collaboration Committee asking the Board to address students’ critical needs in the following areas: curriculum and professional development, foreign language, technology, and AP classes.
- D. Teacher Representative Oral Report – Mrs. Kathy Rubano reported on the following events at Trumbull schools: The Frenchtown kindergarten team was recognized at the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS) banquet for their science unit “Chick Open House”; the Thespian troupe at Trumbull High School performed its two fall plays; the Counseling Department hosted the Junior Post High School Planning Forum; the Math Department was selected to present at the ATOMIC Conference in Cromwell; the Science Department has begun preparing for the Forensics competition to be held in the spring; the THS Mock Trial team placed first in a state championship this week; the We the People team will be competing at the State Finals on December 9, 2016; and THS teacher, Scott Kaminski visited Google headquarters in New York and was presented with materials to help spread Computer Science education.
- E. Student Board Representatives –Mr. Dario Arganese reported on the following at THS: the recent success of the Mock Trial team; the Thanksgiving Day football game win that included fundraising for the senior class; the informational meeting held for the Friends of Appalachia; the We the People success as state champions; and the Student Council sponsored Angel Tree program.
- F. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Chory commended the Madison Middle School Band for their participation at the Holiday Tree Lighting which several board members attended at the Trumbull Town Green. She noted that Mr. Ward and Mrs. Timpanelli attended the RYASAP brunch; she attended the Writer’s Workshop info session for grades 3-5 at Frenchtown and thanked the current Board of Education members for their one year of dedication and service.
- G. Superintendent Report- Dr. Cialfi reported on the following:
 - The Trumbull Town Council has approved the Capital Improvement Plan for 2017-2018.
 - THS alumna, Taylor Auten, a freshman at Brown University, has been published in the Brown Political Review and Rachel Tropp, a freshman at Harvard, has been published in the Harvard Political Review.
 - The College and Career Forum is scheduled for January 4-5, 2017.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. Personnel – Superintendent Dr. Cialfi reported that there is one request for a leave of absence. Ashley Thoesen, special education teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since April 2008, is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay for the remainder of the 2016-2017 school year. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150. It was moved (Testani) and seconded (Donofrio) to approve this leave of absence as requested. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- B. Approval/Minutes – Regular Meeting, 11/29/2016
It was moved (Donofrio) and seconded (Timpanelli) to approve the minutes of the November 29, 2016 Regular Board of Education meeting as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.
- C. 2017-2018 Budget Presentation and Discussion
Part I - Dr. Cialfi began the overview of the 2017-2018 Board of Education (BOE) budget with a power point presentation. Items highlighted included the following: District’s Mission Statement, objectives and the teaching and learning resources required to achieve the District goal. The proposed budget totals \$102,670,247 which represents a 3.78% increase over our current budget year. The following proposed additional staffing include: 2.0 Grade 5 Spanish teachers, .5 SAT Prep position, and a 1.0 FTE Data Support position. In addition, the budget request includes five additional bus monitors for special education routes. There is a newly proposed tuition payment of \$288,000 from Bridgeport for Magnet school tuition for enrolled Trumbull students. The budget objective is to focus on preparing students for academic and developmental success with cost effective planning. Dr. Cialfi cited our District’s 2016 accomplishments and our look toward the future.

Part II – Mr. O’Keefe covered the highlights and assumptions of the proposed Superintendent’s budget and a comprehensive list of drivers by account along with variance detail. The analysis included information regarding priority staffing requests, a provision for recently announced tuition for students attending the Fairchild Wheeler and Discovery Magnet Schools, the funding of the Performance Contracting Lease payments from savings in electricity and natural gas, and the phase-out of “Pay to Play” for Athletics and Elementary Band/Strings. In addition, Mr. O’Keefe explained that he had reviewed the Teacher Substitute account actuals as of November 30, 2016 and based on this new information which showed a significant reduction year to year, that it was reasonable for the Board to consider reducing the requested amount for 2017-2018 by \$100,000 to \$706,000. With regard to a number of PPS and Transportation accounts that received a 2016-2017 budget transfer which was approved by the Board on November 29, Mr. O’Keefe reported that it was possible that the exposures in these accounts could continue in 2017-2018.

Part III – Dr. Budd presented the proposed budget for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessments. The major drivers of the \$196,060 increase include text and workbooks, classroom supplies, curriculum writing and professional development. Dr. Budd emphasized the need for all students to meet challenges of increased rigor driven by core standards.

Part IV – Divisions- Digital Learning and Technology

Christina Hefele, Director of Digital Learning discussed the proposed budget for Digital Learning. The proposed increase of \$14,116 includes purchased services and an additional 1.0 staffing request for a data support position.

Jeffrey Hackett, Manager of Technology, discussed the proposed budget for Technology. The proposed increase of \$119,635 (represents an 18.04% increase over our current budget year) that includes lease payments for computer equipment (including Chromebooks for the Middle School 1:1 program), other professional services (e-mail archiving system) and WAN connections (Connecticut Education Network [CEN] Internet charges).

Part V – Elementary & TECEC

Elementary Principals: Mrs. Mary Ellen Bolton, Mrs. Patricia Frillici, Mr. Gary Kunschaft, Mrs. Jennifer Neumeyer, Mrs. Jackie Norcel, Mr. Dana Pierce and Dr. Matthew Wheeler from TECEC were present to discuss the elementary and TECEC proposed budget.

The proposed increase of \$27,927 for Elementary Schools includes an increase of 6.0 interns, one per elementary school, that would be offset with a reduction to the Teacher Substitute account; reductions in Classroom Supplies and Instructional Equipment to help fund Project Lead The Way; and an increase in Computer Lease costs in the Technology budget. Dr. Wheeler spoke to the Board about the probable increased enrollment at TECEC and the associated requirements. The proposed increase of \$3,150 indicates a 4.85% increase over last year’s budget.

Part VI – Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Michael McGrath presented the proposed recommended budget for 2017-2018 for the Assistant Superintendent's office. The major driver of the \$236,260 increase was the newly announced \$288,000 tuition fee from Bridgeport for students attending the Fairchild Wheeler and Discovery Magnet Schools.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:20 p.m.