

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Regular Meeting – May 5, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

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

Members present:

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

Members absent:

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. Recognitions

1. DAR Outstanding Teacher of American History – Andrea Kremzar
THS Educator, Ms. Andrea Kremzar, received the Eunice Dennie Burr Chapters “DAR Outstanding Teacher of American History” award at the chapter house in Fairfield on March 15, 2026. She not only is the chapter winner but she was also selected as the state winner and will receive her award on April 18, 2026.

The Board and Administration commended and congratulated Ms. Andrea Kremzar on her outstanding achievement.

2. THS Girls Wrestling Team
Trumbull High School’s Girls Wrestling team won the Girls Wrestling State Championship this season, repeating last year’s success, for back-to-back state championship wins! The team went on to compete at the New England Championships, where the team finished 7th overall in New England.

The Board and Administration commended and congratulated the THS Girls Wrestling Team and presented them each with a certificate.

3. THS Girls Gymnastics Team
Trumbull High School’s Gymnastics team finished another season undefeated, going 10-0. The team went on to repeat last year’s success, winning an FCIAC title, a State Championship title for Class L and a State Open title – making this the third year in a row

for all 3 titles! The team moved on to New England Championships, where it finished 2nd among all teams in New England.

The Board and Administration commended and congratulated the THS Girls Gymnastics Team and presented them each with a certificate.

4. Middlebrook Odyssey of the Mind Team

The Middlebrook Elementary School Odyssey of the Mind Team placed first for the 3rd year in a row in the State OM competition Division 1 in March. The team is headed to the World Competition hosted at Iowa State to compete against teams from around the world. Mr. Henry Lang has been their coach since second grade.

The Board and Administration commended and congratulated the Middlebrook Odyssey of the Mind Team on their outstanding achievement.

5. THS Rotary Club Leadership Conference, Award Winners - Abigail Matera and Autumn Settembre

Trumbull High School Sophomore, Autumn Settembre and Junior, Abigail Matera attended the Rotary Club Leadership Conference on November 15, 2025 at Connecticut College and were chosen as the winners of a \$300 grant. The program is called “One Meal, One Hope”.

The Board and Administration commended and congratulated Abigail Matera and Autumn Settembre on their outstanding achievement.

- C. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland read the following correspondence: Erin Daley has questions regarding 3-tiered bus system; Bree Ann Prezioso wrote to the Board with specific issues: the Trumbull Education Association is asking for more teacher support.

D. Public Comment

The following people spoke: Leyla Fayyaz and Electra Feriello spoke in support of the Superintendent’s budget regarding proposed budget cuts with a priority of keeping class size small and not cutting teachers. Stacey Vaeth asked to allocate funds to make technology improvements; TEA President Nick Banks urged the Board to consider teachers concerns regarding 3 tier bus system as a cost savings. Nedda Carrano and Nick Banks asked the Board to consider early retirement incentives without losing teacher positions. First Selectman Vicki Tesoro spoke to advocate for the Superintendent's budget to save jobs and programs and sent thanks to all the TPS teachers and staff and presented the Board of Education with a proclamation.

E. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel would like to take this opportunity to express his sincere appreciation to all Trumbull teachers and staff whose dedication and hard work keep our schools operating at such a high level, allowing every student the opportunity to reach their fullest potential. The Town Council has completed the budget process, and the Superintendent and district staff will now finalize the necessary reductions, which will be presented at the May 19 meeting. As the 2025–2026 school year draws to a close, we look forward to the many upcoming events and activities that will celebrate the achievements and successes of another productive school year.

- F. Board Chairman Report – The BOE sends their best wishes to all Trumbull staff for Teacher Appreciation Week. Recently, Mrs. Timpanelli attended a safety and security discussion, a THS culinary class luncheon and a BEI function. As we continue to monitor the budget for next year, the Board would like Trumbull citizens to know we are diligently working to provide the best education possible for every Trumbull student.
- G. Teacher Board Representative Report - Nedda Carrano reported: Teachers enjoyed a relaxing April break and are recharged. We also appreciate all the special ways we are being shown gratitude during Teacher Appreciation Week with a special shout out to all the room helpers and the PTAs. Today is the start of Smarter Balanced Assessments in many of our schools.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Minutes

- BOE Regular Meeting of April 7, 2026 with Executive Session
- Special Meeting/Retreat of April 9, 2026

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (McGee) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of April 7, 2026 with Executive Session as presented. Abstain - Bandecchi, Squicciarro. Vote: Timpanelli, Petitti, McGee, Nuland, McNamee and Hepburn-James in favor.

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the minutes of the BOE Special Meeting/Retreat of April 9, 2026 as presented. Abstain - McNamee. Vote: Timpanelli, Petitti, McGee, Nuland, Hepburn-James, Bandecchi and Squicciarro in favor.

B. Personnel

Dr. Semmel reported three certified resignations:

Artese, Anthony; Kindergarten teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 2014 (currently on a personal leave of absence), resigning effective June 30, 2026

Miller, Ellen; special education teacher at Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center since August 1998, retiring effective June 30, 2026.

O'Hara, Nicole; Kindergarten teacher at Daniels Farm Elementary School since August 2021 (currently on a personal leave of absence), resigning effective June 30, 2026

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Squicciarro) to accept the certified resignations as presented. Vote Unanimous in favor.

Dr. Semmel reported one request for Leave of Absence:

Pjura, James; social studies teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2017, is requesting a personal leave of absence without pay for the 2026-27 school year. This request complies with the Trumbull Board of Education Leave of Absence Policy, 4150.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the Leave of Absence for James Pjura without pay for the 2026-2027 school year as presented. Vote Unanimous in favor.

C. Approval/Fathers Club Donation for Frenchtown Fence

Mrs. Prisco and Mr. Dion presented the Frenchtown PTA Father's Club proposed donation of \$6,300 toward the fence around the playscape. In preparation for this project, we have secured three quotes and made the decision to utilize Fence Builders USA.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the donation of \$6,300 to purchase the fence around Frenchtown playscape as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Daniels Farm PTA Donation of Inchy's Book Vending Machine

Mr. Kunschaft and Mr. Dion presented the proposed donation from Daniels Farms Elementary School PTA of \$7,940 to purchase an Inchy's Book Vending Machine. The Inchy's Bookworm Vending Machine is a token-operated system that rewards students with books, promoting literacy and engagement in schools. This is the same brand machine currently being used successfully at Middlebrook. Once purchased, delivery will be complete within 6-9 weeks. The machine will be placed in the cafeteria.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the donation of \$7,940 to purchase and install the Inchy's Book Vending Machine as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. 3-Tiered Bus System - Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel presented the findings from School Bus Logistics (SBL), LLC to review possible opportunities for moving to a three-tier bus system. This scenario creates one bus tier for the high school, a second bus tier for the two middle schools and one elementary school, and a third bus tier for the remaining five elementary schools. To accommodate moving from a 2-tier system to a 3-tier system, the start and end times for middle and elementary schools would also need to be adjusted.

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (McNamee) to approve Trumbull Public Schools change from a 2-tier bus system to a 3-tier bus system and adjust the start of school times as presented. Vote: In favor- Timpanelli, Petitti, Nuland, McNamee. Against- Bandecchi, McGee, Squicciarro, Hepburn. Vote: 4 to 4. Motion fails.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Squicciarro) to table the pending vote to approve the 3-tier bus system as presented. In favor - Bandecchi, McGee, Squicciarro, Hepburn-James. Against - Timpanelli, Petitti, Nuland, McNamee. Vote: 4 to 4. Motion fails.

F. Curriculum Committee Report

Mrs. Petitti reported that the Curriculum Committee of the Board of Education met to review the following curriculum.

Approval/ Curriculum Texts and Guides – Dr. Iwanicki

- a) Curriculum Guide Update - *Honors Dramaturgy, Grade 12*
- b) Curriculum Guide Update–*Honors Shakespeare, Grade 12*
- c) Curriculum Guide Update–*Honors World Literature, Grade 12*
- d) Curriculum Guide Update – *Literature of Peace, Protest and Tolerance, Grade 12*
- e) Curriculum Guide Update - *Story of Self, Grade 12*
- f) New Text Request - *Don't Look Back*
- g) New Text Request - *Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of The Dead*
- h) New Text Request - *In the Heights*
- i) New Text Request - *The God of Small Things*

j) New Text Request - *They Called Us Enemy*

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the above curriculum guides and texts as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. Finance Committee Report – Ms. McNamee

Ms. McNamee reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on May 5, 2026 and reviewed the following:

- Approvals/Financials as of March 31, 2026 – Mrs. Pierce

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McGee) to approve the financial reports as of March 31, 2026 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

H. Healthy Food Certification for 2026-2027 School Year – Mrs. Pierce, Mr. Molyneux

Mrs. Pierce and Mr. Molyneux presented the Healthy Food Certification for the 2026-2027 School year.

Required Language for BOE Votes and Minutes for HFC & Exemptions

The required motion language for each BOE vote is below. All BOEs must use this exact language for each vote to be eligible for participation in HFC.

Vote 1: Required vote for participation in healthy food option of HFC

It was moved (McGee) and seconded (Bandecchi) that “Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Trumbull Public Schools certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.” Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Required Language for Option to Combine Food and Beverage Exemptions

Vote 2: Required vote for the food and beverage exemption

It was moved (McGee) and seconded (Bandecchi) that “The Trumbull Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.” Vote: Unanimous in favor.

I. School Lunch Prices for 2026-2027 – Mrs. Pierce, Mr. Molyneux

Mrs. Pierce and Mr. Molyneux presented that Trumbull Public Schools participates in the National School Lunch Program, which requires districts to periodically review paid lunch prices to ensure the program remains financially sustainable while maintaining affordability for families. Due to the increased costs of food service items along with higher quality lunches, it is requested that all lunch prices be increased for the 2026-2027 school year by ten cents.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve school lunch prices for 2026-2027 school year, increase by ten cents as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 9:46 p.m.