

**TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT**  
Long Hill Administration Building  
Regular Meeting – April 8, 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- online

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 for the unexpected loss of a student at Madison Middle School.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.

B. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland reported:

Chris Pettinella wrote with a concern at THS, Jennifer Rhodes wrote to advocate for varsity rugby and Amanda Regan wrote with a request to add a section at Daniels Farm in grade 2 next year.

C. Public Comment

There were no Public Comment sign-ups for this meeting.

D. Superintendent Report – Dr. Semmel

- Paul Hendrickson will be retiring at the end of this year. Paul has been a valued member of the TPS team and has proven to be a highly qualified Business Manager. He has made a positive significant impact on TPS and we are truly grateful for his service. To that end, we have posted the position of Business Administrator for Trumbull Public Schools on CTReap.net. Our goal will be to have our next Business Administrator in place by July 1, 2025.
- We are grateful to the Board of Finance for increasing the First Selectman's budget proposal in the amount of \$600,000; however; even with this increase we still have over a \$1million gap. This gap will necessitate cutting existing staff and programs. Moreover, variables exist that will impact next year's budget: unknown ECR

funding, electricity costs and tariffs. We remain hopeful that the BOE will receive the necessary funding so that staff reductions will not need to be implemented.

- Dr. Semmel extends his best wishes to the Trumbull community to enjoy a safe and happy April break.

- E. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli attended the first FCIAC Gridiron Hall of Fame event that honored Coach Jerry McDougall posthumously and current Football Coach Marce Petroccio. The Board is carefully reviewing the budget for next year. Spring sports have commenced. Enjoy a safe and restful spring recess.
- F. Teacher Board Representative Report - Mr. John Congdon reported: the TEA is hopeful for an increase in the budget per the Board of Finance and is thankful the Superintendent and the BOE are both behind maintaining current staffing levels; several members are looking forward to attending the annual CEA RA conference at Mohegan Sun the weekend of May 9; spring conferences were successful and are complete at all building levels; and lastly, staff is looking forward to a relaxing and restful upcoming spring recess.

### Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. The minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of March 18, 2025 were presented for Board approval.

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

- B. Personnel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations/retirements:

Bonetti, Andrew; business education teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2024, resigning effective June 30, 2025.

Venditti, Jean; art teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2023, resigning effective June 30, 2025.

Weinstein, Stacy; grade 4 teacher at Daniels Farm Elementary School since August 2003, retiring June 30, 2025.

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

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

Artese, Anthony; kindergarten teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 2014 is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay for the 2025-26 school year. 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 Leave of Absence for Anthony Artese in accordance with Policy 4150 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff/Long Term Replacements

Prior to May 1 of any given year, the Board of Education is asked to non-renew the contracts of non-tenured staff whose employment may not continue. This year, the non-renewal process includes three long-term replacement (substitute) teachers. The long-term replacement teachers were hired for the 2024-25 school year in a position of fixed duration. It is the opinion of the Superintendent that the non-renewals recommended are within the scope of the statutory teacher employment and tenure provisions, Section 10-151 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and are consistent with provisions of the TEA Agreement applicable to non-renewals of non-tenured and Long-Term Replacement teachers and non-tenured teachers. Move that pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, the Trumbull Board of Education non-renew the teaching contract of the following long-term replacement teachers at the end of their long-term contract or at the end of the 2024-25 school year, whichever occurs first, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Long Term Replacements

Sara DiVasto – Tashua Elementary School

Lauren Jones – Trumbull High School

Saraya Lewis – Trumbull High School

and further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests which may be forthcoming from these teachers or their representatives pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-151.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) pursuant to CT General Statutes 10-151, the Trumbull Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of the long-term replacement teachers, Sara DiVasto, Lauren Jones, and Saraya Lewis at the end of their contract or 2024-2025 school year, whichever occurs first as recommended. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/2025-2026 Revised District Calendar

The proposed District calendar change is as follows:

2025-2026 District Calendar

Make Friday, January 2, 2026 a holiday and make the last anticipated school day June 12, 2026.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the proposed change to the 2025-2026 district calendar as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Curriculum Committee Update

Mrs. Marie Petitti reported that the Curriculum Committee met on March 27, 2025.

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following new texts, curriculum guide revisions and new courses for full Board approval:

- Middle School Math Pilot Outcomes: *Ed Gems* Programmatic Text Update

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the above text update as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Career and Technological Education Requests
  - a. New Course Request: *Digital Media 2*
  - b. New Text Request for Honors/SCSU Principles of Marketing: *Foundations of Marketing*

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the above requests as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Science- Curriculum Revision Update: *Grade 9 Integrated Physical Science*

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the above revision update as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- World Language- New Course Request: *Classic Mythology/ECE Latin*

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the new course request as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- History
  - a. New Text Request for Honors /UConn Essentials of Economics: *Issues in Economics Today*
  - b. New Text Request for AP African American Studies: *Freedom on My Mind*

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the new text requests as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### F. Policy Committee

Mr. Tim Gallo reported that the Policy Committee met on March 25, 2025.

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policies for First Reading:

- a. Policy 5131.911 Safe School Climate Policy
  - Currently 5131.912 Bullying: Safe School Climate Plan
- b. Policy 5144.12 Restorative Practices Policy
  - Currently 5131.911 Bullying- Prevention

Mr. Dean Catalano, Director of Pupil Personnel Services and the District Safe School Climate Coordinator presented key updates. Second readings to follow.

#### G. Financial Committee Update

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on March 27, 2025. Mr. Hendrickson presented the financial reports through February 28, 2025 for full Board approval.

It was moved (Bandedchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the financial report as of February 28, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

#### Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 7:51 p.m.