

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Budget Meeting – January 11, 2024

The Trumbull Board of Education met for a Budget Meeting at the Long Hill Administration Building.

Members present:

L. Timpanelli - Chairman
J. Norcel – Vice Chair
L. Nuland - Secretary
C. Bandecchi
T. Gallo - online
J. McNamee
M. Petitti
A. Squicciarro - online

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland read the following correspondence: The Daniels Farm PTA expressed their support for the budget as presented. Gracie and Rob Sassano also support the Superintendent’s budget and late school start times. Amy Congdon and Lauren O’Keefe have class size concerns in the upper elementary school grades.
- C. Public Comment - There was no public comment this evening.
- D. Superintendent Report - There was no report this evening.
- E. Board Chairman Report – There was no report this evening.
- F. Teacher Board Representative Report
Teacher Board Representative John Congdon wishes everyone a Happy New Year. Teachers are looking forward to a new evaluation plan next year and a favorable budget. Our membership does an amazing job with student teachers and as mentors to non-tenured teachers. We send a warm welcome to newly hired teachers in our District.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. 2024-2025 Budget Presentation & Discussion (Continuation)

Part VIII - Elementary Schools – Mrs. Jennifer Neumeyer

Mrs. Neumeyer stated the importance of the literary and math specialists and the critical role they play at our elementary schools. She urged the Board to include these essential specialists in this year’s budget now that the ESSER grant is due to expire.

Mrs. Neumeyer presented the proposed budget that reflects a \$38,042 decrease (-7.68%) over the 2023-2024 budget. The decrease includes texts and workbooks, classroom equipment and classroom supplies.

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

Mr. Rickert and Mr. Sullivan presented the proposed budget that reflects a \$15,075 decrease (- 5.74%) over the 2023-2024 budget. The decrease includes classroom supplies, textbooks, library periodicals and activities-advisors.

Part X – Facilities Department – Mr. David Cote

Mr. Cote presented the proposed budget that reflects a \$83,680 increase (2.48%) over the 2023-2024 budget. The increase includes electricity, supplies, equipment, repairs and service fees.

Part XI – PPS Department and TECEC – Dr. Dean Catalano, Dr. Matthew Wheeler

Mr. Catalano discussed the rationale behind this year’s budget request for PPS. Students with disabilities have increased with an estimation that at the start of the 2024-2025 school year, TPS will have approximately 1,080 students with disabilities enrolled. In order to focus on program improvement and statutory compliance, Mr. Catalano presented the staffing requests for 2024-2025 as follows:

Administrative Positions

- 0.51 FTE Mental Health Supervisor (0.49 FTE of salary supplemented with IDEA funds)
- 1.0 FTE Supervisor of Elementary Special Education (in lieu of 1.0 FTE Elementary/SRP Department Chair)

Mr. Catalano presented the proposed budget for Pupil Personnel Services that reflects a \$964,476 decrease (-19.61%) over the 2023-2024 budget. The decrease includes excess cost reimbursement (ECR), outplaced tuition and service contracts.

Dr. Wheeler presented the proposed budget for TECEC that reflects a \$1,890 decrease (- 4.62%) over the 2023-2024 budget. The decrease includes classroom supplies and other purchased services.

To conclude this evening’s meeting, Dr. Semmel stated the essentials of this budget proposal and our goal to maintain our excellence at Trumbull Public Schools. He also explained the negative impact if the budget is not fully funded.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:00 p.m.