

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

I. Agenda Item I—Call to Order

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

II. Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.

B. Correspondence – Mrs. Norcel reported: Frank Squiccimarro, Jonathan Dizney, Janel Volpicelli, Shannon Diaz and Aarika Friend want to thank Dr. Semmel for his transparent budget process and adding back many line items that were cut last year. Elaine Durbano, Chris Chase, Shannon Diaz all support our reopening plan. Mary Harriau asks please restore all positions that were cut last year. Melissa Usseglio is concerned about the future of TPS. Aarika Friend and Kristine Saccone are concerned with crowding at Booth Hill. Erin Morelli thanks teachers and staff for their hard work.

C. Public Comment - Cat Lamy read a statement from the PTSA in support of Dr. Semmel’s presented budget. Board to approve the budget as presented; Jenn Record thanks Trumbull staff for their dedication to our children and supports the Superintendent’s budget.

D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel reported:

- Dr. Semmel would like to thank the Trumbull teachers and staff for their incredible work; they are our heroes and are truly making a difference each and every day.
- The Health Department encourages us to make sure that mask-wearing efforts remain a priority. During cold weather, classroom windows should only be cracked open and your classroom door should remain open. This should provide an appropriate level of ventilation when applied to the rest of the suite of strategies. Please do not open your windows fully and freeze everyone in the classroom.
- “Google Bombings” have been an issue for some staff. Every incident that the district has been made aware of has been investigated. We have shared training for all

teachers on how to eliminate unwanted visitors through Google Host Controls. Any teacher who needs additional training on these host controls should reach out to their building principal or tech integration specialist for support.

- He asks that you all take good care of yourself during this time and make sure that you are following all mitigation strategies. Together we will continue to provide a strong education to all students in a safe manner.

E. Board Chairman Report - There was no report at this evening's meeting.

F. Student BOE Representatives Report - Student Reps Gabriella Biondi and Jack Allen reported on events at THS: the great turnout for Spirit Week; Student Council is sponsoring a toy drive for the Salvation Army, PTSA is sponsoring a Krispy Kreme fundraiser; the Gratitude Challenge is a way for students to express their thanks. Students are expressing their thanks for the safe learning environment and the spring musical will begin rehearsals.

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded by (Norcel) to add the approval of the Five-Year Capital Plan Request to this evening's agenda. Vote: All in favor.

III. Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

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

Part VII – Trumbull High School & Athletics – Mr. Marc Guarino, Mr. Todd Manuel, Mr. Michael King

THS - Mr. Guarino, Mr. Manuel

Mr. Guarino presented the proposed budget that reflects a proposed budget increase of \$11,605 or 1.8% over the approved 2020-2021 budget. The increase includes library books and activities-advisors and competitions. Staffing in district request is a (1.0 FTE) Wellness Teacher.

Athletics-Mr. King

Mr. King presented the proposed budget that reflects a \$42,014 increase (4.6%) over the approved 2020-2021 budget. The increase includes coaches and transportation.

Part VIII – PPS Department and TECEC – Dr. Tammy Hartman, Dr. Matthew Wheeler

PPS Department-Dr. Hartman

Dr. Hartman presented the proposed budget that reflects a \$1,885 (0.03%) increase over the approved 2020-2021 budget. The increase includes consultants due to new state requirements and testing materials. For 2021-2022, there are projected decreases in outplaced tuition, para extra time, and legal fees. There are staffing requests for 1.0 FTE Psychologist, 1.0 FTE Speech and Language Pathologist and 1.0 FTE Special Education Teacher at Booth Hill.

TECEC-Dr. Wheeler

Dr. Wheeler presented the proposed budget that reflects a decrease of -\$8,800 or 31.8% over the approved 2020- 2021 budget that includes decreases in purchased services, printing and classroom supplies.

Part IX – Facilities Department – Mr. John Morello

Mr. Morello presented the proposed budget that reflects a \$300,058 increase (8.6%) over the approved 2020-2021 budget that includes increases in utilities, equipment (custodial), improvements to site (asbestos removal, generator panels), HVAC equipment and vehicles.

Part X – Transportation – Mrs. Dawn Perkins

Mrs. Perkins presented the proposed budget that reflects a \$917,209 increase (large year to year increase due to taking \$900K credit for 2019-2020 in 2020-2021) over the approved 2020- 2021 budget that includes increases in regular routes and Special Ed in district.

- IV. Other- Approval of Five-Year Capital Request (2021-2025)- Mr. Morello, Mr. Kerr
Facilities Supervisor John Morello presented the proposed capital improvements for the calendar years 2021-2025. Mr. Kerr then detailed the proposed improvements for 2021 for each TPS building and the Board discussed each improvement and the associated cost.

It was moved (Palo) and seconded (Gallo) to add \$35,000 for design of the THS weight room to the Capital Request for the fiscal year 2021. The Capital Request total for 2021 changes from \$7,184,000 to \$7,219,000. Vote: All in favor.

It was moved (Kerr) and seconded (Norcel) to defer the Middlebrook roof replacement from 2021 to 2022. Vote: In favor- Kerr. Against-Gallo, Petitti, Timpanelli, Ward, Norcel, Palo. Motion fails.

It was moved (Ward) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the proposed Five-Year Capital Request plan as presented. Vote: All in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:02 p.m.