

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT  
Long Hill Administration Building  
Budget Meeting – January 8, 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  
S. Hepburn-James  
T. McGee  
J. McNamee  
A. Squicciarro-online

Members absent:

C. Bandecchi

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 a salute to the Flag.
- B. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland read the following correspondence: Melissa Farrow wrote to advocate for smaller class sizes in our district.
- C. Public Comment - Leyla Fayyaz spoke in favor of supporting the Superintendent's budget increase.
- D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel addressed Board inquiries related to the budget and shared cost-per-student comparisons between Trumbull and peer districts, illustrating that TPS budget increases have consistently lagged behind many districts leading to a higher budget request.
- E. Board Chairman Report – There was no report this evening.
- F. Teacher Board Representative Report - Nedda Carrano reported: At the elementary level, we would like to thank our math specialists and literacy consultants for their continued support, as classroom teachers pilot the new reading and writing program. The district is planning for the March P.D. day. Since elementary classroom teachers are piloting two new curricula this year, reading and writing, WIN time to evaluate and prepare is especially valuable.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

- A. Approval/THS Graduation Date for the Class of 2026

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the THS Graduation date of Friday, June 12, 2026 for the Class of 2026 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

## B. 2026-2027 Budget Presentation & Discussion (Continuation)

### Part VII - Elementary Schools – Mrs. Gina Prisco

Mrs. Prisco presented the proposed budget for Elementary Schools that reflects a \$640,478 (2.94%) increase over the 2025-2026 budget. The increase includes classroom supplies, textbooks/workbooks, library books and supplies and retention of staff.

### Part VIII – TECEC – Dr. Matthew Wheeler

Dr. Wheeler presented the proposed budget for TECEC that reflects a \$12,117 (0.79%) increase over the 2025-2026 budget. The increase includes testing materials and PD.

### Part IX - Middle Schools – Mr. Bryan Rickert, Mr. Peter Sullivan

Mr. Bryan Rickert and Mr. Peter Sullivan presented the proposed budget for Middle Schools that reflects a 470,792 (3.73%) increase over the 2025-2026 budget. The increase includes classroom supplies, textbooks/workbooks, library books and supplies.

### Part X – Facilities Department – Mr. Kevin Dion

Mr. Dion presented the proposed budget for Facilities that includes custodial, maintenance, security, buildings and grounds that reflects a \$721,781 (8.37%) increase over the 2025-2026 budget. The increase includes electricity, purchased property services and supplies.

### Part XI – Transportation – Mr. Kevin Dion

Mr. Dion presented the proposed budget for Transportation that reflects a \$664,020 (7.71%) increase over the 2025-2026 budget. The increase includes software, regular buses, SPED in district buses, SPED summer buses, SPED out of district, bus monitors and fuel.

### Part XII – PPS Department – Dr. Dean Catalano

Mr. Catalano presented the proposed budget for Pupil Personnel Services that reflects a \$801,844 (3.63%) increase over the 2025-2026 budget. The increase includes outplacements (tuition), legal fees, health services, and testing materials.

Mr. Catalano presented the PPS budget allocations for the next school year. The current number of students with disabilities in our district is 1096 (approximately 16% of the school population). Mr. Catalano discussed the impacts of out-of- district placements that are based on a student’s unique needs and how the district is engaging in programming to best serve our students and offset the increasing costs of educating students with disabilities. Mr. Catalano commended the ELITE program and its success.

### Closing Thoughts - Dr. Semmel

In closing the budget session, Dr. Semmel presented the essential components of the proposed budget and emphasized our commitment to maintaining the tradition of excellence at TPS. He further addressed the potential negative consequences of not fully funding the budget.

### Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:17 p.m.