

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of
the Trumbull Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2026
Trumbull High School Conference Room

MINUTES

I. Call to Order/Introduction. The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present

L. Timpanelli, Board Chair
L. Nuland, BOE Member
J. McNamee, BOE Member
S. Iwanicki, Ed.D., Administrative Designee

Members Absent

M. Petitti, Curriculum Committee Chair

Attending Presenters

S. Lavorgna-Lye, World Language
Department Chair
M. Manso-García, World Language Teacher

M. Slais, World Language Teacher
B. Martin, World Language Teacher

II. Public Comment - No public comments were received.

III. Approve Minutes - Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2026 Curriculum Committee meeting. Ms. McNamee seconded the motion. Mrs. Timpanelli abstained. The motion passed.

IV. New Business

a. Curriculum Guide Updates – Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1 (Grades 9–10) and Spanish for Heritage Speakers 2 (Grades 11–12)

World Language Department Chair Susanna Lavorgna-Lye and World Language Teacher Maria Manso-García presented the updated curriculum guides. They explained that Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1 and 2 are designed for students with household or receptive Spanish backgrounds to transition from informal speech to academic and professional registers.

Key features highlighted include:

- Language Mechanics and Vocabulary: Focuses on orthography, capitalization, punctuation, and accentuation rules while expanding vocabulary through synonyms rather than translation.
- Cultural Exploration: Integrates authentic Hispanic literature and media exploring cultural heritage, regional lexical variations, identity, migration, alienation, and assimilation.
- Resources and Alignment: Utilizes the Galería de Lengua y Cultura 1 (Vista Higher Learning) alongside language lab digital tools. The guides seamlessly embed ACTFL standards and Vision of the Graduate competencies.

The Committee discussed course placement testing, middle school alignment, enrollment dynamics, and fostering pride in students' native language heritage.

Ms. McNamee departed the meeting during the discussion of this item.

Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated curriculum guides for Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1 and Spanish for Heritage Speakers 2 and bring them to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Timpanelli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Curriculum Guide Update – Spanish III Honors (Grades 10–12) and Spanish V Honors (Grade 12)

Department Chair Susanna Lavorgna-Lye, along with World Language teacher Michele Slais, presented the curriculum updates for Spanish III Honors and Spanish V Honors. They shared that Spanish III Honors is aligned to ACTFL Intermediate-Mid proficiency targets. It utilizes the Auténtico textbook series, embeds Vision of the Graduate competencies, and incorporates authentic literature, including a cool children's camping mystery book written by a THS staff member (Mr. Geraghty) and translated into Spanish.

They furthered that Spanish V Honors, by contrast, is aligned to Intermediate-Mid to Intermediate-High targets, refining advanced grammar, literary analysis, and cultural appreciation through film and art. It utilizes Imagina (Vista Higher Learning) and language lab resources to prepare students for the Seal of Biliteracy and college-level coursework.

Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated curriculum guides for Spanish III Honors and Spanish V Honors and bring them to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Timpanelli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Curriculum Guide Update – Spanish III ACP (Grades 10–12)

Department Chair Susanna Lavorgna-Lye, teacher Michele Slais, and later, Breana Martin reviewed the revisions to Spanish III ACP. The updates focus on advancing student proficiency from intermediate-low toward intermediate-mid targets across listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The guide incorporates updated Vision of the Graduate rubrics, essential questions, and standards-based performance assessments using the Auténtico curriculum framework.

Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated curriculum guide for Spanish III ACP and bring it to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Timpanelli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Curriculum Guide Update – Spanish V ACP (Grade 12)

Department Chair Susanna Lavorgna-Lye and World Language Teacher Breana Martin presented the senior-level Spanish V ACP curriculum. The course shifts focus toward functional fluency, real-world communication skills, global cultural connections, and post-secondary career readiness. Units emphasize practical language usage, historical and media analysis, and cultural immersion to prepare students for civic and professional settings.

Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated curriculum guide for Spanish V ACP and bring it to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Timpanelli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Review of Future Meetings Dates and Topics.

The item was tabled until all members can be in attendance.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20 a.m.