

**BOARD OF FINANCE  
Public Budget Hearing  
February 16, 2012**

**Members Present:**

Elaine Hammers, Chairman	Dave Rutigliano
Tom Tesoro	Paul Lavoie
Andrew Palo	Cindy Penkoff, Alternate

The First Public Hearing on the First Selectman's Proposed Budget for 2012-2013 was called to order at 7:00 PM at Trumbull High School. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Chairman welcomed all to the first Board of Finance Public Budget Hearing.

**Name/Address/Comment**

Lainie McHugh

132 Fresh Meadow Drive

- In favor of FTK; however, worried that a reduction on the percentage allocated to BOE will create a funding cliff.
- 3.47% is a good point to start; however, don't sacrifice other programs to FTK.

Cindy Katske

129 Meadowview Drive

- Proposed increase of 3.47% with unspent funds is enough - she is skeptical.
- Funding of FTK must be sustainable.
- Worried about BOE funds being cut.
- Number of teachers has not grown exponentially; seniors not able to take 2 science classes.
- Do not have a full time technology teacher; there is a great need for one; must share with middle schools.
- Do not have SAT Prep Course.
- Guidance counselors have more students per counselor than other school districts and are spending more time on needs of children.

Art Mikucki

85 Canterbury Lane

- FTK is subsidized babysitting.
- Early education article mentioned that all advantages of FTK is lost by second grade.
- Still tough times; teachers only gave up one year of increases.
- Taxpayers have sacrificed enough.
- Debt service on new high school indicates we need to cut back.

Tony D'Aquila

29 Valley View Road

- Town officials are not running the town efficiently.
- Supplemental appropriation of \$477,000 not used to reinstate reading teachers as recommended by the superintendent, instead Board of Finance reinstated sports.
- CAPT scores showed reading problems but it was more important to have sports.
- We need more education leaders, not politicians.

Dana Misner  
73 Stoneleigh Road

- In favor of FTK.
- How can we balance the needs of parents and students.
- She will send the BOF a list of advantages to having FTK.
- Children need to know how to read before entering first grade.
- Every \$1 invested yields a \$3 return.
- Families are attracted to towns with FTK.
- Thinks that 16 bake shop classes instead of science classes is a bit much.

John Pappas  
85 Botsford Place

- Moved to Trumbull in 2010; taxes were in line; high quality of living and education system.
- Believes that new FTK is great; recently had first child.
- Agrees with Tim in budget amount; however, since Ralph indicated enrollment is steadily declining, why are we add or restore additional teachers.
- Understands wanting to bring back what was lost; but can this be done without over hiring since the trend shows a decline in enrollment.

Lainie McHugh  
132 Freshmeadow Drive

- Trend is declining; however, in the higher school levels it is not.
- Trumbull has stayed flat; we haven't seen any declining enrollment yet.
- 16 bake shop classes are only 1/2 year.
- We offer a diverse and vigorous selection of courses.
- When comparing towns, we need to make sure all variables are the same.

The Chairman indicated that the BOF has no input as to how the BOE spends their funds. They can change their mind as to how they do spend money even if we respond to a different request. They move funds around. We can only recommend; we cannot force.

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Phyllis Collier, Board of Finance Clerk