

**March 18, 2023
Board of Finance
and
Town Council Finance Committee
#1 Public Budget Hearing
2023-2024**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Lainie McHugh called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m. in the Town Hall. All those present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board of Finance members present / absent:

PRESENT

Lainie McHugh
Paul Timpanelli
Michael Barker
Marty Isaac
Scott Zimov
Vincent DeGennaro – Alternate
Marc Mascola – Alternate
Christine El Eris – Alternate

ABSENT

Justin Scheuble

The Finance Committee did not have a quorum:

Mary Isaac	Tony Scinto
Dawn Cantafio	Joy Colon, Alternate
Kevin Shively	Nicole Satin
	Michael Buswell, Alternate

Also present:

First Selectman Vicki Tesoro; Ashley Gaudiano, Town Council Chairman

The Chairman opened the meeting indicating the next Public Hearing is Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 7:00 pm. via zoom. If you have any questions, you can email the Board of Finance at BOF@trumbull-ct.gov

Sara Beck

78 Mac Arthur Road

- Came to speak to the Board of Education Budget.
- Noticed that last year the Budget was cut from the initial request.
- Moved here for the school system.
- She wants to rally around the children.
- Wants to see foreign language in the elementary school.
- Bus safety – 3 to a seat without a bus monitor.

Mike Pastore

19 Clark Road

- He has met lots of people in Trumbull who moved in from surrounding towns not for the mall, etc., but for the education system.
- The school system is the best asset we have and if we don't fund the schools the talent will leave. Fairfield is having a job fair in April and everyone knows they pay more than Trumbull.

Emilio Annunziato

115 Fernwood Road

- They chose this Town for the school system. Both of his children received math and reading help at the elementary level.
- There is a gap in the budgets.
- Jane Ryan is over-crowded.

Sara Goepfrich

105 Saxony Road

- Cutting the interventionists creates more problems over the long term.
- Gaps need to be addressed early and children are still recovering from Covid.
- Special Education needs are hard to predict and needs early intervention though not required by law.
- Psychological and social services early on will keep children from needing more assistance as they move on.
- Increasing cost of band and sports will create a hardship and assistance is not available for everyone. Kids need this; it helps them to excel.

Lara Walden

104 West Lake Road

- Involved with PTAs
- Parent of children in Trumbull school system.
- Inflation had affected all of us; Spanish was dropped from the elementary level; math and reading specialists have been reduced at various times, fees have been going up and down, etc.
- Wants to know that tax increases are being used to Fund the BOE at 4.98%.
- We have the lowest per pupil expenditure in the DRG and have been able to provide a good quality of education.

Mercedes Mullins

45 Ironwood Road

- Has 5 children in the school system
- Moved to Trumbull for the education system; children needed help and are not in AP.
- Need extra help in the elementary schools.
- Please fund the BOE at 4.98%

Bohe Adanimi

100 Woodside Court

- Moved here for school system.
- Please fund the BOE budget.
- Child with autism is now in kindergarten here and within a short period of time interventionists worked with him and 6 months later he is a totally different child who didn't speak and now cannot stop.

Matias Lopes

32 Ascolese Road

- Moved here from Stratford for the education system.
- Children needed assistance; had a hard time catching up but got her up to speed.
- Specialists helped his son so he did not have to be held back and cost the town for another year.

Dr. Pasolv

- Not a resident
- Current Director of Trumbull Agri Center; part time position.
- She believes that the budget in its entirety should be approved.

John Poster

46 Rangely Drive

- Covid and remote learning has challenged the students.
- Please fund the BOE budget so we can continue to invest in our students.

John Dizney

43 Lafayette Drive

- You can't fund the Town and the BOE budgets completely.
- Fund the best you can.
- Interventionists are important. They will challenge the children and look for creative ways to teach.
- This is a no-frills budget; not enough in the budget to move ahead.
- We are doing better each year but don't compare us to surrounding towns.
- He supports the full budget.

By unanimous consent, the meeting adjourned at 11:00 am

Respectfully submitted,

Phyllis C. Collier

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Board of Finance Clerk