

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Thursday, April 9, 2026
Trumbull High School Conference Room

MINUTES

I. Call to Order/Introduction. The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Members Present

M. Petitti, BOE Curriculum Committee Chair
L. Nuland, BOE Member
S. Iwanicki, Ed.D. administrative designee

Members Absent

J. McNamee, BOE member

Educators Present

E. Spark, House Principal
A. Rizza, English Department Chair
J. Spillane, English Teacher
J. Lobo, English Teacher
M. Bracksieck, English Teacher
K. Shupp, English Teacher
M. Columbo, English Teacher

II. Public Comment ~ No public comments were received.

III. Approve Minutes ~ Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the 2/12/26 meeting minutes; Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

a. **Curriculum Guide Update – *Honors Dramaturgy, Grade 12***

English Department Chair, Anne Rizza was present to introduce the educators from her department and expand on any revisions made. English teacher, Mrs. Spillane, began by discussing additions/updates to the curriculum guide, including the incorporation of a libretto as a script and the text of “In the Heights”; she further discussed various skills learned in other English classes which help with critical thinking and analyzing a script. The class draws a diverse group of students from both the general population and those already involved in the theater. A discussion ensued. Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated *Honors Dramaturgy* curriculum guide and bring it to the full BOE for approval, Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Nuland also motioned to approve the addition of the *In the Heights* by Lin-Manuel Miranda, Quiara Alegría Hudes and Jeremy McCarter, and bring it to the full Board for approval, Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. **Curriculum Guide Update – *Honors Shakespeare, Grade 12***

Former English teachers, Mr. Bracksieck, and English Teachers Dr. Lobos and Mrs. Spillane, discussed the updates to this curriculum guide, including the adjusted number of texts for students to read; the course is less tied to reading and more involved with how to make connections, contextualizing the text, understanding and demystifying the language and relating to human elements. The presenters outlined a shift in the curriculum's approach, moving away from being strictly bound to the text and instead focusing on the texts as live theatrical performances. The goal is to demystify Shakespeare's language and help students find universal human connections and performative space within the material. Dr. Iwanicki complimented the updates, Mrs. Spillane and Mr. Bracksieck thinks it is an empowering course and a total win for the students. A discussion ensued. Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated *Honors Shakespeare* curriculum guide, and bring to the full BOE for approval, Mrs. Petitti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. **Curriculum Guide Update - *Honors World Literature, Grade 12***

English teacher Ms. Shupp presented the curriculum guide updates including the text changes; the team felt the current text *100 Years of Solitude* was too long and wanted a greater variety of reading available, allowing many more choices and more exposure for the students. Renaming of the units and feel the flow of the course is much better in that the final units really use the newly proposed texts (*Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of The Dead* and *The God of Small Things*). Additionally, the curriculum was updated to diversify the reading list, specifically incorporating more female authors and varied cultural perspectives. Mrs. Nuland and Dr. Iwanicki complimented the changes; a discussion over book titles ensued. Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated *Honors World Literature* curriculum guide with the additional/updated essential questions and bring to the full BOE for approval, Mrs. Nuland seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Nuland also motioned to approve the two new texts (*Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of The Dead* by Olga Tokarczuk, and *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy), and bring to the full BOE for approval, Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

d. **Curriculum Guide Update – *Literature of Peace, Protest and Tolerance, Grade 12***

English teacher Ms. Columbo introduced the curriculum guide updates including the structure of the class/curriculum, the study of timely stories including the new proposed texts (“*They Called Us Enemy* and *Don’t Look Back*); incorporating a variety of civilian and soldiers’ perspectives by having speakers visit the class, etc. Ms. Columbo also mentioned that she would love to start a book club to compliment the course; a discussion ensued. Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated *Literature of Peace, Protest and Tolerance* curriculum guide with the additional/updated essential questions, and bring to the full BOE for approval, Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously. Mrs. Nuland also motioned to approve the two new texts *They Called Us Enemy* by George Takei, and *Don’t Look Back* by Achut Deng and Keely Hutton, and bring to the full BOE for approval, Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

e. **Curriculum Guide Update – *Story of Self, Grade 12***

English teachers Mrs. Rizza and Dr. Lobo provided a brief overview of this introspective course which is structured around the “**hero's journey**,” utilizing core texts such as *The Alchemist* and *The Last Lecture*. They described the class as introspective, contemplative and thoughtful, with a literal “Story of Self” written by the students as the culminating task. A discussion ensued. Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated *Story of Self* curriculum guide and bring to the full BOE for approval; Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Iwanicki, Mrs. Nuland and Mrs. Petitti thanked the presenters for all of their hard work updating and making current the abovementioned guides.

The meeting adjourned at 11:21 a.m.