

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Regular Meeting – April 7, 2026, 7:00 p.m. / *6:00 p.m. Executive Session
Minutes

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

Members present:

L. Timpanelli - Chairman
M. Petitti – Vice Chair
L. Nuland - Secretary
C. Bandecchi – arrived at 7:25 p.m.
S. Hepburn-James
T. McGee
J. McNamee
A. Squicciarro- absent

Agenda Item I—Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION - Tuesday, April 7, 2026 - Executive Session – 6:00 p.m.

Members present:

L. Timpanelli, Board Chairman
M. Petitti, Vice Chair
L. Nuland, Board Secretary
S. Hepburn-James
T. McGee
J. McNamee

Members absent:

C. Bandecchi
A. Squicciarro

It was moved (McGee) and seconded (Nuland) to go into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m. to discuss the UPSEU Local 424-Unit 75 Custodial Maintenance Security Bargaining unit contract and the Pending Legal Claim-Mark Deming vs. Trumbull Public Schools. Dr. Semmel, Mr. Chella and Attorney Dugas were invited into Executive Session. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Petitti) to come out of Executive Session at 6:50 p.m. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

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: 5 educators wrote to the BOE to say they would be interested in a retirement incentive. Layla Intellisano wrote to share her concern about grading practices in the math department at the high school.
- C. Public Comment - Electra Ferriello spoke about the negative impact of budget reductions and the importance of smaller class size at the elementary level.

D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel

We encourage all Trumbull residents to review the Superintendent's April newsletter, which highlights several important updates, including the positive and negative impacts of three-tiered busing. The Hillcrest building project is moving forward, with construction documents from TSKP Studio approval at this evening's meeting. On April 8, Dr. Semmel and his team will meet with the Town Council's Finance Committee at 7:00 p.m. to finalize the Superintendent's budget request. On March 24, the Board of Finance agreed to add \$500,000 to the line item for the Board of Education, for a total of \$134,844,746. The BOE had adopted a budget of \$137,773,114 on February 10. This leaves a budget gap of \$2,928,368. Our insurance premiums will be rising 12.5% for 2026-2027, not 15% as earlier expected, saving \$680,000. This reduces the BOE budget gap to \$2,248,368.

E. Board Chairman Report - Mrs. Timpanelli extends her congratulations to the cast and crew of *Something Rotten*, recently performed at THS. We also send our best wishes to all spring sports teams. Additionally, we are proud to share that our district has been ranked the number one in the state as the most efficient school district in a report conducted by Cheshire Public Schools.

F. Student Board Representatives Report

Student Board Representatives Naomi Mickens and Danielle Lyons reported on **TECEC**: safety exercise, TECEC turns 20, celebrating with a playground dedication.

Frenchtown: World Autism Awareness Day, Play-Doh projects, PTA will host Cultural Night on April 24 **MB**: class placement process for the 2026-2027 year, celebrate Autism Awareness to honor the uniqueness of every student. **Jane Ryan**: "Popping with Pride" event for outstanding effort in reading, World Autism Awareness Day, Fathers Club will host a pasta dinner fundraiser on April 24 **DFS**: field trip to the Challenger Mission at the Discovery Museum, Spring Book Fair, trimester two report cards **Tashua**: author Lauren Tarshis visit, students learning the ukulele and the recorder, Tashua celebrates fifth grader Adelyn Morabito, who performed at Carnegie Hall. the Read-a-Thon exceeded its goal, raising over \$11,000, multicultural night on May 13 and the annual Fathers Club Golf Outing on May 4 **Booth Hill**: author Lauren Tarshis visit, Kindergarten Orientation for the 2026-2027 school year **Madison**: welcomed incoming fifth graders from Frenchtown, Track and Field season with more than 80 students participating. Congratulations to eighth grader Ryder Zychek for competing in the NHCSA National Wrestling Tournament, donation of books to a Bridgeport elementary school, student art classes in partnership with Next Chapter Books. **Hillcrest**: School Librarian Day, National Junior Honor Society's spring book drive to benefit Boys and Girls Village of Milford. Grade 8 Stepping Forth ceremony on June 17 **THS**: final quarter of the year, seniors Ayuski Sharama and George Blake were recognized at the Connecticut Association of Schools High School Arts Banquet for their work in the visual and performing arts. Sophomore Ring Dance and Senior Showcase, National Honor Society Induction for rising seniors.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/UPSEU Local 424-Unit 75 Custodial Maintenance Security Bargaining Unit Contract Attorney Floyd Dugas presented the details of the Custodial Maintenance Security Bargaining Unit agreement.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the UPSEU Local 424-Unit 75 Custodial Maintenance Security Bargaining Unit Contract as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/H.O.S.A. (Health Occupations Students of America) International Leadership Conference Field Trip to Indianapolis, IN

THS teacher Ms. Michelle Han presented the trip to the International Leadership Conference (ILC) on June 17, 2026 thru June 21, 2026. Funding for this trip is provided through parents, student fund raising and grants from BEI (\$1,500.00) and ACE (\$1,500.00).

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McGee) to waive the 90-day timeline and approve the H.O.S.A. (Health Occupations Students of America) International Leadership Conference Field Trip to Indianapolis, IN as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Approval/Minutes

- Special Meeting of March 17, 2026

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the March 17, 2026 BOE Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Personnel

Dr. Semmel reported one certified resignation:

LaSella, Ryan; science teacher at Madison Middle School since September 2021, resigning effective April 2, 2026.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (McGee) to accept the certified resignation as presented. Vote Unanimous in favor.

E. Approval/Trumbull Day 2026 Special Request

Mrs. Kathleen McGannon presented the request from the Trumbull Day Commission for use of Hillcrest Middle School and Trumbull High School on Friday, June 26, Saturday, June 27, and (rain date) Sunday, June 28, 2026. The Trumbull Day Commission is requesting that the Board of Education waive its Policy 1330, Use of Public-School Buildings and Sites for three (3) days to allow for an alcohol concession on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High Schools:

"As with recent Trumbull Day events, we plan to serve beer and wine to patrons. The procurement of a temporary liquor permit from the State of CT and coordination with the Trumbull Police Department, who will be providing security for the event, is currently underway. Alcohol service will be handled by trained staff to assure that patrons are of legal drinking age and that no one is over-served at the event. All alcohol must be purchased through the vendor. Bags and coolers will be checked at entry points and patrons will not be permitted to bring alcohol onto the property."

If approved, all other provisions of the Board Policy will be adhered to and alcohol distribution and consumption must be properly monitored and controlled by the Trumbull Police Department, First Selectman's office, and Trumbull Day Commission members, to ensure that this concession is regulated in a responsible and appropriate manner.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Petitti) to approve a waiver for the Town of Trumbull to allow an alcohol concession booth on the grounds of Hillcrest and Trumbull High School in

conjunction with Trumbull Day on Friday, June 26, Saturday, June 27, and Sunday, June 28, 2026. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Approval/Donation for TECEC Playground

Dr. Wheeler presented the donation from TECEC PTO which raised funds to support the final phase of our playground renovation. Phase three focuses on replacing the awning over a section of the playground. On April 1, 2026, the PTO unanimously approved a contribution of \$2,200 to the Board of Education to help complete this project.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the donation of \$2,200 to replace the awning over the TECEC playground as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Non-Renewal of Non-Tenured Staff/Long Term Replacements – Mr. Chella

Mr. Chella presented that prior to May 1 of any given year, the Board of Education is asked to non-renew the contracts of non-tenured staff whose employment may not continue. This year, the non-renewal process includes three long-term replacement (substitute) teachers. The long-term replacement teachers were hired for the 2025-26 school year in a position of fixed duration. It is the opinion of the Superintendent that the non-renewals recommended are within the scope of the statutory teacher employment and tenure provisions, Section 10-151 of the Connecticut General Statutes; and are consistent with provisions of the TEA Agreement applicable to non-renewals of non-tenured and Long-Term Replacement teachers and non-tenured teachers. Also, please note that it may be necessary to revisit this agenda item at a meeting once the final budget numbers are known.

Move that pursuant to the Connecticut General Statutes 10-151, the Trumbull Board of Education non-renew the teaching contract of the following long-term replacement teachers at the end of their long-term contract or at the end of the 2025-26 school year, whichever occurs first, as recommended by the Superintendent:

Long Term Replacements

Riley Pastir – Daniels Farm Elementary School

Nicole Quinn – Jane Ryan Elementary School

Joanna Rosen – Jane Ryan Elementary School

and further move that the Superintendent of Schools be directed to communicate this action of the Board in writing to the above-named teachers and that the Superintendent of Schools be authorized to respond on behalf of the Board of Education to any requests which may be forthcoming from these teachers or their representatives pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 10-151.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Petitti) pursuant to CT General Statutes 10-151, the Trumbull Board of Education non-renew the teaching contracts of the long-term replacement teachers, Riley Pastir – Daniels Farm Elementary School, Nicole Quinn – Jane Ryan Elementary School, and Joanna Rosen – Jane Ryan Elementary School, as recommended. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

H. Approval/Hillcrest Middle School Building Committee Documents

Mr. Kevin Dion presented Hillcrest Middle School project documents, approval to proceed with submittal of documents to the Office of Grants Administration (OGA) for Phase 1 approval, and

approval for the BOE Chair to sign SCG-042, and allow Owner's Representative to seek signature to complete and submit SCG-042 to OGA.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McGee) to approve the construction documents for the new Hillcrest Middle School and authorizes the architect, TSKP Studio, to submit documents for Phase 1 - Early Sitework for the new Hillcrest Middle School project to the Office of Grants Administration (OGA) for their review and approval. Furthermore, it authorizes the Board of Education Chair to sign the SCG-042 Review of Plans form and allows the Owner's Representative to seek all necessary signatures to complete said form for submittal to OGA. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

I. Policy Committee Report

Mrs. Squicciarro reported that the Policy Committee of the Board of Education met on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 and reviewed the following policies:

Policy – Second Readings – Dr. Iwanicki

- Policy 5112.1 Kindergarten Enrollment and Early Entry Waiver (2026-2027)
- Policy 6166.1 Selection of Instructional Material: Revisions Needed
- Policy 1312.5 & 6161.14 Library Display and Program Policy
- Policy 1312.4 and 6161.13 – Library Policy Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy: *A New Policy*

It was moved (Hepburn) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the above policies as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

J. Finance Committee Report – Ms. McNamee

Ms. McNamee reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on April 7, 2026 and reviewed the following:

- Approvals/Financials as of February 28, 2026 – Mrs. Pierce

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McGee) to approve the financial reports as of February 28, 2026 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:01 p.m.