

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Budget Meeting – January 7, 2025

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

Members present:

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

Absent:

T. Gallo

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

Mrs. Timpanelli asked for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Lucas DeLaurentis from Middlebrook School.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – There was no correspondence this evening.
- C. Public Comment - Nial Macintyre, Dawn Kubie, Gary Williams, Judy Ann Riccio and Michael Citarella all spoke in favor of adding girls’ and boys’ rugby to the 2025-26 budget as a varsity sport. Currently there are over 100 players who participate in rugby as a club sport. Players noted that rugby fosters camaraderie and helps to develop essential life skills.
- D. Superintendent Report
Dr. Semmel extends his best wishes to the Town of Trumbull for a happy and healthy new year. Kindergarten registration is underway in Trumbull, please visit our website for information. At this evening’s meeting, Dr. Semmel will present the 2025-2026 budget to the BOE and the Trumbull community.
- E. Board Chairman Report –Mrs. Timpanelli
Mrs. Timpanelli and the Board continue to advocate for the best possible education for all students in budget development for 2025-2026 school year. She noted to carefully consider the rising costs associated with salaries, benefits, insurance, and transportation. The budget will focus on securing the necessary funding to enhance the district and maintain the high standards of excellence that define Trumbull Public Schools.
- F. Student Board Representatives Report- Jiya Malhotra and Vanessa Maignan reported on **TECEC:** Elfcapades, Martin Luther King Jr. Day- students are reading The Peace Book **Daniels Farm:-** Mr. McGrath led the DFS band and string orchestras in their annual winter concert, 5th grade chorus concert **Frenchtown:** Frenchtown raised \$907 dollars for the Trumbull Food Pantry, fundraiser “Mittens for Many”, first grade student designed a Frenchtown flag **Middlebrook:-**after school enrichment programs **Booth Hill:** Booth Hill concert **Tashua:** annual winter concert, “Holiday Helpers” project, diversity committee **Hillcrest:** boys basketball game, Crosstown Showdown, ski trip **Madison:**

"Blizzard Bash," annual Crosstown Showdown **Trumbull High:** winter concert, cocoa and cram study for midterms, winter athletics, captains councils, Sebastian Perez broke the 13-year-old 300m record, virtual junior/parent post high school planning meeting on January 8

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes

- BOE Regular Meeting of 12/10/2024

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the BOE Regular Meeting of 12/10/2024 meeting as presented. In favor: Timpanelli, Norcel, Nuland, Petitti, Bandecchi, McNamee. Abstain-Squiccimarro. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. 2025-2026 Budget Presentation & Discussion

Part I – Introduction- Dr. Semmel

- Overview- Dr. Semmel presented the Board of Education goals for the 2025-2026 budget - to provide high quality teaching to inform continuous improvement that will ensure the physical, social and emotional well-being of every student. Dr. Semmel outlined the Connecticut's Next Generation Accounting results that ranks Trumbull #6 in Connecticut; cost per pupil expenditures, TPS Vision of the Graduate, projected enrollment and staffing needs for the next school year.

Part II- Financial Summary- Dr. Semmel

- Financial Summary- The proposed budget totals \$131,079,390, that is a year-to-date increase of \$6,548,988 or 5.26%. The major drivers are salaries (62.5%), benefits (18.6%) and transportation (6.6%). In preparing this year's budget, we must be mindful of the current economic challenges as well as legislative mandates. The overall impact on the number of certified teachers has a net change of 3.0 FTE as follows:

Teachers

Reduce 1.0 Elementary FTEs – due to enrollment

Redefine 1.0 Department THS Department Chair for School Counseling (see below*)

Increase 1.0 Special Education Teacher

Increase 2.0 Reading Interventionists for Middle Schools

Increase 2.0 World Language Teachers for grade 5 Spanish program

Administrators net change is 1.6 FTE

Reduce 0.4 Director of Agriculture Science

Increase 1.0 Director of School Counseling grades 6-12*

Increase 1.0 Elementary Assistant Principal to support Daniels Farm and Booth Hill

- Health Insurance- Mr. Hendrickson presented the proposed budget for Health Insurance that reflects a \$1,947,929 increase (10.00%) over the 2024-2025 budget. Year to year rate increase assumed at 10.00% based on the state partnership plan. We expect final rates in late March.

Part III – Trumbull High School, Agriscience & Athletics – Mr. Todd Manuel, Mr. Mike King

Principal Todd Manuel presented the proposed budget for THS that reflects a \$69,814 increase (9.27%) over the 2024-2025 budget. The increase includes furniture, textbooks, tech education supplies and activities.

Athletic Director Mike King presented the proposed budget for Athletics that reflects a \$89,020 increase (6.79%) over the 2024-2025 budget. The increase includes coaches, transportation, purchased services, supplies and equipment.

Part IV – Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Susan Iwanicki

Dr. Iwanicki presented the proposed budget for the Office of Teaching and Learning that reflects a \$244,649 increase (15.81%) over the 2024-2025 budget. The increase includes textbooks/workbooks and online subscriptions.

Part V – Human Capital and Talent Development – Mr. Joseph Chella

Mr. Chella presented the proposed budget for Human Resources that reflects a \$33,220 decrease (-2.30%) over the 2024-2025 budget. The decrease includes purchased services.

Part VI - Technology & Digital Learning – Mr. Jeffrey Van Steenburgh, Ms. Christina Hefele

Mr. Van Steenburgh presented the proposed budget for Technology that reflects a \$155,546 increase (10.25%) over the 2024-2025 budget. The increase includes computer equipment, software, WAN communications, WAN equipment and maintenance contracts.

Ms. Hefele presented the proposed budget for Digital Learning that reflects a \$11,541 increase (5.05%) over the 2024-2025 budget. The increase includes Infinite Campus renewal, Tableau and IC eBackpack renewal.

Closing Thoughts - Dr. Semmel

Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated educators, Trumbull students continue to achieve at high levels. To maintain this success and ensure our students are prepared for the future, ongoing innovations in technology and learning are essential in preparing for the 2024-2025 school year.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:12 p.m.