

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Regular Meeting – September 8, 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
S. Hepburn-James
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. Recognition Teacher Tenure- Dr. Semmel

The administration is proud to announce the following staff members who have attained tenure status with the Trumbull Board of Education and presented them with a certificate.

Booth Hill Elementary School	Kevin Chase
Booth Hill Elementary School	Sarah Connor
Daniels Farm Elementary School	Jessica Keating
Frenchtown Elementary School	Jennifer Derby
Frenchtown Elementary School	Amixaday Garcia
Hillcrest Middle School	Ryan Hart
Hillcrest Middle School	Matthew Marx
Hillcrest Middle School	Mariah Noyes
Hillcrest Middle School	Zachary Parente
Hillcrest Middle School and Madison Middle School	Clifford (CJ) Emanuelson
Jane Ryan Elementary School	Jennifer Flagg
Long Hill Administration	Stacy Murphy
Madison Middle School	Nicole Daly
Hillcrest Middle School and Madison Middle School	Edward Dotoratos
Madison Middle School	Lianne Iassogna
Madison Middle School	Jessica Welcome

Madison Middle School	Nicholas Montimurro
Madison Middle School	Gina Moriello
Madison Middle School	Jordyn Nappi
Madison Middle School	Rebecca Nissim
Madison Middle School	Amanda Pfohl
Madison Middle School	Caroline Rullo
Middlebrook Elementary School	Elizabeth Browne
Middlebrook Elementary School	Meghan Doyle
Middlebrook Elementary School	Grace Ferguson
Trumbull High School	Alexandra Camus
Trumbull High School	Jessica Cintron Henry
Trumbull High School	Olga Collado
Trumbull High School	Annalisa Lombardi
Trumbull High School	Matthew Paz

- C. Correspondence – Mrs. Nuland read the following correspondence: Bree Ann Prezioso wrote regarding climate survey data, mandated reporting and district policy accountability; Lauren Tucker submitted a request to review special needs bus route ride lengths.
- D. Public Comment - There were no signups for this evening.
- E. Superintendent Report- Dr. Semmel
As we open our doors for the new school year, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to our entire community, our dedicated staff for their hard work in preparing to welcome our students back to the classroom and to our families for ensuring our students are ready and motivated to learn. Our latest student achievement data is coming in, and I am pleased to share that the results are excellent. This success is a direct reflection of the dedication of our educators and the strength of our curriculum. In the coming weeks, we will be sharing detailed updates, including our Smarter Balanced assessment results and the annual report from Mr. Manuel. There is so much to celebrate, and I am incredibly excited for a successful and inspiring 2026-2027 school year ahead.
- F. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli reported: On the first day of school, BOE members toured our buildings and were excited to see classrooms filled with engaged students who were happy to return. Fall sports are underway. Our new student BOE representatives were officially welcomed. We look forward to a safe and productive school year.
- G. Student Board Representatives
Student Board Representatives for the 2026-2027 school year Maura Brunt and Hifza Shaik reported: TECEC-safety exercises, First Day of Pre-K Hats, football opening day; Middlebrook- Back to School Night, implementing restorative circles; Frenchtown- Back to School Night; Daniels Farm- safety drills, spirit wear day, reading Arthur's Back to School Day; Jane Ryan- back to school barbecue; Booth Hill-the day you begin assembly; Tashua-Tashua TIGERS assembly; Madison- opening of the year assembly to remind students of expectations, congratulations to Valentina Cenatiempo who is District Teacher of the Year; Hillcrest- start of school team building activities, startup of clubs and Esports, bowling night; THS- first two advisory days hosted by link crew, New England Association of Schools and Colleges

(NEASC) will visit later this month, electronic hall pass system, senior sunrise, senior photos, and annual club fair.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Approval/Trip -National FFA (Future Farmers of America) Convention/Expo in Indianapolis, Indiana – Mr. Thomas Acri

Mr. Thomas Acri presented the National FFA Convention trip which will take place from October 20, 2026 – October 24, 2026. Funding for this trip is provided through parents and student fundraising. The Board reviewed the field trip request and the corresponding itinerary.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McGee) to approve the National FFA (Future Farmers of America) Convention/Expo trip to Indianapolis, Indiana from October 20-24, 2026 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Approval/Trip – THS Mock Trial Team Trip to Harvard Undergraduate Mock Trial Association's Angela R. Mathew High School Seminar Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts

Mr. Eric August presented the THS Mock Trial Team Field Trip to the Harvard Undergraduate Mock Trial Association's Angela R. Mathew High School Seminar Program in Cambridge, MA which will take place from November 6, 2026 – November 8, 2026. Funding for this trip is provided through parents and student fundraising.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McNamee) to approve the THS Mock Trial Team Trip to Harvard Undergraduate Mock Trial's Association's Angela R. Mathew High School Seminar Program in Cambridge, Massachusetts from November 6-8, 2026 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Minutes

It was moved (McNamee) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the BOE Regular Meeting minutes of August 11, 2026 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

D. Personnel

Dr. Semmel reported the following staff were appointed for the 2026-2027 school year:

- Buzzeo, Alysse, grade 1 teacher at Tashua Elementary School
- Bylo, Angela, science teacher at Trumbull High School
- Campanella, Caroline, grade 1 teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School
- Cappellieri, Stefanie, social worker at Booth Hill Elementary School
- Dwelle, Lauren, grade 4 teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School
- Flannery, Alison, world language teacher at Hillcrest Middle School
- Giovacchino, Paul, (.75) health teacher at Trumbull High School
- Hill, Shalonda, special education teacher at Madison Middle School
- Hines, Patricia, special education teacher at Hillcrest Middle School
- Kechejian, Stacy, special education teacher at Hillcrest Middle School
- Kundrat, Jessica, special education teacher at Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center
- Leckie, Katherine, world language teacher at Madison Middle School
- Quinn, Nicole, grade 5 teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School
- Ripple, Nancy, special education teacher at Frenchtown Elementary School

- Rosen, Joanna, kindergarten teacher at Jane Ryan Elementary School
- Seferian, Robert, (.45) special education structured literacy teacher district wide
- Sherman, Kassandra, special education teacher at Trumbull Early Childhood Education Center
- Talento, Genevieve, kindergarten teacher at Middlebrook Elementary School
- Upson, Sarah, grade 5 teacher at Tashua Elementary School
- Wood, Deanna, (.45) reading teacher at Hillcrest Middle School

The Board unanimously received/filed the above appointments.

Dr. Semmel presented the following certified resignation:

- Clark, Brittany; special education teacher at Hillcrest Middle School since August 2015, resigning effective August 11, 2026

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

E. Enrollment- 2026-2027 Planning Updates

Dr. Semmel presented student enrollment for the 2026-2027 school year. He reviewed data corresponding to each of our schools that compared projected enrollment to actual enrollment as of the start of this school year and the BOE guidelines.

F. Facilities Update - Mrs. Lisa Nuland, Mr. Kevin Dion

Mrs. Nuland and Mr. Dion presented the current Facilities update: the completion of the THS front parking lot drainage project and the phase 2 completion of the Daniels Farm parking lot project that will alleviate traffic on Daniels Farm Road. Also discussed were several projects that were completed before the start of school: installation of split AC units at several of the elementary schools; Frenchtown and Agriscience flooring replacement along with our custodial crews' hard work to clean and maintain all of our buildings. Phase one of the Hillcrest construction project is underway.

G. Human Resources Update

Mr. Joe Chella presented updates on: Recruitment & Hiring- all our certified staff positions have been filled at the start of the school year; Staff Wellness- we are collaborating with our unions to promote district wide initiatives that will build staff wellness; Employee Assistance Program- a free program that offers confidential mental health resources to support our staff and their families; Safety & Compliance Training- to ensure our staff is properly trained to keep our students safe.

H. Teaching & Learning Update

Dr. Iwanicki gave a presentation on “Ready for Every Child”, a comprehensive report on our three-day professional learning program that prepares educators for excellence. TPS engaged educators PreK-12 in professional development designed to equip teachers with actionable instructional strategies, robust safety protocols and personalized case management skills.

I. Finance Committee Update – Ms. McNamee

Ms. McNamee reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on September 8, 2026.

Mrs. Pierce reviewed the following in detail:

- Financials as of June 30, 2026 - Mrs. Pierce
- FY26 Non-Lapsing Annual Report – Mrs. Pierce
- FY27 Budget Transfer Request – Mrs. Pierce

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (McGee) to approve the financial reports as of June 30, 2026 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Petitti) to approve the FY2026 Non-Lapsing general fund balance transfer to the FY27 Non-Lapsing fund balance as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 8:32 p.m.