

**TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT**  
Long Hill Administration Building  
Regular Meeting – May 6, 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  
M. Petitti

Members absent:

T. Gallo  
J. McNamee  
A. Squiccimarro

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. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland reported: Teacher Matthew Bracksieck requests a cellphone ban use in schools. Nicole Valentine, Kristin Ferrarese, Luana Martins, Joanne Mekawi, Haley McCarthy, Mary Noel, Annie Mohr, Kim Petrofesa, Elena Minutello are advocating for a cellphone policy ban in schools.
- C. Public Comment  
There were no sign ups for public comment.

First Selectman Vicki Tesoro presented a Proclamation to the Board of Education thanking all the TPS teachers and staff who play an essential role in our children’s lives to help build character and achieve success as lifelong learners.

D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel

- Dr. Semmel extends heartfelt thanks to all TPS teachers and staff for their dedication and hard work in inspiring our students. As we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, we recognize and deeply appreciate all that you do to promote excellence and nurture a love of learning throughout our schools.
- We are currently in the process of selecting the Teacher and Paraeducator of the Year, who will be recognized and celebrated for their outstanding achievements.
- In January, we were required to freeze our budget due to unanticipated increases in electricity and outplaced tuition costs. This measure was taken to help ensure we do not end the school year with a deficit. We are hopeful to receive additional funding from the ECR grant that will help offset the outplaced tuition shortfall. We are grateful to the Board of Finance for the \$600,000 budget increase; however, we are still facing a \$1 million gap in our status quo budget. As a result, we are currently evaluating potential reductions with a focus on minimizing the impact on students and staff.

- Dr. Semmel attended a technology conference where 3 Hillcrest students spoke about using AI in the classroom to support student learning. Thank you to Christina Hefele, Director of Technology for her support to navigate the use of AI in our schools.
- E. Board Chairman Report – The Board would like to express heartfelt gratitude to all the dedicated teachers who consistently go above and beyond to ensure the success of our students. Your hard work, passion, and unwavering commitment to education make a profound difference in the lives of learners every single day. It is because of your efforts that our students grow not only academically, but as confident, curious, and capable individuals.
- F. Student Board Representatives Report - Jiya Malhotra and Vanessa Maignan reported schools across Trumbull are celebrating Teacher Appreciation Week.
- TECEC:**  
TECEC has announced Ms. Rosa as TECEC’s paraeducator of the year and Miss Kelley as TECEC’s teacher of the year.
- Daniels Farm:**  
Daniels Farm held the Kids Marathon 10k milestone, on April 10th, Rob Buyea, author, visited grades 4-5. Green Team Earth Day Grounds Clean Up, Quassy Night
- Frenchtown:**  
Frenchtown students celebrated Earth Day on April 22, May 6th is the Grade 5 Chipotle Fundraiser
- Jane Ryan:**  
Jane Ryan celebrated Principal Appreciation Day
- Middlebrook:**  
Middlebrook started their first annual school wide book club, MB Reads; Middlebrook Mentors visited Fairfield University
- Booth Hill:**  
Earth Day; 5th graders visited Hillcrest
- Tashua:**  
Grade 5 visit to Madison Middle School; kindergarteners participated in an in-school Trumbull Nature Center visit to learn about animal homes and structures. School Lunch Hero Day-Tashua celebrated Ms. Sue, Ms. Donna, Ms. Katie, Ms. Anam, Ms. Fariha and Ms. Joann.
- Hillcrest:**  
SAVE (Students Against Violence Everywhere) Clubs attended the Youth Leadership Summit in Philadelphia; SBAC testing with 8th grade students also taking the NGSS Assessment; PTA Color Run, 8th Grade Stepping Forth ceremony on Monday, June 9
- Madison:**  
Smarter Balanced Assessments in Reading; NGSS science test.; SAVE Club and Panther Pals are circulating positivity
- Trumbull High:**  
The Spring Instrumental Concert, the DECA team shout out to juniors Rithik Gunda, Joshua Jacob, and Rahas Sachdeva who received finalist honors for their business solutions project at the International Career Development Conference in Orlando. The annual BEI (Business/Education Initiative) recognition event on May 1, the National Honor Society inducted 129 new members; Senior Fly Thru on May 17, Senior Class Trip on May 29, Prom on May 30, and the Graduation Ceremony June 10.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. The minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of April 8, 2025 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of April 8, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

## B. Personnel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations/retirements:

- Hendrickson, Paul; Business Administrator at the Long Hill Administration Building since September 2020, retiring effective June 30, 2025
- McCaffrey, James; English teacher at Trumbull High School (currently on a personal leave of absence) resigning effective June 30, 2025
- Murphy, Brittany; teacher of the deaf district-wide since May 2024, resigning effective June 30, 2025

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

## C. Healthy Food Certification

Mr. Molyneux and Mr. Hendrickson presented the Healthy Food Certification for the 2025-2026 school year.

### **Vote 1: Required vote for participation in healthy food option of HFC:**

“Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Trumbull Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.”

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the participation in the Healthy Food Certification (HFC) as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor

**Vote 2: Required vote for food exemptions for BOEs voting “yes” to the healthy food option of HFC.** The motion and BOE-approved meeting minutes must reflect a “yes” or “no” vote to allow food exemptions.

“The Trumbull Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales.”

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the Exemption for Food Items in schools for the 2025-2026 school year as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

## D. Lunch Prices for 2025-2026 School Year

Due to increased costs for Food Service items and higher quality lunches, Food Services Director Mr. Christopher Molyneux and Mr. Hendrickson presented the proposed \$0.20 increase for all lunch offerings for school year 2025-2026.

- Elementary Schools: \$3.30 => \$3.50.
- Middle Schools: \$3.50 => \$3.70.
- High School: \$3.65 => \$3.85.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the lunch price increases for the 2025-2026 school year as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. TECEC Preschool Tuition Increase

Mr. Hendrickson and Dr. Wheeler presented the proposed TECEC tuition in comparison to surrounding towns / facilities and recommend the TECEC annual tuition be increased from \$4,200 => \$4,500 for the 2025-2026 school year.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the TECEC tuition increase as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Policy Committee

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policies for Second 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

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Norcel) to accept the above policies as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Bandecchi) to rescind Policy 5131.912 Bullying: Safe School Climate Plan. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Bandecchi) to rescind Policy 5131.911 Bullying-Prevention. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Financial Committee Update

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on April 24, 2025. Mr. Hendrickson presented the financial reports through March 31, 2025 for full Board approval.

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

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 7:50 p.m.