

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Regular Meeting – February 4, 2025

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 a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland read the following correspondence: Jayne Macintye, Melinda Therriault, Dawn Kubie, Jennifer Rhoden, Danielle Bunleavy, Paul Heintz, Jason Hopkins, Jarett & Shanon Dery, Holly Mastoianni -all wrote that they want rugby to be incorporated as a varsity sport; Anne Benson, Michael Pullman and Chris Pettinella all wrote with their students' specific concerns.
- C. Public Comment – there were no public speaker sign-ups at this meeting.
- D. Superintendent Report- Dr. Semmel reported - Our 2024/2025 budget is currently frozen given the fact we have higher than anticipated electricity costs at approximately \$250,000. Also, we recently learned that our Excess Cost Reimbursement (ECR) from the state will only be 59.9%. The 59.9% rate means that we can expect about \$227,000 less than budgeted. We have also experienced significant increases in the cost of special education outplacement. Dr. Semmel has made it clear that the budget freeze should not impact the day-to-day teaching and learning for our students. Please review the Superintendent's January newsletter to stay informed on the midyear update for the 2025 District Goals. The Hillcrest Building Committee has scheduled meetings to manage the education specifications. The meetings and agendas are posted on the town of Trumbull website and there are updates on the TPS District Wide Master Plan website. The public is encouraged to attend the meetings.
- E. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli and Dr. Semmel attended a legislative meeting at Staples in Westport and asked our legislators for the monetary support for excess cost reimbursement (ECR), that is greatly needed by our District as well as many others. Congratulations to Abby Searles, Captain of the THS cheerleaders who was selected to be on the All FCIAC Cheer Team. We are happy to announce the addition of two new Alpacas, Anna and Golden Nugget, to our Agriscience program.

F. Student Board Representatives Report

Student Board Representatives Jiya Malhotra and Vanessa Maignan reported on: TECEC-speech department vocabulary activities, K for kindness project; Daniels Farm - pajama day for LA, Scripps Spelling bee; Frenchtown - Martin Luther King, Jr. legacy virtual trip, spelling bee; Jane Ryan-breakfast with the principal, school spirit day; Middlebrook -Wing Scholarship fundraiser; Booth Hill - American Heart Association Kids Heart Challenge; Tashua - Tashua's Got Talent, lunar new year; Hillcrest - boys and girls basketball games, Interact Club; Madison -learning commons library, toiletry drive to benefit IMPACTTrumbull; THS – “We the People” won the state competition, the Winter Color Guard team won second place, grade 8 to 9 transition parent/student night, annual Trumbull’s Got Talent Show scheduled for April 2, TPAUD sponsoring “Screenagers” showing on February 25, update on winter sports

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Field Trips

1. Madison Middle School SAVE Club to the National SAVE Promise Club Youth Summit in Philadelphia, PA – Ms. Michaela Durand

Advisor Ms. Michaela Durand presented the Madison Middle School SAVE Club trip to the National SAVE Promise Club Youth Summit in Philadelphia, PA which is scheduled for April 25, 2025 to April 26, 2025. Funding for this trip will be through the Sandy Hook Promise Grant, fundraising, and families.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Madison Middle School SAVE Club trip to the National SAVE Promise Club Youth Summit in Philadelphia, PA from April 25-26, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

2. Hillcrest Middle School SAVE Club to National SAVE Promise Club Youth Summit in Philadelphia, PA – Ms. Michaela Durand

Advisor Ms. Michaela Durand presented the Hillcrest Middle School SAVE Club trip to the National SAVE Promise Club Youth Summit in Philadelphia, PA which is scheduled for April 25, 2025 to April 26, 2025. Funding for this trip will be through the Sandy Hook Promise Grant, fundraising, and families.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Squicciarino) to approve the Hillcrest Middle School SAVE Club trip to the National SAVE Promise Club Youth Summit in Philadelphia, PA from April 26-27, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

3. Trumbull High School Model Congress to University of PA, Philadelphia, PA. – Ms. Katie Boland

Advisor Ms. Katie Boland presented the THS Model Congress trip to the University of PA, Philadelphia, PA which is scheduled for March 27, 2025 to March 30, 2025. Funding for this trip is provided through the Trumbull ACE Foundation \$1,500 grant (received), Stop & Shop and other fundraising activities, and families.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the THS Model Congress trip to the University of PA in Philadelphia, PA from March 27-30, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

4. Trumbull High School Winter Color Guard to WGI Finals, Dayton, OH – Mr. Josh Murphy

Advisor Mr. Joshua Murphy presented the THS Winter Color Guard trip to WGI Finals in Dayton, OH which is scheduled for April 2, 2025 to April 6, 2025. Funding for this trip will be provided by the Winter Color Guard families.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the THS Winter Color Guard trip to WGI Finals in Dayton, OH from April 2-6, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

5. Trumbull High School Winter Percussion to WGI Finals – University of Dayton Arena – Mr. Josh Murphy

Advisor Mr. Joshua Murphy presented the THS Winter Percussion trip to the WGI Finals – University of Dayton Arena, which is scheduled for April 9, 2025 to April 13, 2025. Funding for this trip will be provided by THS Winter Percussion families.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the THS Winter Percussion trip to the WGI Finals in Dayton, OH from April 9-13, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/Minutes

The minutes of the BOE Budget Meetings of January 7, 2025 and January 9, 2025 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the minutes of the BOE Budget Meetings of January 7, 2025 and January 9, 2025 as presented. Vote: abstain- Gallo. Vote in favor- Timpanelli, Norcel, Nuland, Bandecchi, McNamee, Petitti, Squicciarino. Motion passes.

C. Personnel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations/retirements:

Ludwig, Amparo; English Language Learner/Spanish teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2002, retiring June 30, 2025.

Sroka, Kristin; math teacher/department chairperson at Trumbull High School since August 2022, resigning effective January 13, 2025.

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

D. Approval/2025-2026 Budget- Dr. Semmel

The 2025-2026 budget was presented and discussed at the January 7 and January 9, 2025 Board of Education Budget Meetings. At this evening's meeting, Dr. Semmel presented new information to the Board as follows: TPS originally budgeted for a 10% increase in the State Partnership Plan and now we are expecting a 13% increase that will impact our budget request by \$584,379 or .47%. Additionally, TPS originally budgeted for 67% in ECR from the state and now we are expecting only 59.9% ECR; this will impact our budget request by \$196,000 or .16%. Therefore, the Superintendent has revised the original request from \$131,079,390 to \$131,859,769 or 5.89%.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the 2025-2026 budget in the amount of \$131,859,769 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Curriculum Committee Update

Mrs. Petitti reported that the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education reviewed curriculum guide revisions and new course requests.

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following:

- Curriculum Guide Revision: Honors Geometry
- New Course Request: Honors Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) Principles of Marketing
- New Pilot Curriculum Guide: Honors Southern Connecticut State University (SCSU) Principles of Marketing
- Curriculum Guide Revision: Drafting & Design
- Curriculum Guide Revision: Wood Technology 2

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Norcel) to accept the above curriculum guide revisions/request as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- New Course- AP African American Studies
- New Course- Piano 2
- New Course- Wind Ensemble
- New Course- UConn ECE Popular Music & Diversity in American Society
- New Course- Self Defense/Personal Safety
- New Course- Mindfulness & Dance
- New Course- Spanish for Heritage Speakers – Level 1 and 2
- New Course- Grade 12 ACP/Honors Multicultural Literature

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the above new course requests as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Financial Committee

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on January 23, 2025 which included the review of the December 31, 2024 financial report. In addition, the Finance Committee also approved the semi-annual Inter-Fund transfers at its January 23, 2025 meeting.

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

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the inter-fund transfers as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:02 p.m.