

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Regular Meeting – May 20, 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. 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:
Lena Palmer, Susan Horan and Karin & Gracie Rainhoe expressed gratitude for Miss Paulette, the driver for the #12 bus to DFS. Mike Stafforoni; Paul Heinz; Mariana Neri; Ana Lopez; Carlos Arestizabal; Jayne and Gregor Macintyre, Christina and Josh Buck, Dawn Zaccagnino, Melissa and Daniel Durden and Holly Mastroianni stated their support and hope that the BOE adds a rugby program to THS athletics. Bree Ann Prezioso has concerns with a PPT meeting.
- C. Public Comment – Kathryn Lynch supports a strict cell phone policy. Jenna Giordano stated the importance of a school wide ban on cell phone use. Linda Smith discussed the importance of making rugby a varsity sport. Natasha Montero spoke in favor of a cell phone ban in schools. Jack Geraghty, a 3-year rugby player, talked about the benefits rugby has brought to his life. Annie Mohr cited evidence caused by screen time and the emotional harm caused by cell phone use.
- D. Superintendent Report
Dr. Semmel expressed his gratitude to the Board for their hard work and commitment throughout the budget process. He acknowledged the time, thoughtfulness, and collaboration they brought to the table, recognizing their efforts to ensure the District’s priorities align with the best interests of its students. With regard to our current budget, we remain under a budget freeze as we work to finalize open financials by year-end. We are posting open positions for next year on our District website and on CTReap.net for certified staff positions. This is an exciting time of year, filled with anticipation and pride, as we look ahead to end-of-year celebrations that honor the hard work, growth, and accomplishments of our students and staff. It is a moment to reflect on all we've achieved together and to celebrate the successful completion of another meaningful and productive school year.
- E. Board Chairman Report – The Board Chair outlined the extensive budget process, which begins each October and concludes in May, emphasizing the Board’s ongoing commitment to aligning financial planning with the evolving needs of our students and the Trumbull community. Throughout this months-long effort, the Board remains focused on ensuring that every dollar is used strategically to support

programs, resources, and initiatives that will foster student success within the scope of the funds provided. Moving the District forward requires more funding.

F. Teacher Board Representative Report

John Congdon reported: teachers enjoyed a relaxing spring break; Smarter Balanced assessments are underway; Teacher Appreciation week; several members have completed advanced degrees; TEA surveys are due; staff are preparing for end of year meetings and the TEA is busy preparing for our upcoming negotiations beginning in July.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. The minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of May 6, 2025 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (Bandeccchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of May 6, 2025 as presented. Vote: Abstain- McNamee. In favor- Bandeccchi, Squiccimarro, Timpanelli, Norcel, Petitti, Nuland, Gallo. Vote: motion passes.

B. Personnel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations:

Artese, Vincent; social studies teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2011, resigning effective June 30, 2025.

Carravone, Jennifer; special education teacher at the Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center since August 2016, resigning effective June 30, 2025.

Miskella, Lauri; school psychologist at Hillcrest Middle School since January 2024, resigning effective June 30, 2025.

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

C. 2025-2026 Budget Finalization

Dr. Semmel and Mr. Hendrickson presented the modified list of proposed increases and reductions to the Board of Education approved 2025-2026 budget to reach a total net reduction of \$1,073,380.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the budget 2025-2026 school year as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Pay to Participate Fee Adjustment

Mr. Hendrickson and Athletic Director Mike King presented adjusted Pay to Participate fees for school year 2025-2026. The recommendation is that the Athletic Pay to Participate fee be increased \$25 from \$165 => \$190. Also, the Hockey fee will be increased from \$365 => \$390 from review of the March 31, 2025 financial report.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the Pay to Participate fee adjustments for the 2025-2026 school year as presented. No vote was taken.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Squiccimarro) to take away \$45,000 from various accounts to avoid an increase in Pay to Participate fees. Vote- In favor- McNamee. Not in favor- Bandeccchi, Squiccimarro, Norcel, Petitti, Nuland, Timpanelli, Gallo. Vote- motion fails.

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Nuland) to table the approval of the Pay to Participate fee adjustments for the 2025-2026 school year until the next meeting. Vote: In favor- Bandecchi, Squicciarro, McNamee, Norcel, Petitti, Nuland. Not in favor- Timpanelli, Gallo. Vote: motion passes.

E. Policy Committee

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policies for First Reading:

- a. Policy 3514.1 Use of District Vehicles
- b. Policy 1330/Use of Public-School Buildings and Sites
- c. Policy 6142.101/Student Wellness
- d. Policy 5131.81/ Use of Private Technology by Students
- e. Policy 6141.328/Bring Your Own Device in Trumbull Public Schools

These policies will be brought back to the Board for approval at a future meeting

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:49 p.m.