

**TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT**  
**Board of Education**  
Regular Meeting – March 12, 2024, 7:00 p.m.  
**Minutes**

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

Members present:

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

Members absent:

T. Gallo

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 the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

B. Recognition – THS Gymnastics Team for State Open and Championship

The Trumbull High Gymnastics team won the first Class L State title and first State Open title for the program in school history. The team finished their regular season undefeated, with a record of 12-0, and won the FCIAC Gymnastics Championship. They went on to win the Class L State Championship meet, and the State Open Championship meet.

The Board of Education provided a commemorative certificate to each member of the THS Gymnastics Team.

C. Recognition – Trumbull’s VFW Post 10059 High School Teacher of the Year – Keif Doyle  
THS Educator, (Associate to the Dean of Students), Mr. Keif Doyle, has been selected as Trumbull's VFW Post 10059 High School Teacher of the Year 2023-2024, the District (Fairfield County) VFW High School Teacher of the Year, and the State of Connecticut VFW Teacher of the Year. He will now move on to the national round. This marks the first time that the same District has produced consecutive State of Connecticut winners.

The Board of Education provided a commemorative certificate to congratulate Mr. Keif Doyle.

D. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland read the following correspondence: Patricia Kelly wrote with curriculum concerns; Ali Oral, Gilda Kumtas-Oral encourages our Town to fully fund the BOE budget; Anne Benson requested a meeting; Sara Massey had a question about graduation; Emily Marocco, Holly Sulzycki, Cara Pelletier, Brenda Windsor and Maite Petrosini encourage the

BOE to proceed with caution and thoroughly assess all the criteria regarding later school start times; Meredith Bagley, Marianne Lomascolo and Bridget Yallaly have concerns with a book in our curriculum; Bree Ann Prezioso wrote about the school climate at Hillcrest.

E. Public Comment – There was no public comment this evening.

F. Superintendent Report -Dr. Semmel reported:

- As we celebrate BOE Appreciation Month, Dr. Semmel thanked the BOE members who volunteer their time and expertise to support the students and educators in our District.
- On March 7, the BOE 2024-2025 budget was presented to the Board of Finance. The Superintendent proposed a 5.34% increase, and the First Selectman has supported a 4% increase. While this would represent a 1.34% cut to the Board of Education, it is our hope that the Board of Finance and Town Council provide at least a 4% increase to the BOE budget.
- We have been invited by the Town Council to review our master plan for Hillcrest on March 19. The public is encouraged to attend. On March 26, the BOE will also hold a Special Meeting to review the Hillcrest educational specifications.
- We are happy to welcome the spring athletic programs at all of our schools.

G. Board Chairman Report - Mrs. Timpanelli reported:

- We congratulate Keif Doyle as Trumbull's VFW Post 10059 High School Teacher of the Year.
- We celebrate Booth Hill Principal Dana Pierce and wish him a healthy and happy retirement.
- Congratulations to the THS Boys' Basketball Team for winning the FCIAC championship.
- Please attend the THS production of *Mean Girls* with shows on March 15-17 and March 22-23.
- We wish the THS DECA students great success as they move on to the International Career Development Conference in Anaheim, CA.
- March is Women's History Month and our schools are celebrating women who played an important role in shaping our nation's history, arts and science. Mrs. Timpanelli provided examples.
- The Board thanks Dr. Semmel and the Long Hill team for their detailed budget presentation to the Board of Finance.

H. Teacher BOE Representative Report

Mr. John Congdon reported that members enjoyed the Presidents' Day long weekend and the union is pleased with the 2024-2025 calendar changes. The TEA is hopeful the Superintendent's budget will be approved. Plans are moving forward with the new Teacher Evaluation Plan and the April 2 Professional Development Day. Several members will be attending the annual CEA RA conference and spring conferences are underway at all building levels.

### Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/THS We the People team to attend the We the People National Finals

Ms. Katie Boland presented the field trip for the We the People Team to attend the National Finals at the National Conference Center in Leesburg, VA on April 12, 2024 to April 16, 2024 participating as the Connecticut Champions.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the We the People field trip to Leesburg, VA as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/Minutes

The minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of February 6, 2024 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of February 6, 2024 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

The minutes of the BOE Special Meeting of February 27, 2024 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the minutes of the BOE Special Meeting of February 27, 2024 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified appointments:

Kingston, Nicole; 6/21 (\$118,741) literacy consultant at Tashua Elementary School effective March 1, 2024.

The above appointment was received and filed.

Dr. Semmel reported the following certified retirements/resignations:

Infante, Nora; literacy consultant at Frenchtown Elementary School since August 1993, retiring effective June 30, 2024.

Pierce, Dana; principal at Booth Hill Elementary School since September 2007, retiring effective June 30, 2024.

Rathey, Danielle; school psychologist at Frenchtown Elementary School since September 2023, resigning effective February 23, 2024.

Russo, Tamara; literacy consultant at Daniels Farm Elementary School since August 2005 (currently on an unpaid personal leave of absence), resigning effective June 30, 2024.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Nuland) to accept the above retirements/resignations as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Dr. Semmel reported one non-certified resignation/retirement:

Ebert, Kathleen; calendar year secretary at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 1998, retiring effective June 14, 2024.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Nuland) to accept the above retirement/resignation as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Trumbull Day 2024 Special Request

The Trumbull Day Commission is asking for approval to use Hillcrest Middle School on Friday, June 28, Saturday, June 29, and Sunday, June 30 (rain date) 2024. The Trumbull Day Commission is requesting that the Board of Education waive its Policy 133, Use of Public School Buildings and Sites for three (3) days to allow for an alcohol concession on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High Schools. If approval is granted, all other provisions of the Board Policy must be adhered to and alcohol distribution and consumption must be properly monitored and controlled by the Trumbull Police Department, First Selectman's Office, and Trumbull Day Commission members, to ensure that this concession is regulated in a responsible and appropriate manner.

A motion was made (Bandecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the waiver of Policy 133, Use of Public School Buildings and Sites for the three days Friday, June 28, Saturday, June 29 and Sunday, June 30, 2024 to allow for alcohol concession on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High School as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Approval/TECEC Playground Donation

Dr. Matthew Wheeler presented the donation of \$70,000 from TECEC PTO to benefit the TECEC community with a new playground.

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the donation of \$70,000 to TECEC for the installation of the new playground as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Approval/THS Cork Field Press Box Donation

The Friends of Trumbull High School Soccer, Inc. is donating \$33,150.47 to contribute to the cost of building a new press box at the cork field. The Town has committed capital bonding for the remaining amount to complete the project. A photo was provided.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the \$33,150.47 to contribute to the cost of building a new press box at the cork field press box as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Facility Committee Report

Mrs. Nuland and Director of Operations Mr. David Cote provided an update regarding current facility projects. Discussed were security upgrades, roof replacements, THS- auditorium, softball field, Agriscience and HVAC and parking lot improvements at our schools. The programming effort is underway for Hillcrest Middle School.

H. Winter Data Update/Monitoring Student Progress- Dr. Iwanicki, Mrs. Hefele

Dr. Iwanicki presented the winter data update that monitors student progress for teaching and learning. The results provide valuable information in terms of the impact of our curriculum and the strategies used in its delivery. The data reflects student progress in the mastery of the Common Core standards.

Mrs. Hefele presented the results that are used to forecast performance on SBAC testing. Teachers use this data to consider next steps to meet individual student needs that will provide the best educational outcomes.

I. Financial Committee Report

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Financial Committee of the Board of Education met on February 29, 2024 that included the review of the January 31, 2024 financial report.

Mr. Hendrickson presented the financial reports as of January 31, 2024 for approval.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the financial reports as of January 31, 2024 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:22 p.m.