

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Finance Committee of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025

Location: Long Hill – Ellie’s Room

Attendees:

- **Committee Members:** Jackie Norcel (Chair), Julia McNamee
- **Staff:** Alison Pierce, Dean Catalano
- **Other(s):** Mary Isaac (virtual), Cindy Katske (virtual)

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 23, 2025 meeting were approved 2-0 (Motion: Ms. McNamee; Second: Ms. Norcel).

Discussion with Mr. Catalano, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Mr. Catalano provided an update on the PPS Department, highlighting improvements made within our in-district programming, which places a strong emphasis on continuous services. These enhancements have contributed to the lowest outplacement count at the start of a school year, with 38 students outplaced, compared to our historical levels in the low 40s.

A discussion was held regarding the continued success of the REACH Program, including strategies to strengthen local partnerships and expand the program into a regional hub. Mr. Catalano also presented information on the REACH Annex, which applies the same instructional model to middle school students.

Mr. Catalano then discussed the SEED grant and how current funds are being used to upgrade the REACH facility. Ms. McNamee inquired about the ELITE Program and whether it could also become a regional hub. Mr. Catalano explained that a forthcoming grant opportunity aimed at expanding regionalized centers aligns well with the district’s current programming. Ms. Pierce will keep the Finance Committee informed of any new grant submissions or awards.

Ms. McNamee requested additional information regarding the number and percentages of paraeducators, particularly within the SRP programs.

Mr. Catalano explained that the district continues to identify cost-saving measures, including reductions in Special Education transportation expenses through ride-sharing with neighboring

towns, as well as training paraeducators to obtain the State of Connecticut endorsement required to operate special education transportation vehicles.

HR Information Requested from 10/23/25 Finance Meeting

Ms. Pierce presented a spreadsheet from HR providing a snapshot of absences and fill rates by school. The data, covering mid-October to mid-November for 2024, was compared to the same period in 2025. Through improved strategies, HR has successfully increased fill rates and reduced absences across the district.

Review of FY26 Financial Statements for the month ending October 31, 2025

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the General Fund budget, including questions about specific line items. Ms. Pierce explained that most line items appearing over budget are anticipated and will be offset either by savings in other areas or through the use of grant funds as they become available.

*Motion to approve and forward to the Board of Education: Ms. McNamee; Second: Ms. Norcel.
Motion passed 2-0.*

Draft 2026 Finance Committee Meeting Calendar:

A draft calendar was shared with the committee. Following discussion, the committee directed Ms. Pierce to revise the calendar to align with the BOE meeting dates, with the Finance Committee meeting scheduled prior to each BOE meeting, at 4:30pm. Ms. Pierce will make the corrections and send out the calendar in accordance with the Town Charter.

Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: Ms. McNamee; Second: Ms. Norcel. Motion passed 2-0. The meeting adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Pierce