

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Regular Meeting – September 30, 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
J. McNamee
M. Petitti
A. Squicciarro- online
S. Wich

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. Introduction of Madison Middle School Assistant Principal
Dr. Semmel is pleased to introduce Mr. James Sapia as the new Madison Middle School Assistant Principal. Previously, Mr. Sapia taught at the elementary and middle school levels in Stamford, Ct. where he was recognized at the “Teacher of the Year” and currently served as the Assistant Principal at the Beecher Wood School in Woodbridge, Ct. We look forward to the expertise and enthusiasm Mr. Sapia will bring to Madison Middle School.
- C. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland reported the following correspondence: Teachers and administrators wrote to thank the Board for the tenure presentation held at the September 9 BOE meeting. Nineteen parents wrote to discuss the negative implications regarding a policy that impacts Middlebrook and Frenchtown students; Bree Ann Prezioso wrote with a concern; Leyla Fayyaz wrote about DF second grade class size; 75 parents wrote with concerns with the SRP program’s proposed changes for next year and would like to thank Dean Catalano, PPS Director who has been receptive to parents in keeping them informed and responding to their questions.
- D. Public Comment- No sign-ups this evening.
- E. Superintendent Report
Dr. Semmel reported the Transportation Department is hard at work to provide major improvements in bus routes, as well as significantly reducing the number of open action reports for bus issues. We will kick off the budget process with our school leaders in early October. We are mindful of parents' concerns regarding elementary classroom size, overcrowding on our buses and our hope to eliminate string/band fees at the elementary level. However; we need to also be mindful of increases in utility and transportation costs, health insurance and cost

increases for products and services in our schools. The Superintendent will put forth a responsible budget to balance students' needs while recognizing the tax implications on Trumbull's citizens. We appreciate parents' engagement in the budget process and encourage them to stay informed via our monthly updates.

F. Board Chairman Report

Mrs. Timpanelli expressed her sincere thanks to Mindy Mayer of Greentree Farms in Idaho who donated three Kerry Hill lambs to the Agriscience program. This donation will support our breeding program and help expand the breed to the East Coast.

G. Teacher Board Representative Report

Ms. Nedda Carrano reported- teachers appreciated the W.I.N. time during the August PD; TEA contract negotiations are underway; elementary teachers are navigating through Bookworms; the updated cell phone policy and the institution of the electronic pass at THS are proving to have a positive impact on students focus and well-being; teachers are looking forward to creating goals which promote learning, growth and collaboration.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Field Trip, THS Model Congress to JW Marriott Hotel, Washington, DC

Mr. Brian Springsteen and Ms. Katie Boland presented the Trumbull HS Model Congress trip to JW Marriott Hotel in Washington, DC which is scheduled for November 20, 2025 to November 23, 2025. Funding for this trip is provided through families, ACE Foundation Grant, and community fundraising.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the THS Model Congress trip to Washington, DC from November 20 through November 23, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. The following minutes of the BOE are presented for approval:

- Regular Meeting of September 9, 2025 is presented for Board approval.

It was moved (Bandeccchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of September 9, 2025 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- Special Meeting/Executive Session of September 25, 2025 is presented for Board approval.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the minutes of the BOE Special Meeting/Executive Session of September 25, 2025 as presented. Bandeccchi- abstain. Vote: In favor- Timpanelli, Norcel, Nuland, McNamee, Petitti, Squiccimarro, Wich. Motion passes.

C. Personnel

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignations:

Coppola, Paul; Assistant Principal at Madison Middle School since August 2016, resigning effective September 19, 2025.

Kingston, Nicole; literacy consultant at Tashua Elementary School since March 2024, resigning effective October 9, 2025.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the two resignations as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Donation to Agriscience of Ewe/Ram

Kevin Boken presented the donation by Mindy Mayer of Greentree Farms in Idaho, one of the few U.S. breeders of Kerry Hill sheep. The genetics will strengthen the breed on the East Coast as we responsibly share bloodlines. The donations are as follows:

- 1) 87.5% Kerry Hill Ewe Lamb: \$1,200
- 2) 87.5 % Kerry Hill Ewe Lamb: \$1,200
- 3) 88.75% Kerry Hill Ram Lamb: \$1,500

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the donation of ewes/ram valued in total amount of \$3,900 to Agriscience as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Approval/Donation ACE Foundation Grant to Hillcrest and Madison Robotics Programs

Michaela Durand and Dan Neumann presented the Trumbull Academic Challenge for Excellence (ACE) Foundation offer of a donation of \$9,000 to support the robotics clubs at Madison and Hillcrest Middle Schools in a deep commitment of fostering STEM education. The donation is intended to cover a one-time equipment upgrade, ensuring the long-term success of the robotics program. This will include a new game and field element kit, the REC Foundation team registration, and the competition registration. This donation will upgrade the team's equipment to meet modern competition standards.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the donation of \$9,000 from the ACE Foundation Grant to the Hillcrest and Madison Robotics Programs as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. TPAUD Survey

Melissa McGarry presented the 2025 Trumbull Youth Survey for Board approval. The results of this survey contribute to community initiatives aimed at supporting Trumbull youth and their families. The survey results will provide local data which will be used to inform TPAUD's education and outreach efforts.

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the TPAUD survey as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Approval/5 Year Capital Improvement Plan

Mr. Dion presented the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan. Included in the discussion for 2026 for major cost drivers - elevator repair, HVAC installation and updates- AC split units and parking lot drainage and alteration at several of our schools.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Norcel) to approve the 5 Year Capital Improvement Plan as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

H. Curriculum Committee Report

Mrs. Petitti reported that the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education met for a regular meeting on September 18, 2025. Dr. Iwanicki presented the K-3 Reading ELA Curriculum guide for approval.

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (McNamee) to accept the above K-3 Bookworms ELA Curriculum program as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

I. Finance Committee Report

The Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on September 18, 2025 and reviewed the intra-fund transfers.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the intra-fund transfers as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:07 p.m.