

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Budget Meeting – January 6, 2026

The Trumbull Board of Education met for a Budget Meeting at the Long Hill Administration Building.

Members present:

L. Timpanelli - Chairman
M. Petitti – Vice Chair
L. Nuland - Secretary
C. Bandecchi
S. Hepburn-James
T. McGee
J. McNamee
A. Squicciarro-online

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

Agenda Item II—Preliminary Business

- A. Salute to the Flag - The Public Session began with a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland read the following correspondence: Bree Ann Prezioso wrote with an update to a request, Electra Ferrello wrote in with a budget inquiry.
- C. Public Comment- There were no sign ups for public comment this evening.
- D. Superintendent Report- Dr. Semmel
Dr. Semmel welcomed everyone back following winter recess and expressed his anticipation for a productive and successful 2026 for Trumbull Public Schools. Members of the public may access the 2026-2027 budget presentation online via the Trumbull Public Schools website by selecting the Board of Education tab and then the budget section. Videos of the January 6 and January 8 budget meetings are also available on TCTV Trumbull.
- E. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli
As we begin the budget development process, the Board will continue to advocate on behalf of our students, programs, and staff to preserve district excellence. We ask that consideration be given to the current economic climate and the increasing costs associated with inflation, utilities-electricity, and health insurance. This budget request reflects our ongoing commitment to maintaining a competitive district and to remaining aligned with technological advancements that support continued progress in our schools. We extend our sincere appreciation to Senator Sujata Gadkar-Wilcox and First Selectman Vicki Tesoro for their continued support of Trumbull Public Schools.
- F. Student Board Representatives Report- Danielle Lyon and Naomi Mickens reported: **TECEC:** hibernation unit, kindergarten registration for the class of 2038; **Frenchtown:** “Holidays

Around the World” day, hat and mitten drive, new book donation partnership with Next Chapter Books, mid-year assessments; **Middlebrook:** Students in grades 2-5 will complete i-Ready diagnostic assessments, fifth-grade students will participate in a grade-level activity at Bowlero on January 14 **DFS:** grades 2-5 are using Eureka math curriculum, grade 5 winter ice-skating activity **Tashua:** Trumbull Public Schools Night on January 3, the PTA will host Wellness Game Night on January 9; **Booth Hill:** holiday boutique **Madison:** PTA Reflections national arts program **Hillcrest:** basketball Cross Town Showdown, Hillcrest thanks the PTA and parent volunteers for their support of the Health and Wellness Fair **THS:** On January 8, military representatives will visit during lunch waves to discuss career paths, Scholarship Workshops will be held in the college and career center to provide resources for college funding. Juniors and Seniors can join an after-school sustainability-program through the Trumbull Nature and Arts center, the Mock Trial team gives students hands on courtroom procedures, Link Crew cocoa and cram, midterm exams 1/14-1/20, the Rotary Club is sponsoring a student speech contest, the We the People team is preparing for the state competition with a visit to NYC and would like to invite BOE members and the Trumbull community to a dress rehearsal on January 22 at 7:00 p.m. in the Trumbull library community room.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Minutes – December 9, 2025 BOE Meeting

It was moved (Bandedchi) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the December 9, 2025 BOE Minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel

Dr. Semmel reported no changes since the last meeting.

C. 2026-2027 Budget Presentation & Discussion – Dr. Semmel

Part I – Introduction-Dr. Semmel

- Overview- Our mission for the 2026-2027 budget is to provide high quality teaching to meet the educational needs of all students and to ensure the physical, social, emotional well-being of all students in a positive learning environment. Dr. Semmel outlined the rationale behind this year’s budget proposal and cited data on the success of Connecticut’s Next Generation and advanced placement test scores. Also presented was data proving that Trumbull’s past budget increases have consistently ranked lower than many peer districts. Our budget objective is to focus on preparing students for academic and developmental success using cost effective planning.

- Financial Summary- The proposed budget totals \$137,773,114 that is a year-to-date increase of \$8,595,475 or 6.65%. The major drivers are salaries (62.1%); employee benefits (20.1%); purchased services (12.3%). In preparing this year’s budget, we must be mindful of the current economic challenges; specifically, the rising cost of health insurance and utilities- electricity; as well as legislative mandates that will impact our budget process as we plan for the future. The overall impact on the number of certified staffing changes has a net change of 6.0 FTE as follows:
 - Increase 3.0 elementary classroom teachers
 - Increase 2.0 elementary world language Spanish teachers
 - Increase 1.0 reading interventions for middle school level

The overall impact on the number of non-certified staff has a net change of 1.0 FTE as follows:

- Increase 0.5 payroll analyst
- Increase 0.5 in-school suspension (ISS) paraprofessional

Part II –Health Insurance- Mrs. Pierce

Mrs. Pierce presented the proposed budget for Health Insurance that reflects a net budget of \$24,462,000 (a 15.61% increase over the 2025-2026 budget). Year-to-year rates are estimated at 15% based on the Connecticut State Partnership Plan meeting. Final rates will be set in late March/early April with calculations based on existing personnel.

Part III – Trumbull High School, Agriscience & Athletics – Mr. Todd Manuel, Mr. Michael King

THS

Principal Todd Manuel presented the proposed budget for THS that reflects a \$669,779 increase (3.61%) over the 2025-2026 budget. The increase includes dues and fees, supplies, and THS police services.

THS Agri-Science

Principal Todd Manuel presented the proposed budget for THS Agri-Science that reflects a \$68,190 decrease (-9.83%) over the 2025-2026 budget.

THS Athletics

Athletic Director Mike King presented the proposed budget for THS Athletics that reflects a \$100,934 increase (5.68%) over the 2025-2026 budget. The increase includes coaches, purchased services, transportation, supplies and equipment.

Part IV - Technology & Digital Learning – Mr. Jeffrey VanSteenburgh, Ms. Christina Hefele

Technology

Mr. VanSteenburgh presented the proposed budget for Technology that reflects a \$155,683 increase (7.33%) over the 2025-2026 budget. The increase includes district equipment, software, LAN telephone, WAN equipment and copiers.

Digital Learning

Mrs. Hefele presented the proposed budget for Digital Learning that reflects a \$15,415 increase (3.05%) over the 2025-2026 budget. The increase includes Infinite Campus student database.

Part V – Assistant Superintendent – Dr. Susan Iwanicki-Office of Teaching and Learning

Dr. Iwanicki presented the proposed budget for the Office of Teaching and Learning that reflects a \$144,399 increase (4.06%) over the 2025-2026 budget. The increase includes textbooks/ workbooks and online subscriptions.

Part IV – Human Capital and Talent Development – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the proposed budget for Human Resources that reflects a \$18,159 increase (1.00%) over the 2025-2026 budget. The increase includes substitute teachers.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:06 p.m.