

BOARD OF FINANCE
Public Budget Hearing
February 25, 2012

Members Present:

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

The Second Public Hearing on the First Selectman's Proposed Budget for 2012-2013 was called to order at 10:00 AM at Trumbull High School. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Name/Address/Comment

Art Mikucki
85 Canterbury Lane

- Current bad economic times; people are suffering.
- Not in favor of FTK; subsidized babysitting in the amount of \$847,000. FTK does not prepare children for first grade; 1/2 time is spent in lunch, recess and nap time. What would they gain for that amount of money.
- Need to start a voucher program with private schools.
- Tax payers have sacrificed enough; \$65m for high school alone; \$10m for the auditorium.
- Teachers have not done enough to help in these tough economic times.

Richard White
169 Church Hill Road

- Spoke in support of the Town Redistricting Committee.
- Currently have 10 split districts soon to be 12.
- Goal of committee is to remove unnecessary split districts to reduce voter costs and confusion.
- Plan presented by Vicki Tesoro meets this goal and preserves 7 districts.
- Feels that reduction of split districts should result in at least 20% reduction in variable costs of budget item 0101401800.

Veronica Lenzen
52 Woodhaven Drive

- In full support of FTK; from birth to 6 years children are susceptible to learning.
- Money saved by not sending child to day care or kindergarten can be spent in town.
- Find children with special needs sooner for intervention.

Shannon McCoy
51 Koger Road

- In support of FTK; if not offered, I will have to pay for it, and will probably need to leave Trumbull.
- If implemented it will attract more people to Trumbull.

Lainie McHugh
132 Fresh Meadow Drive

- In favor of FTK; extensive studies have shown it is the right thing for Trumbull.

Kerry Malzewski
163 Blackhouse Road

- In support of FTK.
- \$500,000 spent on the concession stand approved by the Town Council is considered a capital improvement.
- Funds should be spent on education.

Kathy Dornbush
43 Linley Road

- She noted that Ralph Iassogna promoted the comparison of schools when he indicated that in a comparison of the ERG towns, the cost per student for Trumbull is less than other towns.

Tony D'Aquila
29 Valley View Road

- Unused funds are to be returned to the towns fund balance.
- Funding Board of Education expenses using supplemental appropriation of \$477,000 appears.
- Believes that funds should be used to reinstate reading teachers as recommended by the superintendent, instead Board of Finance reinstated sports.
- If we want kindergarten full time we should also reinstate the reading teachers.

Veronica Lenzen
52 Woodhaven Drive

- Why spend money on the buildings if we cannot afford to staff with the teachers.
- If we cannot find the funds for FTK, then the 3 Boards must get together and find a way.
- If not now, when will the youngest children of this town become a priority.

Joann Peterson
2670 Reservoir Avenue

- Feels that there is justification for FTK.
- Has anyone done a survey i.e. full time and part time am/pm sessions.
- Should all children be sent to full time kindergarten or can 1/2 and full day be offered.
- Has anyone put that out to all of the parents.

Cindy Katske
129 Meadowview Drive

- Process of scheduling meetings is not transparent.
- No one asked questions at the last BOE budget meeting.
- Public does not know what questions and answers have been given.
- Important for the public to hear questions and responses.

Timothy Herbs, First Selectman
97 Fairview Avenue

- He thanked everyone for their hard work. He addressed the level of research and diligence given by the Board of Finance and the amount of time they spent at the Town Hall for days on end in department hearings.
- He went on the record indicating that he believes those who vote on the budget must attend the meetings in order to become informed by asking questions and listening to what the public has to say. If this does not occur, they should not vote on the budget.

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 AM

Respectfully submitted

Phyllis Collier, Board of Finance Clerk