

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Regular Meeting – March 18, 2025
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 a salute to the Flag.

B. Recognitions –

1. THS Gymnastics FCIAC Championship

THS Girls Gymnastics team finished another season undefeated, 10-0. The girls went on to repeat last year's success, winning an FCIAC title, a State Championship title for Class L and a State Open title then moved on to New England Championships, where they finished 2nd among all teams in New England.

The Board of Education commended the THS Girls Gymnastics team and presented them with a certificate.

2. THS Girls Wrestling Championship

Trumbull High School Girls Wrestling team won the Girls Wrestling State Championship this season, the first season that the girls state title was given out then went on to compete at the New England Championships, where the team finished 2nd overall in New England.

The Board of Education commended the THS Girls Wrestling team and presented them with a certificate.

- C. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland reported Bree Ann Prezioso wrote asking for more services for students with social disabilities and Feras Hantash and Mergima Al Arnaout wrote with a concern about a THS policy.
- D. Public Comment
There were no public signups for this meeting.
- E. Superintendent Report- Dr. Semmel
- Dr. Semmel thanked each member of the BOE for their dedication and hard work in making TPS a success as we celebrate BOE appreciation month.
 - Budget news - In order to keep our current staff and programs, TPS requires a 4.82% increase to our current budget. This 4.82% does not include new staff and programs that were discussed at the budget presentation. The First Selectman has approved a 3.25% increase which represents a gap of approximately \$2 million. To mitigate this gap, we are in the process of reviewing cuts to technology, professional development, increase of pay to play, reducing software, and analyzing our 2-tiered busing system. More importantly, we would need to eliminate 10 current staff positions and/or not replace retiring staff. Clearly this gap would necessitate the BOE making cuts. It is my fervent hope that we can keep TPS at least at the status quo for the next school year. The Board of Finance is the only group that can add to the BOE budget line item. We encourage Trumbull residents to use their voices, and our hope is that the BOF will find additional dollars for the BOE. The BOF is holding a public hearing on the overall budget this Saturday, March 22, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at Town Hall Chambers or you can join online.
- F. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli
Congratulations to the theater students at THS for their outstanding performance of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*. We encourage you to attend one of the performances this weekend. Mrs. Timpanelli attended an executive session of the Hillcrest Building Committee.
- G. Student Board Representatives Report
Jiya Malhotra and Vanessa Maignan reported TECEC-students are learning about weather, transportation and gardening; Daniels Farm-One School One Book, annual variety show Frenchtown- grade 3 educational week, March Madness; Jane Ryan-grade 5 transition to middle school; Middlebrook-hosting authors, student spotlight Booth Hill-assembly for BHS Reads Tashua-grade 4 participated in Sensitivity Awareness Day, St. Patrick’s Day Shamrock Stroll Hillcrest-production of “Alice in Wonderland Jr.” PTA hosting a sports night at Insports, Spring Hawk Hoopla Day Madison-Say Something Week, production of “Charlotte’s Web”, THS-DECA conference students placed in the top 3 of their competitive events, production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” 30 students honored for the February office of the Deans’ list, teacher professional development day held on March 17.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. Approval/Field Trips
1. THS We the People to Washington, DC, National Conference Center - Ms. Katie Boland
The THS We the People trip to the Washington, DC – National Conference Center is scheduled for April 8, 2025 to April 12, 2025. Funding for this trip is provided through the parents, THS Competition Budget, and fundraising efforts.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the THS We the People trip to Washington, DC as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

2. THS DECA Club to DECA ICDC in Orlando, Florida – Todd Manuel

The DECA trip to DECA ICDC is scheduled for April 25, 2025 to April 30, 2025. Funding for this trip is provided through the Perkins grant, students, and club funds.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the THS DECA Club trip to Orlando, Florida as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. The minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of February 18, 2025 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of February 18, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Personnel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified appointments.

DeLuca, Joseph; physical education teacher at Tashua Elementary School effective March 10, 2025.

Vittorio, Alisha; Family Consumer Science teacher at Trumbull High School effective January 21, 2025.

These appointments were received and filed by the Board.

D. Approval/Trumbull Day 2025 Special Request

Town Chief of Staff Mrs. Kathleen McGannon presented the request for Trumbull Day 2025. The Trumbull Day Commission would like to use Hillcrest Middle School and Trumbull High School on Friday, June 27, Saturday, June 28, and (rain date) Sunday, June 29, 2025. The Trumbull Day Commission is requesting that the Board of Education waive its Policy 1330, 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:

“As with recent Trumbull Day events, we plan to serve beer and wine to patrons. The procurement of a temporary liquor permit from the State of CT and coordination with the Trumbull Police Department, who will be providing security for the event, is currently underway. Alcohol service will be handled by trained staff to assure that patrons are of legal drinking age and that no one is over-served at the event. All alcohol must be purchased through the vendor. Bags and coolers will be checked at entry points and patrons will not be permitted to bring alcohol onto the property.”

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.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve a waiver for the Town of Trumbull to allow an alcohol concession booth on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High School in conjunction with Trumbull Day on Friday, June 27, Saturday, June 28, and Sunday, June 29, 2025. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Facility Update

Director of Operations Mr. Kevin Dion presented an update of all projects, both ongoing and completed, from the Facilities Department. The highlights reported were BH roof replacement completion, HVAC improvements/replacement at several schools that are on schedule and a THS drainage project and parking proposal.

F. Approval of Booth Hill School Roof Project

Mr. Kevin Dion reported that the Booth Hill Roof Replacement Building Committee approved final acceptance of the completed Booth Hill Roof Replacement project at their January 28, 2025 meeting. All invoices to the contractor have been paid and their Performance and Payment bonds have been released. He presented the Certificate of Substantial Completion which was signed by the architect, vendor, and owner.

A motion was made (Nuland) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Booth Hill Roof Replacement Project as being complete and to accept the building for public school purpose. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Financial Committee Update

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on March 6, 2025. Mr. Hendrickson presented the financial reports through January 31, 2025 for full Board approval.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the financial report as of January 31, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Also, approved at the March 6th BOE Finance Committee was an increase in Building Use Fees (Policy 1330).

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the increase to the Building Use Fees (Policy 1330) as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:16 p.m.