

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Budget Meeting – December 3, 2020  
**Via Audio/Video Conferencing**

The Trumbull Board of Education met via video/audio conference for a Budget Meeting.

Members present:

L. Timpanelli, Board Chairman  
T. Gallo, Vice Chairman  
J. Norcel, Board Secretary  
S. Kerr  
A. Palo  
M. Petitti  
M. Ward

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Recognition - Outgoing Policy Committee Members- Dr. Budd, Mr. Gallo  
Dr. Budd and Mr. Gallo thanked the following parents: Michael Buswell, Jeffrey Mullins and JeTaya Ortiz and community members: Anthony Iannini and Michelle Malone for their valued service in their two-year term in the Policy Committee.
- C. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel read the following correspondence:  
Gloria Manna would like clarity on closing school protocols, Jessica Miller; an educator and Booth Hill parent, recommends we send grade K -2 students back to the classroom, Cheryl Pontonio; a Trumbull teacher, is concerned with COVID19 cases increasing.
- D. Public Comments-
- Mrs. Tesoro shared her gratitude to Dr. Budd and thanked him for his hard work and dedication to our Trumbull schools. Mrs. Tesoro also praised our teachers, staff members and parents as we navigate our education process through this challenging time.
  - Dr. Budd addressed the Board to thank them for their support over the past 5 years and stated that the work he has accomplished is based on the remarkable team in place at Trumbull Public Schools.
- E. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel reported on the following:
- The district will reopen on December 7, 2020 with in-classroom learning and remote learning will continue to be an option. He asks that all students and staff be careful to reduce risk when in and outside of school. Our paramount concern is keeping students and staff safe as we enforce strict mitigation strategies as outlined by the Health Department.

- We extend all our best wishes to Dr. Budd in his new position and we are grateful for the time he has spent in Trumbull. The district is in the process of interviewing for a new Assistant Superintendent.
- Trumbull has received the first payment of \$521,000 from the COVID19 Relief fund.
- Dr. Semmel encourages the public to participate in the budget process, all details and budget meetings are online. Please see our website under Board of Education then click on budget.

F. Board Chairman Report - Mrs. Timpanelli

Board Chair Lucinda Timpanelli wished Dr. Budd congratulations in his new position. She thanked him for his diligent work in moving the Trumbull district forward. His many contributions have made a difference to our students and we sincerely thank him and wish him well.

G. Teacher BOE Representatives Report

- Teacher Representative Matt Bracksieck offered congratulations to Dr. Budd in his new endeavor.
- Teachers appreciate the necessity of closing school. There are teachers who wish to remain remote at this time due to the spike in COVID19 cases.
- Teachers are grateful to the district for the addition of several new technologies to assist in remote learning and have noticed an increase in student engagement.
- The TEA is requesting that Business teachers be considered teachers of a “major academic subject”, and have their course load reduced to 5 classes per day starting in the 2021-2022 school year.
- There have been several more instances of classes being interrupted by hate speech on Google Meets. Administration is alerted and will look to investigate and stop this behavior.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval Minutes – Regular Meeting 11/10/2020

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the above minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations:

Budd, Jonathan, Dr.; Assistant Superintendent since July 2015, resigning effective December 13, 2020.

Fedell, Margaret; special education teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 1995, retiring effective January 29, 2021.

Dr. Semmel presented the following non-certified resignation/retirement:

Stephanie Piazza; secretary at Trumbull High School since September 1998, retiring effective November 27, 2020.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to accept the above resignations/retirement as presented. Vote: all in favor.

Dr. Semmel presented one rescission of retirement:

On November 10, 2020, the Board accepted a June 2021 retirement letter from Lauren Paklaian, science teacher at Madison Middle School since August 1999. Mrs. Paklaian is requesting that the Board accept rescission of her letter as she intends to return to teaching for the 2021-22 school year.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Kerr) to approve the rescission of retirement for Lauren Paklaian as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Dr. Semmel presented one request for personal leave of absence:

Papageorge, Belinda; English teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2001, is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay effective November 24 through June 30, 2021. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above personal leave of absence as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Approval/Policy Committee Advisory Members – Mrs. Timpanelli, Mr. Gallo

The Board of Education announced via a press release dated October 23, 2020, and at its meeting on October 27, 2020, that it was seeking three (3) parents or guardians of Trumbull Public Schools students and two (2) community members, who must be Trumbull residents, to serve as advisory members of the Board Policy Committee. The following have been chosen to serve on the Committee:

Parents/Guardians: Efralim Diaz, Katie Lynn, Cassandra Perrone

Community Members: Roy Fuchs, Amanda Harmon

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Palo) to approve the above recommended members of the Policy Committee as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Policy Committee – Mr. Gallo

Dr. Budd presented the following policy:

Second Reading

1. Face Coverings, Policy Number 5141.9

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the above second reading policy as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Curriculum Committee Report – Mr. Ward

Approval/Curriculum Guides – Dr. Budd

1. Honors Algebra II
2. Anatomy & Physiology
3. Italian II
4. Advanced Placement Spanish Language & Culture

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above new curriculum guides as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. 2021-2022 Budget Presentation & Discussion – Dr. Semmel, Mr. Hendrickson, Staff

Part I – Introduction

- Overview- Dr. Semmel presented the 2021-2022 BOE budget that emphasizes the District goals: safety, teaching and learning, communication, and social justice. The proposed budget totals \$113,321,745 which represents a 3.94% increase over the approved 2020-2021 budget. In order to rebuild our schools, the Superintendent’s proposal includes additional net staffing which is comprised of:
- 1.0 Math Interventionist for Middle Schools
  - 0.5 Math Specialist for Elementary Schools
  - 1.0 Literacy Consultant for Elementary Schools
  - Bi-Lingual Tutor – State Requirement (unfunded state mandate)
  - 1.0 Wellness Teacher at THS – State Requirement (unfunded state mandate)
  - 1.0 Teacher at Frenchtown – (due to increased enrollment)
  - 1.0 Psychologist
  - 1.0 Speech and Language
  - 0.5 Special Education Teacher for Booth Hill
  - Director of Human Resources
  - Director of Operations
  - Data Support Specialist

Dr. Semmel reviewed projected enrollment data and cited potential personnel changes/reductions based on 2021-2022 enrollment numbers in our schools and spoke of the critical need for our Trumbull staff to strengthen student achievement and student well-being. Our budget objective is to focus on preparing students for academic and developmental success with cost effective planning with a look toward the future.

- Financial Summary- Mr. Hendrickson covered the highlights of the Superintendent’s budget request and presented explanations for significant year to year variances. The highlights of the analysis included information regarding an increase in health insurance = 6.0%. The primary budget drivers for the proposed increase are benefits, transportation and staffing changes.
- Health Insurance- Mr. Hendrickson presented the proposed budget for Health Insurance that reflects a \$1,466,548 increase over last year’s budget to equal a 9.69% increase. Year to year medical rates increase assumed at 6.0%.

Part II – Budget by Object - Mr. Hendrickson provided a review of accounts with material year to year movements that were noteworthy to the Board. Of the \$4.2M total year to year increase, \$2.2M is attributable to Salary and Benefits; all other expenses (net) make up the remaining \$2M and include Transportation, Outplaced Tuition and Energy and Utilities. All other includes payment to settle Bridgeport magnet school tuition dispute.

Part III – Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Jonathan Budd

Dr. Budd presented the proposed budget that reflects a \$150,725 increase (39.2%) over the approved 2020-2021 budget. The increase includes outgoing tuition (Bridgeport magnet school tuition), curriculum writing, textbooks and online subscriptions. Staffing changes reflect an in-district request for a bi-lingual tutor that is a state requirement and an unfunded mandate.

Part IV – Technology & Digital Learning – Mr. Jeffrey Hackett, Ms. Christina Hefele

Mr. Hackett presented the proposed budget for Technology that reflects a \$114,061 increase (9.5%) over the approved 2020-2021 budget. The increase includes equipment (computers, smartboards), software and maintenance contracts.

Ms. Hefele presented the proposed budget for Digital Learning that reflects a \$8,518 decrease from the approved 2020-2021 budget. There is a staffing request for a 1.0 FTE Data Support Specialist to help improve our data system that is an unfunded mandate.

Part V - Elementary Schools – Mr. Gary Kunschafft,

Mr. Kunschafft presented the proposed budget that reflects a \$57,626 increase (9.2%) from the approved 2020-2021 budget. The increase includes library books, furniture and parts. Staffing changes reflect an addition of 0.5 FTE Math Specialist, 1.0 FTE Literacy Consultant and 0.5 FTE Special Education Teacher at Booth Hill.

Part VI – Middle Schools – Mr. Bryan Rickert, Mr. Peter Sullivan

Mr. Rickert and Mr. Sullivan presented the proposed budget that reflects a \$13,299 increase (4.7%) from the approved 2020-2021 budget. The increase includes library books and activities. Staffing changes include the addition of a 1.0 FTE Math Interventionist.

Mr. Gallo made a motion to add approval and rate of the Bank of America loan issue to the agenda. Mrs. Norcel seconded. Vote: unanimous in favor.

Mr. Hendrickson presented the details. A discussion ensued.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the resolution for the technology loan with Bank of America. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:57 p.m.