

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of the
Trumbull Board of Education

Special Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 2026
Trumbull High School Conference Room

MINUTES

I. Call to Order/Introduction. The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Members Present

M. Petitti, BOE Curriculum Committee Chair
J. McNamee, BOE Member
S. Iwanicki, Ed.D. administrative designee

Members Absent

L. Nuland, BOE Member

Educators Present

V. DiScala, Wellness & Fine Arts Dept. Chair
M. Petroccio, Wellness Teacher
M. Dankulich, Wellness Teacher
M. Mikool, Wellness Teacher
T. Youngberg, Fine Arts Teacher
L. Edwards, Fine Arts Teacher
J. Murphy, Fine Arts Teacher

II. Public Comment ~ No public comments were received.

III. Approve Minutes ~ Ms. McNamee motioned to approve the 5/12/2026 meeting minutes; Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

a. ***Curriculum Guide Update – Self Defense and Personal Safety, Grades 11-12***

Wellness Department Chair Vincent DiScala and Wellness Teacher Marce Petroccio presented the new curriculum guide. They discussed how the course is a new "selective" option replacing traditional physical education. The curriculum focuses heavily on situational awareness, de-escalation, and avoiding risky situations to keep students safe. Board members asked if the course still fulfills the required physical education credits, which Mr. DiScala confirmed. Mrs. Petitti asked if the class was co-ed, which was confirmed, though it currently has more female students enrolled. Dr. Iwanicki inquired how the curriculum was written without pre-existing state standards, to which Mr. DiScala explained they utilized sample curriculums from

the state and Mr. Petroccio's prior experience. Ms. McNamee shared her gratitude for the variety of classes being offered. After discussing the course, Ms. McNamee motioned to approve the updated Self Defense and Personal Safety curriculum guide and bring it to the full BOE for approval, Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

b. *Curriculum Guide Update – Competitive Team Games, Grades 11-12*

Wellness Department Chair Vincent DiScala and Wellness Teacher Michelle Dankulich presented the guide for this new "selective" course. Ms. Dankulich discussed how the class offers a variety of competitive sports including basketball, ultimate football, and floor hockey, which aligns with national physical education standards. Mrs. Petitti asked about the inclusion of pickleball, which Mr. DiScala clarified is covered instead in the individual lifetime course. Ms. McNamee inquired about co-ed dynamics, and Mr. DiScala noted that the female students currently enrolled are highly engaged. Ms. McNamee also suggested incorporating competitive games from other countries to utilize the expertise of the district's diverse student body and Heritage Language students. Ms. McNamee motioned to approve the updated Competitive Team Games curriculum guide and bring it to the full BOE for approval, Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

c. *Curriculum Guide Update – Physical Education, Mindful Fitness and Dance, Grades 11-12*

Wellness Department Chair Vincent DiScala and Wellness Teacher Melynda Mikool presented the new curriculum guide. Ms. Mikool highlighted the highly popular mindfulness component of the course, which incorporates activities like guided imagery and box breathing at the end of each session. Mrs. Petitti inquired if boys were also signing up to take the course. Ms. Mikool noted that while only one boy enrolled this year, they are exploring ways to encourage more male participation. Ms. McNamee highlighted that many professional male athletes benefit from both dance and meditation. Mrs. Petitti motioned to approve the updated Physical Education, Mindful Fitness and Dance curriculum guide and bring it to the full BOE for approval, Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

d. *Curriculum Guide Update – Intermediate Ceramics, Grades 9-12*

Fine Arts Teachers Trevor Youngberg and Lisa Edwards presented the curriculum guide updates. They explained that the intermediate course serves as a bridge between foundational and advanced skills, ensuring students master the basics before moving on to creating complex forms. The curriculum also integrates the Vision of the Graduate competencies, emphasizing collaboration and emotional intelligence. Ms. McNamee motioned to approve the updated Intermediate Ceramics curriculum guide and bring it to the full BOE for approval, Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

e. *Curriculum Guide Update – Piano 2, Grades 9-12*

K-12 Music Team Leader Josh Murphy presented the new Piano 2 curriculum. He noted that the course was developed due to the popularity of Piano 1 and offers individualized training for intermediate to advanced students. Mrs. Petitti asked if the course was predominantly for band students, to which Mr. Murphy responded that most enrolled students are not in band or chorus.

Ms. McNamee asked if freshmen could take the course, which Mr. Murphy confirmed, noting his current section is heavily composed of freshmen. Ms. McNamee also inquired if the keyboards had language-lab style monitoring capabilities, and Mr. Murphy explained that visual assessment of hand placement and the keyboards' recording features provide sufficient feedback. Mrs. Petitti motioned to approve the updated Piano 2 curriculum guide and bring it to the full BOE for approval, Ms. McNamee seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

f. ***Curriculum Guide Update – UConn ECE Pop Music Curriculum, Grades 10-12***

Mr. Murphy presented the curriculum for this Early College Experience (ECE) course. He explained that the class explores American popular music from the early 1900s to today. Dr. Iwanicki asked if there was flexibility within the UConn textbook to explore music from a more global perspective; Mr. Murphy noted that while UConn's syllabus requirements are strict, there is some room for exploration. The Board discussed strategies to increase the course's enrollment, which did not run this year due to low numbers. Ms. McNamee suggested having teachers visit classes to talk about the course and Mrs. Petitti emphasized highlighting the financial benefit of earning college credits to parents. Ms. McNamee motioned to approve the updated UConn ECE Pop Music Curriculum guide and bring it to the full BOE for approval, Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

g. ***Curriculum Guide Update – Honors Wind Ensemble, Grades 10-12***

Mr. Murphy presented the new Honors Wind Ensemble curriculum. He described it as a higher-level performing group designed to give advanced band students an honors credit opportunity. Dr. Iwanicki asked if the course title should be broadened to "Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble," which Mr. Murphy agreed would work well. Ms. McNamee also inquired if brass instruments would be included, which Mr. Murphy confirmed. Ms. McNamee motioned to approve the updated Honors Wind Ensemble curriculum guide and bring it to the full BOE for approval, Mrs. Petitti seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 a.m.