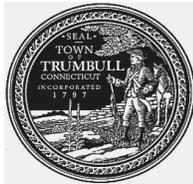


TOWN COUNCIL  
**Town of Trumbull**  
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Trumbull Town Council  
MINUTES  
December 14, 2011

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman Carl A. Massaro, Jr. called the special meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. at the Trumbull Town Hall. All present joined in a moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: The clerk called the roll and recorded it as follows:

PRESENT

David R. Pia	Ann Marie Evangelista	James Blose
Suzanne S. Testani	Jeff S. Jenkins	
Chadwick Ciocci	Carl A. Massaro, Jr.	John A. DelVecchio, Jr.
James F. Meisner	Tony J. Scinto	Debra A. Lamberti (arrived 7:51 p.m.)
Jeffrey Donofrio	Mark LeClair	Martha A. Jankovic-Mark
Gregg Basbagill	Fred Palmieri, Jr.	Vicki Tesoro
Thomas Whitmoyer	Jane Deyoe	Kristy Waizenegger

ABSENT: Michael J. London

ALSO PRESENT: Chief of Staff Mr. Daniel Nelson, Chief and PTSA Council President Lanie McHugh.

The Chair welcomed and introduced the returning and new Town Council members.

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1. RESOLUTION TC24-1: Moved by Mr. Ciocci, seconded by Mr. Pia.

BE IT RESOLVED, WHEREAS, The Town of Trumbull maintains the Town of Trumbull Retirement Plan (the "Plan") for the benefit of certain employees of the Town of Trumbull and the Board of Education of the Town of Trumbull; and

WHEREAS it is desirable that the Plan be amended in order to incorporate certain changes required by the Internal Revenue Service in connection with the issuance of a favorable determination letter regarding the plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That Amendment No. 2 to the Plan in the form presented to this meeting be, and hereby is, approved and adopted, together with such modifications as in the opinion of counsel for the Town of Trumbull are necessary or desirable to effectuate the intention thereof and to comply with the requirements of the internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; and further

RESOLVED: That any official of the Town of Trumbull and the Board of Education of the Town of Trumbull be, and each of them hereby is, authorized and empowered for and on behalf of the Town of Trumbull and the Board of Education of the Town of Trumbull to execute Amendment No. 2 to the Plan and to do anything else that may be necessary or desirable to effectuate the intention of the foregoing resolution.

Mr. Nelson explained that the approval of the amendment is a requirement for the issuance of a favorable determination letter from the IRS; an employee retirement plan qualified under the Internal Revenue Code under section 401 A is entitled to a favorable tax treatment. The letter was issued in October 2011, under IRS regulations the Town has 90 days to get the determination letter, therefore the resolution needs to be approved by January 2, 2012. The BoE will be meeting later in the month to act upon the amendment.

In response to Ms. Mark, Mr. Nelson stated that Attorney Galliete was not present at this meeting. This was a necessary step in the process and could not speak to why it was not executed in May 2010. The BoE will be acting on this resolution between Christmas and the New Year.

In response to Mr. Palmieri, Mr. Nelson explained the ramification of this resolution not passing would affect tax benefits and the tax exempt status it could be detrimental. Ms. Mark agreed explaining that it would be possible that it would not be a qualified plan any longer.

VOTE: Resolution ADOPTED unanimously.

The Chair explained that this meeting was originally noticed as a Tri-Board meeting with the Town Council, Board of Education and the Board of Finance. Multiple Board of Education and staff members were unable to attend. The Tri-Board portion of this meeting will not be taking place and will be rescheduled for December 29, 2011.

The BoE Budget had been included as a discussion item on the agenda. The Chair had received an e-mail with regard to The ABC's of the BoE the Trumbull Education Budget and invited Lanie McHugh to this evening's to give the presentation to the full Town Council.

DISCUSSION ITEM: 2012-2013 Board of Education Budget:

Ms. McHugh stated that the PTSA Council's goal for this year is to start the discussion on the budget with a level playing field. This presentation was started last year; it was given 17 times and over 8,000 brochures were given out. Ms. McHugh presented the power point to the full Town Council; an overview of the presentations is as follows:

- **Timeline** of the budget process was reviewed.

- **Funding Sources** - 2.4% is Federal, 5.3% is State and 90.1% is funded by local taxes, (2.2% is tuition and other sources). The fact that Trumbull is 90.1 % funded locally is different from many other communities around Trumbull. Trumbull is supposed to be 40% funded for their special education but are only being reimbursed at a 10% rate because there is not enough money to go around.  
(Ms. Lamberti arrived at 7:51 p.m.)
- **The Operating Budget** includes what it costs to run the school on a day to day basis. Salary and Benefits equals 80% of the overall BoE Budget. The THS Renovation is not included in the BoE budget.
- **The BoE Budget** is one line item in the Town Budget, it is the largest line item. The 2011-2012 fiscal year Town Budget is \$140,444,325; \$87,444,839 is the BoE Operating Budget representing 62% of the overall Town Budget. 80% of the Education Budget is salary and benefits; these are fixed and contractual costs.
- **\$5,118,678 equals the BoE discretionary spending** inclusive of staff in the classroom and all of which the students see in the classrooms.
- **Enrollment** has stayed static over a 5-year period, personnel has increased by 30 (state mandated i.e. paraprofessionals for special ed.). Elementary enrollment is going down, but middle school and high school student numbers will continue to grow over the next 5-7 years.
- **Full Day Kindergarten** is supported but in light of the fact that the budget had been decreased by \$2,075,839 the question that will need to be asked is, “Does that represent items that are more important than full day kindergarten?”
- **DRG - District Reference Group** - Trumbull ranks 11 out of 21. The state needs to look at these classification systems and what communities Trumbull is compared to. Trumbull’s per pupil expenditure is 4<sup>th</sup> from the bottom, we are spending less than every body else except Stratford, Shelton and Newtown. Trumbull’s students are performing well and ranking well. Trumbull is doing this the right way and cost efficiently compared to other communities in our DRG.
- **Terminology** - The superintendent has changed the terminology used during the budget process discussion in hope that it will make it clearer to all, (i.e. *core budget* will be used instead of the phrase *status quo*).  
**Core Budget** - What it will cost to replicate what is being done now next year.  
**Budget Request** - What it will take to replicate what is being done now plus any new mandates from the state and anything that needs to be replaced that had been eliminated from the previous budget and any new initiatives, i.e. full day kindergarten. A special appropriation was requested based upon the \$477,056 returned to the town by the BoE. The BoE came in at less than 1% of an \$87 million budget. The BoE is the most transparent board and are doing an efficient job with what they are given.
- **NEASC** - A mandated accreditation is coming in 2013.
- **Funding Cliff** - Items normally paid for from the operating budget but have been moved out of the operating budget and are being paid for sources that may not be available in the next budget year.
- **Unfunded Mandates** - Federal or State level requirements for all public schools with either no federal or state dollars or partially federal or state funded. New for 2011-2012 are the Anti-Bullying, transportation and special education to name a few laws

enacted. Costs are escalating; children who are more medically fragile are attending school.

The PTSA Council wants people to read, attend meetings and reach out, join the PTSA and the PTA.

The full pdf version of this power point is available on-line at: [www.trumbullps.org/pta/budgetguide](http://www.trumbullps.org/pta/budgetguide)

In response to Mr. DelVecchio, Ms. McHugh explained the cost for special education is not based upon per pupil expenditure; there are students who receive different services. The cost can not be broken down per pupil. The BoE budget can be broken down line item by line item inclusive of the \$5 million discretionary spending.

In response to a question from Mr. Pia, Ms. McHugh stated that he could speak with Dr. Cialfi who would be able to explain how the unfunded mandates are broken out. The question to ask is what and where are they imbedded in? Mr. Pia stated that the ECS formula is difficult to understand and questioned if anyone has challenged the formula? Trumbull gets 5% funding from the state while Bridgeport gets 85%. Ms. McHugh stated the question has been asked but has not gotten an answer and hopes to go to the state with this. Ms. McHugh further explained that Monroe who has half the number of students as Trumbull gets twice as much funding.

In response to Ms. Testani, Ms. McHugh explained the issue with students that do not reside in Trumbull but are attending Trumbull schools has been addressed. The district has made great strides; there have been several students that have been removed from the school system. Every community has that problem. This can be discussed further with the superintendent's office.

In response to a question from Mr. Jenkins, Ms. McHugh stated that the school climate specialist is the new mandate this year and is directly connected to the anti-bullying law enacted.

In response to Mr. Palmieri, Ms. McHugh stated the ERA money received last year before was 5.6% of the overall budget. That percentage fluctuates year to year. In Trumbull it has been consistent that more than 90% has come from local tax dollars. We are more like Westport and Weston than the communities we are competing against; the comparison the state uses is flawed. The strategic school profile will give you information on CMT scores, CAPT testing. The on-line pdf has references to that information.

In response to Ms. Lamberti, Ms. McHugh stated that all students who come into the district are assessed from day one, some may be behind, some may be ahead; the enrollment is going to be different than it has been; the needs to the school system may change over the next few years.

Ms. Tesoro suggested one addition to the power point; to clarify the enrollment by adding a breakdown of the enrollment by elementary, middle school and high school and to correlate the staff with those numbers.

In response to the Chair, Ms. McHugh explained that the dollar allocations, (i.e. special education), is compiled by the Assistant Superintendent's office and directly from the state. The pdf includes the actual references and where all the data comes from. All of the slides are embedded in the pdf, the

narrative also explains the mandates, where they come from, the strategic school profile is included in the pdf but not in the presentation.

Mr. Pia stated that Bridgeport does have the hospitals and prison although \$.42 of every dollar we spend of our taxes as Trumbull residents goes directly to Bridgeport. Ms. McHugh added that Trumbull gets \$.05 back on every dollar spent.

Mr. Ciocci stated that that government has grown too big and too complex when educated people can not figure out a formula such as this, the cost sharing formula should be eliminated.

Mr. Meisner spoke against that Monroe receives twice as much funding as Trumbull, but has half the amount students and would like to see more statistics amongst those lines.

In response to Mr. Pia, Ms. McHugh stated that no one understands the ECS formula; the superintendent understands what is received from the state and what he has to work with. The Chair stated that this topic could be discussed further at the Tri-Board meeting.

There being no further business to discuss and upon motion made by Mr. Mesiner, seconded by Ms. Deyoe the Trumbull Town Council adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Margaret D. Mastroni  
Trumbull Town Council Clerk