

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Regular Meeting – May 19, 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 - Chairman
M. Petitti – Vice Chair
L. Nuland - Secretary
C. Bandecchi - arrived at 7:15 p.m.
S. Hepburn-James
J. McNamee
A. Squiccimarro

Members absent:

T. McGee

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 reported: Tina Facey shared her disappointment that three-tiered busing system did not pass. Lisa-Marie Lohse thanked us for leaving the two-tier bus system. Catherine Mulvihill had an issue with the busing survey. Cat Ko inquired about late school start times. Nicholas Banks, TEA President, voiced concerns and reminded all of the harm of online harassment. Katie Boland, advisor to We The People, advocated for maintaining program funding. Mai Malkawi-Alali wrote to request earlier elementary stepping forth ceremonies.
- C. Public Comment
The following people spoke: Students Jude Magnotti and Elias Eid spoke about the valuable life lessons gleaned from participating on the We The People team. Jonathan Dizney expressed his disappointment that the three-tiered busing proposal did not pass. Rachelle Giordano spoke about the adverse impacts on not fully funding the budget. Sarah Broas said that we need to pass a budget that keeps our students as the top priority. Leyla Fayyaz and Electra Ferriello stressed that Trumbull parents want smaller class sizes.
- D. Superintendent Report - Dr. Semmel
- Dr. Semmel worked with the Board of Education to identify budget reductions designed to minimize the impact on teaching and learning. However, it is important for the public to understand that addressing a \$2.9 million budget gap necessitated the implementation of a number of difficult cost savings reductions.
 - Recently, Dr. Semmel attended the 20th anniversary celebration at TECEC, as well as the K–12 Art Show, which showcased and celebrated the talents of TPS artists and musicians.

- We are looking forward to honoring the We the People team at the June 2, 2026, BOE meeting, the team recently placed 8th at the national competition. We commend these students for their dedication and outstanding achievement.
- E. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli yielded the floor to Nedda Carrano, who offered farewell remarks as she concluded her time serving as the BOE’s teacher representative and thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve. John Congdon will resume the role of TEA Board Representative.
- F. Student Board Representatives Report - Danielle Lyon and Naomi Mickens reported:
TECEC: TECEC turns 20, Preschool Olympics on May 21, Communication Disorders Awareness Month. **Frenchtown:** Month of Kindness with activities including sidewalk chalk art, thank-you notes, and a schoolwide kindness chain. Fifth graders attended a bowling night, “One School, One Story” reading program, Smarter Balanced testing, NGSS exams for fifth graders, music concerts on May 20, Memorial Day Parade on May 25, and Field Day on May 29. **Middlebrook:** recognizes Mrs. Russo as Teacher of the Year and Mrs. Ray as Paraeducator of the Year. Smarter Balanced assessments, staff appreciation week. **Tashua:** “One School, One Read” program, Kindergarten students celebrated the hatching of classroom chicks, “Supplies to Please” fundraiser. **Daniels Farm:** Final Mile Event, Celebration of the Arts on May 15th. **Jane Ryan:** TuTu Day, Grade 2 Change Makers Presentation, field day, the town’s Memorial Day Parade, Spring Concert on May 27. **Booth Hill:** District Battle of the Books, in-school field trip with the Trumbull Nature Center. **Madison:** 8th Grade “Lock In”, performances from the band, jazz band, chorus, and Madison Singers. Mental Health Awareness Month and celebrating student achievements, including 7th grader Amela Huang. **Hillcrest:** District Art Show held at THS on May 14 and recognized Arna Kalidini for receiving an Award of Excellence in the National PTA Reflections contest, lock-in event at the Shelton Sports Center. **THS:** AP testing, Freshman Social, Awards Ceremony on May 26, Scholarship Night on May 27, and graduation on June 12, BICEN placed 8th in the National We the People competition, annual talent show - the proceeds went to Trumbull LivFree and My Friend Abby, Advisory Day, food truck wars, cap and gown distribution, Senior trip to Six Flags on May 28 and Senior Prom is Friday, May 29.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Field Trips

1. Mr. Eric August presented the trip to the Empire Atlanta Mock Trial Competition on October 1, 2026 - October 6, 2026. Funding for this trip is provided through parents, student fund raising, grants from ACE (\$2,500.00) and potentially B.E.I.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Hepburn) to approve the Empire Atlanta Mock Trial Competition trip from October 1-6, 2026, as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

2. Mr. Joshua Murphy presented the THS Marching Band trip to Universal Studios in Orlando, FL on February 18, 2027, to February 22, 2027. Funding for this trip is provided through parents and student fundraising

It was moved (Petitti) and seconded (Hepburn) to approve the THS Marching Band trip to Universal Studios in Orlando, FL from February 18-22, 2027, as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/Minutes

- BOE Regular Meeting of May 5, 2026

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the minutes of the BOE Regular Meeting of May 5, 2026, as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Personnel

Dr. Semmel reported two certified resignations:

Marone, Charlotte; grade 5 teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School since August 2016, resigning effective June 30, 2026.

Margonis, Michael; social studies teacher at Trumbull High School since August 2005, retiring effective June 30, 2026.

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

Dr. Semmel reported one request for Leave of Absence:

Marsillio, Megan, grade 2 teacher at Tashua Elementary School since August 2012, 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 (McNamee) to approve the Leave of Absence for Megan Marsillio without pay for the 2026-27 school year as presented. Vote Unanimous in favor.

D. Approval/Interschool Food Services Agreement - Aspire

Mr. Christopher Molyneux and Mrs. Alison Pierce presented a proposed agreement with Aspire to provide lunches. This does not increase district FTEs or cost to the Food Service Department. The agreement will result in increased profit for TPS.

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the Interschool Food Services Agreement (Aspire) as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. TECEC Tuition Increase

Dr. Wheeler and Mrs. Pierce presented TECEC tuition in comparison with surrounding towns and facilities. The recommendation is to increase the 2026-2027 TECEC annual tuition from \$4500 to \$4800.

It was moved (Hepburn) and seconded (Squicciarro) to approve the tuition increase for TECEC for the 2026-2027 school year from \$4500 to \$4800 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

F. Tashua Playground Donation

Mrs. Jen Neumeyer and Mr. Kevin Dion presented the request for the acceptance of the Tashua Elementary School PTA donation of \$43,965 to purchase and install a Miracle 6-meter Aquarius net webscape to the Tashua playground.

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve the Tashua PTA donation of \$43,965 to purchase and install a Miracle 6-meter Aquarius net webscape to the Tashua playground as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

G. 2026-2027 Budget Finalization – Dr. Semmel

Dr. Semmel reviewed the list of proposed reductions to the Board of Education budget totaling \$2,928,368, resulting in an approved 2026-2027 budget of \$134,844,746.

In summary:

- 6 current teaching positions eliminated
- 2 current support positions at Long Hill eliminated
- Significant reduction to technology budget
- Significant reliance on non-lapsing account

It was moved (Squicciarro) and seconded (Bandecchi) to approve a net reduction of \$2,928,368 to the Board of Education approved 2026-2027 budget as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

H. Policy Committee Update – Mrs. Squicciarro

Policies – First Reading – Dr. Iwanicki

- a. Policy 1180: Memorials for Deceased Students or Staff: A New Policy
- b. Policy 5125: Confidentiality and Maintenance of Student Records: Revisions Needed

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:45 p.m.