

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Regular Meeting – June 3, 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- absent

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION – The Board of Education unanimously motioned to enter into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent and Non-Affiliates’ increases. Members present: Timpanelli, Norcel, Nuland, Gallo, McNamee, Petitti. Members absent: Bandecchi, Squicciarro. The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Nuland) to discuss the Superintendent’s increase and increases of non-affiliates. The Superintendent and Attorney Floyd Dugas were invited to be part of the session. Vote: Unanimous in favor. Executive session began at 6:05 p.m. It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Norcel) to end at 6:43 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
- B. Recognition – Board of Education Student Representatives – Jiya Malhotra, Vanessa Maignan
Trumbull High School seniors Jiya Malhotra and Vanessa Maignan are commended for their contributions to the Board of Education and the community as Board of Education student representatives for the 2024-2025 school year. Jiya and Vanessa have provided pertinent on all schools in the district. We wish them well in all of their post-high school endeavors. We are fortunate to have worked with such talented individuals.

The Board of Education and administration thanked and commended the Jiya Malhotra and Vanessa Maignan.

C. Recognition - Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Leadership Awards

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) Student Leadership Awards program was developed to give local Boards of Education the opportunity to recognize student achievement and potential. The two Trumbull High School, two Hillcrest Middle and two Madison Middle School students were selected for this award as a result of their leadership qualities. They are:

- ❖ Vanessa Maignan - THS
- ❖ Jiya Malhotra – THS
- ❖ Jaxson Vano – Hillcrest Middle
- ❖ Laila Novia – Hillcrest Middle
- ❖ Oliver Henriquez – Madison Middle
- ❖ Siya Shah – Madison Middle

The Board of Education commended the recipients of the CABE Leadership Awards and presented them with a certificate.

D. Recognition – National Merit Scholarship Winner, THS Senior Luke Simon

Trumbull High School Senior, Luke Simon, has been named a winner of one of the scholarships through the National Merit Scholarship program. This is based upon academic record, including difficulty level of subjects studied and grades earned; scores from the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test; contributions and leadership in school and community activities; and an essay written by the finalist.

The Board of Education congratulated and commended Luke Simon on this outstanding achievement.

E. Recognition – Retirements

The Administration and Board of Education honored this year’s retirees and presented them with a gift for their service.

Daniels Farm Elementary School	Helene Lui
Daniels Farm Elementary	Lisa Stanton
Daniels Farm Elementary School/ Frenchtown Elementary School	Anne Rosa
Daniels Farm Elementary School	Stacy Weinstein
Frenchtown Elementary School	Susan Parkinson
Hillcrest Middle School	Michael Ward
Jane Ryan Elementary School	Katherine Clyons
Jane Ryan Elementary School	Olya Fryz
Long Hill Administration	Paul Hendrickson
Long Hill Administration	William Luce
Long Hill Administration	Joann Perkowski
Long Hill Administration	Raymond Santoro

Madison Middle School	Gail Hellthaler
Madison Middle School	Amparo Ludwig
Madison Middle School	Nancy Yarmosh
Middlebrook Elementary School	Stephanie Hawkins
Middlebrook Elementary School	Michael McGrath
Middlebrook Elementary School	Lisa Sciortino
Tashua Elementary School	Mary Pierce
Trumbull High School	Mary Anne Davis
Trumbull High School	Katherine Rubano

F. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland reported: Kathryn Lynch, Liz and Tim Juselis, Kaitlyn Platt, Daniel Platt, Sandra Ineichen, Merrienne Cipolla, Erica Pivori, Erin Davidow, Sarah Broas, Laura Adam, Aaron and Alva McKee, Melissa DeVito, Pamela Smith and Mary Noel want a ban on all cell phones at all grades. Sandra Kucyhnski wrote in to question our use of ESS and encourage us to continue with building subs. Bree Ann Prezioso inquired about an ongoing issue.

G. Public Comment - Briana Ashiotes urged the Board to enact a bell-to-bell cell phone ban citing classroom bans are not effective; Natasha Montero wants a strict cell phone policy to support teens well being and Mary Noel supports a cell phone ban in schools.

H. Superintendent Report- Dr. Semmel

As we close another successful school year, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all who make Trumbull Public Schools such an exceptional place of learning and growth. To our Board of Education - thank you for your unwavering dedication and thoughtful leadership. To our central office and entire staff—your commitment, hard work, and teamwork have been vital to every achievement we have seen this year. To our teachers—your extraordinary effort, passion, and resilience continue to inspire and uplift our students every single day. And to our families - your partnership and support are deeply valued and essential to our success. Most of all, to our 7,000 students - thank you for showing up, staying engaged, and making a difference. You are the heart of our district, and your energy and effort give us hope for the future. We wish the entire Trumbull community a safe, restful, and healthy summer.

I. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli delivered a heartfelt tribute to outgoing Board member Tim Gallo, acknowledging his significant contributions and the lasting impact he made on TPS. She expressed sincere gratitude for his outstanding service. The Board also extends its Congratulations and Best Wishes to the graduating class of 2025.

J. Student Board Representatives Report

Jiya Malhotra and Vanessa Maignan reported... **TECEC:** thematic units including summer safety, having safe fun and ocean animals, school-wide sing-along with Miss Gabby. **Daniels Farm:** Student Council Picnic, Grade 3 Field Trip to CT Old State House, Be Green and Read Summer. **Frenchtown:** Dance-A-Thon, Grade 5 picnic. **Jane Ryan:** field trip to the Eli Whitney Museum, engineering projects. **Middlebrook:** Field Day, Fifth Grade Field Trip to YMCA third and fourth grade picnics at the end of the week. **Booth Hill:** author Julia Cook visit, Principal for the Day. **Tashua:** Field Day, Grade 5 visit to Madison Middle School, Grade 1 Field Trip to the library, Grade 1-2 visit from the Trumbull Nature

Center. **Hillcrest:** music festival at Lake Compounce, 8th grade dance. **Madison:** band and string students traveled to Lake Compounce to participate in the Thrills & Thrills Music Festivals, 8th Grade Dance at THS. **Trumbull High:** scholarships award evening, Senior Class Trip to Six Flags and Prom on May 30, Athletic Awards ceremony, Graduation Ceremony on June 10th, the senior class would like to thank the administration and Board for their time and effort that goes into providing for our betterment as students.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Norcel) to move agenda item G Approval/Best Buddies to follow agenda Item III B Personnel. Vote: all in favor

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. The minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of May 20, 2025 were presented for Board approval.

It was moved (Norcel) and seconded (Gallo) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of May 20, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel

Dr. Semmel presented two certified resignations:

- Berte, Isabel; special education teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 2021, resigning effective June 30, 2025.
- Stellato, Caitlin; art teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School and Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center since December 2022, resigning effective June 30, 2025.

A motion was made (Gallo) and seconded (Bandeccchi) to accept the two certified resignations as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Approval/Best Buddies Trip to Indiana University

Advisors Ms. Basbagill and Ms. Kremzar presented the Best Buddies trip to Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana which is scheduled from July 18-July 21. This trip is for the Trumbull High School Best Buddies advisors and student club president to attend the Best Buddies Leadership Conference. Best Buddies CT has covered the registration for the Trumbull High School attendees as well as lodging, meals, and transportation in Indiana. The THS chapter of Best Buddies will only need to pay for transportation to the event using funds in their account.

A motion was made (Nuland) and seconded (Norcel) to waive the 90-day timeline and approve the Best Buddies trip to Indiana University as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Superintendent & Non-Affiliates' Increases

Atty. Floyd Dugas and Mr. Chella presented the following recommended increases with the corresponding bargaining unit (**in red**):

Non-Central Office

a. OT/PT (Therapists) (**teachers**)

Grant these positions an increase of 2.00% (five of these seven positions an increase from \$75.91 to \$77.43 per hour; one position an increase from \$77.16 to \$78.70 per hour; and one position an increase from \$62.96 to \$64.22 per hour).

b. Behavior Analyst (**teachers**)

Grant these positions an increase of 2.00%; (two of these four positions an increase from \$70.73 to \$72.14 per hour; and two from \$69.68 to \$71.07 per hour).

- c. Cafeteria Aides (**paras**)
Grant these positions an increase to be determined pending ratification of TPA contract.
- d. Parking Lot Attendant (**paras**)
Grant this position an increase to be determined pending ratification of TPA contract.
- e. Trumbull Public Schools Webmaster (**teachers**)
Grant this position an increase of 2.0% from \$8,751.81 to \$8,926.85

Central Office

- a. Payroll & Insurance Manager (**UE Supervisors**)
Grant this position an increase of 2.75% from \$97,470.21 to \$100,150.64 per year.
- b. Executive Assistant to the Superintendent (**TASS**)
Grant this position an increase to be determined pending ratification of TASS contract.
- c. Secretary to the Superintendent (**TASS**)
Grant this position an increase to be determined pending ratification of TASS contract.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above increases for Non-Central and Central Office as presented. Vote: all in favor

Central Office

- d. Superintendent of Schools – Grant this position an increase (to be determined from Executive Session).
- e. Assistant Superintendent – Grant this position an increase (to be determined from Executive Session).
- f. Director of Human Capital & Talent Development – Grant this position an increase (to be determined from Executive Session).
- g. Director of PPS – Grant this position an increase (to be determined from Executive Session).
- h. Director of Operations – Grant this position an increase (to be determined from Executive Session).

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the above increases for Central Office as presented. Abstain – Bandecchi. Vote: in favor- Timpanelli, Norcel, Nuland, Gallo, McNamee, Petitti. Motion passes

E. Policy Committee

Dr. Iwanicki presented the following policies for Second 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

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the policies as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Gallo) and seconded (Bandecchi) to add the definitions from the revised policy 6141.328 bring your own device in TPS to the new policy 5131.81 use of private technology for students. Vote: all in favor

1. Device- a device as part of this protocol is a piece of privately owned, portable electronic technology that meets the technical specs listed above for the high school bring your own device program. This category of devices includes, but is not limited, emerging mobile communication systems, smart technologies and any technology that can be used for wireless internet access, word processing, image capture recording, sound recording and info transmitting, receiving and storing.

2. Cellular telephone or wireless communication device- a cellular telephone or wireless communication device is a handheld or wearable electronic device that has the ability to receive and or transmit voice, text or data messages without a cable connection, such may include but is not limited to cellular telephones, smart watches and gaming devices. This definition also includes any current or emerging wireless handheld technologies or portable info technology systems developed for similar purposes.

F. Approval/Pay to Participate Fee Adjustment

Mr. Hendrickson presented adjusted Pay to Participate fees for school year 2025-2026. The recommendation 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 (Bandecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to remove from the table the motion and approve the Pay to Participate fee adjustments for the 2025-2026 school year as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Financial Committee Update

Mrs. Norcel reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on May 22, 2025. Mr. Hendrickson presented the financial reports through April 30, 2025 for full Board approval.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the financial report as of April 30, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:21 p.m.