

TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT
Long Hill Administration Building
Regular Meeting – September 29, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
Minutes

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

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

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 read the following correspondence: Mrs. Prezioso shared an update regarding the Trumbull Police Department's new autism and disability-focused safety initiative. Ms. Fayyaz urged the Board to consider specific priorities when constructing next year's budget.
- C. Public Comment- Rachelle Giordano commended the Transportation team for their punctual and caring drivers and requested an evaluation of route efficiencies to address long bus rides and reduce the amount of time students spend in transit.
- D. Superintendent Report- Dr. Semmel shared the recent New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) visit at Trumbull High School was successful, noting that Principal Mr. Manuel will present his perspective at the October 27 BOE meeting. Dr. Semmel also highlighted recent classroom visits, expressing appreciation for the dedication and hard work teachers bring to students every day. Specific praise was given to Frenchtown Elementary School's "Stop and Read" initiative, a campus-wide program where all students and staff pause their day to read. Additionally, the Board extends congratulations to Mahoma Ray, who was named the Middlebrook Elementary School Paraeducator of the year and subsequently achieved second place in the Connecticut State Paraeducator of the year program.
- E. Board Chairman Report – Mrs. Timpanelli announced the successful completion of the NEASC accreditation visit at Trumbull High School, praising the staff's dedication to educational excellence. The Chair attended an interactive student showcase hosted for the visitors, which highlighted diverse academic and vocational programs, including but not limited to: music, forensic science, the ELITE Bookstore program, physics initiative, the World Language Spanish Heritage language initiative, and golf/PE presentation.
- F. Teacher Board Representative John Congdon reported: The TEA would like to acknowledge Trumbull's teachers of the year and congratulate Mrs. Valentina Cenatiempo from Madison Middle School as the district's Teacher of the Year. Many teachers completed hours working on curriculum; Professional

Development was presented at all levels; most after-school clubs, sports, and activities are underway at all schools; Back to School Nights have now been completed and the TEA would like to thank the many teachers who have volunteered to mentor undergrad and graduate students this year from neighboring universities.

Agenda Item III—Reports/Action Items

A. Minutes

Dr. Semmel presented the BOE Regular Meeting of September 8, 2026 minutes for approval.

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (McGee) to approve the BOE Regular Meeting minutes of September 8, 2026 as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

B. Personnel

The following certified resignation was presented:

- Bernor, Susan; special education teacher at Madison Middle School since August 2025, resigning effective September 22, 2026.

It was moved (Hepburn) and seconded (Nuland) to accept the certified resignation as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

C. Transportation Update

Mr. Kevin Dion and Ms. Kirsten Burgos presented the TPS Transportation Department operations and metrics for the start of the school year. Data was presented to include the on-time analysis, length of bus routes by school and bus ridership numbers at every school in our district. The goal of the Transportation Department is to refine operations and resolve inefficiencies to maximize student comfort, safety, and route reliability.

D. Approval/2027 5-Year Capital Plan

Mr. Kevin Dion presented the 2027 5-year capital improvement plan to the Board. Mr. Dion detailed a comprehensive overview detailing the expenditures, maintenance schedules, and facility upgrades planned to be implemented at each of our schools.

It was moved (Bandecchi) and seconded (Nuland) to approve the 2027 5-year capital improvement plan as presented. Vote: Unanimous in favor.

E. Smarter Balanced Assessment 2026 Results: Assistant Superintendent Dr. Susan Iwanicki presented the results of the 2026 Smarter Balanced Assessment and outlined how the data is being utilized to guide instruction. The report included student performance and regional ranking benchmarks compared to surrounding towns and peer districts within District Reference Group (DRG) B. The results indicate that the vast majority of students continue to meet or exceed mastery goals in both English Language Arts (ELA) and Math. To support next steps in reaching every student, the district is moving into year 2 of the revised curriculum and targeted professional learning. Additionally, the administration will continue cultivating optimal learning environments through the integration of the Vision of the Graduate framework, positive psychology principles, and restorative practices.

F. Curriculum Committee Update - Dr. Iwanicki presented Curriculum Guides and Texts:

- a) Curriculum Guide Update – *Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1, Gr. 9-10*
- b) Curriculum Guide Update – *Spanish for Heritage Speakers 2, Gr. 11-12*
- c) Curriculum Guide Update – *Spanish III ACP, Gr. 10-12*
- d) Curriculum Guide Update – *Spanish III Honors, Gr. 10-12*
- e) Curriculum Guide Update – *Spanish V ACP, Gr. 12*
- f) Curriculum Guide Update – *Spanish V Honors, Gr. 12*

It was moved (Nuland) and seconded (Hepburn) to approve the curriculum guides and texts as presented:

- a) Curriculum Guide Update – *Spanish for Heritage Speakers 1, Gr. 9-10*
- b) Curriculum Guide Update – *Spanish for Heritage Speakers 2, Gr.11-12*
- c) Curriculum Guide Update – *Spanish III ACP, Gr.10-12*
- d) Curriculum Guide Update – *Spanish III Honors, Gr.10-12*
- e) Curriculum Guide Update – *Spanish V ACP, Gr.12*
- f) Curriculum Guide Update – *Spanish V Honors, Gr.12*

Vote: Unanimous in favor.

- G. Finance Committee Update - Ms. McGee reported that the Finance Committee of the Board of Education met on September 29, 2026.

Mrs. Pierce reviewed the following in detail:

- Financials as of July 31, 2026 - Mrs. Pierce

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

Adjournment

Board Members gave unanimous consent to adjourn the Public Session at 7:58 p.m.