

**TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT**  
**Board of Education**

Regular Meeting – November 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  
C. Bandecchi  
T. Gallo  
J. McNamee  
M. Petitti  
A. Squicciarro

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. Recognitions

1. THS Boys Golf FCIAC Champions

The THS Boys Golf team won the FCIAC Championship for the first time in 39 years. They finished with a 13-1 FCIAC record which we believe was the best FCIAC regular season record in school history.

The Board of Education and administration congratulated the THS Boys Golf Team and presented them with certificates.

2. THSGEMB State Champions, Open Division III

The THSGEMB won the US Bands Connecticut State Championships on Saturday, October 26, 2024 earning a score of 91.9, winning best percussion, color guard, music, visual effect, and overall effect, as well as the title of CT State Champions with their 2024 show entitled “Glitch.” Special thanks to director Josh Murphy, assistant director Andrea Rivera-Luna, and all of the THSGEMB instructors for their time and hard work in helping the students achieve this award.

The Board of Education and administration congratulated the THSGEMB and presented them with certificates.

- C. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland read the following correspondence: Dana Aponte wrote with a transportation issue; Rob and Allison Tedesco wrote in support of a Tashua teacher; Jenn Burke wrote how her children benefited from a Tashua teacher and thanked staff for putting children first.
- D. Public Comment - there were no sign ups for tonight's meeting.
- E. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel
- Dr. Semmel informed the public about the situation involving a Tashua teacher who has been placed on administrative leave. Our top priority is the safety of students and staff at Tashua, and we thank the Trumbull Police Department for their continued responsiveness in ensuring everyone's safety.
  - Dr. Semmel extends his thanks to the entire town of Trumbull for their support in voting on the Hillcrest referendum, which passed with more than a 2-to-1 majority in favor of approving a new Hillcrest. The Town Council will now begin work on the educational specifications, and we look forward to the opening of the new Hillcrest in the fall of 2027.
  - The State of Connecticut has released its performance accountability ratings, and Trumbull is proud to announce that we have moved up from #7 to #6 in the rankings, with every elementary school recognized as a School of Distinction. This success is a testament to the dedication of our outstanding educators, families, and the Board of Education, all of whom play a crucial role in supporting our students' learning.
- F. Board Chairman Report - Mrs. Timpanelli
- On behalf of the Board, we would like to express our gratitude to everyone who voted in favor of the Hillcrest project. Your support will help ensure the continued success of our schools. The Veterans Day program this year at THS was exceptional, thanks to Mrs. Rubano at THS. We are deeply grateful to our veterans for their service and for the freedoms we enjoy everyday.
- G. Student BOE Representatives Report
- Student BOE Representatives Vanessa Maignan and Jiya Malhotra reported: TECEC-students will complete their fall thematic unit and transition into Foundation lessons, playdate pajama party at Trumbull Library; Daniels Farm-pumpkin decorating contest, Boo Bash Frenchtown-Pumpkin Parade, fall crafts, First Selectman visit to celebrate summer reading program; Jane Ryan- Veterans Day concert Middlebrook- first grade field trip to the Hillcrest Planetarium, second grade plans for Thanksgiving Day parade; Booth Hill- student council food drive to be donated to the Bridgeport Black Rock food pantry; Tashua- National Stress Awareness day, author Clare Pittari will read at the Veterans Day assembly; Hillcrest- on November 4, Hillcrest building tours Madison- fall dance, Red Ribbon week THS- NEASC reaccreditation collaborative conference visit on November 18-19, Veterans Day assembly, Healthy Athlete Forum, parent teacher conferences to be held on November 21, powderpuff football game

### Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

#### A. Approval/Field Trips

1. THS Winter Color Guard to WGI Bethlehem at Liberty High School – Mr. Josh Murphy  
Mr. Josh Murphy presented the THS Winter Color Guard trip to the WGI Bethlehem at Liberty High School which is scheduled for March 22, 2025 to March 23, 2025 for students to compete against other students from all over the east coast and showcase their hard work.

Funding for this trip is provided through the THS Winter Color Guard families and through fundraising throughout the fall and planned outings at Stop and Shop to solicit donations as well as evenings at Trumbull Pizza Co.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the THS Winter Color Guard to WGI Bethlehem from March 22-23, 2025 at Liberty High School as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

2. THS Winter Percussion to WGI Tom's River at RWJ Barnabas Health Arena – Mr. Murphy  
Mr. Murphy presented the Winter Percussion trip to WGI Tom's River at RWJ Barnabas Health Arena which is planned for March 22, 2025 to March 23, 2025. Students will compete against groups from all over the east coast and showcase their hard work throughout the season. Funding for this trip is provided through the THS Winter Percussion families.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the THS Winter Percussion trip to WGI Tom's River at RWJ Barnabas Health Arena from March 22-23, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

3. THS Music Department to Music in the Parks – Hershey Park – Mr. Josh Murphy  
Mr. Murphy presented the THS Music Department trip to Music in the Parks – Hershey Park which is scheduled for May 1, 2025 to May 3, 2025 for students to showcase their hard work and preparation at an adjudication festival. Funding for this trip is provided through the THS Music Department families. Students will also participate in a snap-raise fundraiser as well as several other fundraisers to help offset the trip cost.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the THS Music Department trip to Music in the Parks – Hershey Park scheduled for May 1-3, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

4. THS Model UN Club to Boston Marriott Copley Place, Boston, MA – Mr. Jack LaBarca.  
Mr. Jack LaBarca presented the THS Model UN Club to Boston which is scheduled for February 7, 2025 to February 9, 2025 for students to engage in debates on world issues in an academic model United Nations conference. Funding for this trip is provided through ACE Foundation and BEI, as well as parents, grants, and fundraising.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Bandeccchi) to approve the THS Model UN Club to Boston from February 7-9, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### B. Approval/Minutes

The minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of October 22, 2024 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of October 22, 2024 as presented. In favor: Bandeccchi, Petitti, Norcel, Timpanelli, Gallo, McNamee, Nuland. Abstain: Squicciarro. Motion passes.

#### C. Curriculum Committee Report

The Curriculum Committee's met on October 24, 2024, and asks the Board of Education to review the information regarding next steps in K-5 ELA programming and adopt the revisions to the high school curriculum guide as noted below.

- Review- Update on the K-5 ELA Programmatic Resource
- Curriculum Revision Approval- Grades 11-12 U.S. Economic Systems

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the curriculum revision of grades 11-12 U.S. Economic Systems as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### D. Personnel Report

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified retirements/resignations:

- Clyons, Katherine; grade 1 teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School since September 1987.
- Pierce, Mary; grade 5 teacher at Tashua Elementary School since August 2005.
- Rosa, Anne; English language learner teacher district wide since December 2006.
- Rubano, Katherine; social studies department chairperson/teacher at Trumbull High School since August 1999.

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

Dr. Semmel presented the following request for Leave of Absence:

Marsillio, Megan; grade 2 teacher at Tashua Elementary School (currently on maternity leave) is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay from December 20, 2024 through June 30, 2025. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above personal leave of absence for Megan Marsillio which is in compliance with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy 4150 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### E. Approval/2025 Board of Education Meeting Dates

In accordance with Section 10-218 of the Connecticut General Statutes and the By-laws of the Trumbull Board of Education, the Board shall adopt a meeting schedule for the upcoming year. Dr. Semmel presented the proposed 2025 Board of Education Meeting dates for approval.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the 2025 Board of Education dates as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### F. Future Ready Technology Update

Christina Hefele, Director of Digital Learning and Jeff VanSteenburgh, Technology Manager presented the district's progress on the Future Ready Technology plan that was shared in February, 2023 and identified the focus areas for Year 3 of the plan.

#### G. Policy Committee Report

Mr. Tim Gallo reported that the Policy Committee of the Board of Education met on October 15, 2024. Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policies for second reading.

- 1316 – Civility and Respectful Conduct
- 1316 – Public Conduct at School Sponsored Activities

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve Policy 1316 –Civility and Respectful Conduct as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to amend the title of policy 1316- Public Conduct at School Sponsored Activities to 1316.1-Public Conduct at School Sponsored Activities and approve this policy as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### H. Financial Committee Report

The Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on October 31, 2024 and reviewed the September 30, 2024 financial reports including the transfer of not more than \$83,000 from the Non-Lapsing Account for transportation and audit expenses incurred during the 2023-2024 fiscal year.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the financial reports as of September 30, 2024 as presented which includes the transfer of not more than \$83,000 from the Non-Lapsing Account for transportation and audit expenses incurred during the 2023-2024 fiscal year. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:30 p.m.