TRUMBULL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT

Curriculum Committee of
the Trumbull Board of Education

Special Meeting

Wednesday, November 4, 2026
Trumbull High School Conference Room

MINUTES

I. Call to Order/Introduction. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m.

Members Present

M. Petitti, Curriculum Committee Chair
L. Timpanelli, Board Chair
L. Nuland, BOE Member (by telephone)
S. Iwanicki, Ed.D., Administrative Designee

Members Absent

J. McNamee, BOE Member

Attending Presenters

V. DiScala, Wellness High School Department Chair
L. Edwards, Fine Arts Teacher
C. Russo, Music Teacher
M. Dankulich, Physical Education Teacher

II. Public Comment - No public comments were received.

III. Approve Minutes - Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the minutes of the September 17, 2026 Curriculum Committee. Mrs. Timpanelli seconded. The motion passed.

IV. New Business

a. Curriculum Guide Update – Advanced Drawing & Illustration (Grades 9–12)

Fine Arts Teacher Lisa Edwards and Wellness & Fine Arts Department Chair Vincent DiScala presented the updated curriculum guide. Ms. Edwards explained that Drawing is a prerequisite for this course, which has transitioned from a full-year format into a one-semester elective to provide students—including freshmen in the spring—with expanded course opportunities.

As an advanced course, it offers student autonomy and creative voice. The units foster independent artistic choices regarding subject matter, emotional expression, and media selection while continuing instruction in core compositional concepts, contrast, values, proportions, and details.

Additionally, commercial and career connections are incorporated. It integrates typography and commercial advertising, requiring students to design single- and double-page magazine advertisements or product promotional materials.

Mrs. Nuland inquired about if works from the course could be used in a portfolio. Mrs. Edwards shared that while not aimed at portfolio preparation, students can certainly use pieces from the class in their portfolio as desired.

Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated curriculum guide for Advanced Drawing & Illustration (Grades 9–12) and bring it to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Timpanelli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

b. Curriculum Guide Update – Guitar I (Grades 9–12)

Music Teacher Mark Russo and Department Chair Vincent DiScala presented the formal curriculum guide for Guitar I. Mr. Russo explained that the course teaches foundational strumming, chord progressions, and song accompaniment across several decades of American popular music, progressing from 1950s rock and 1960s folk/protest songs to Woodstock.

Overall, Mr. Russo shared that the course builds a repertoire of all of the fundamental skills across various works from progressive time periods. Students build a working repertoire of approximately 25 songs by the end of the semester, fulfilling the district's fine arts graduation requirement.

The course is relatively new to Trumbull, built up over that past seven years. Its enrollment is consistently at maximum capacity (~19 students per section). The committee discussed high student engagement and the potential future development of advanced levels or performance ensembles. Mrs. Petitti shared that music can be an important part of people's families and that it is good that the investment in the course is growing. Mrs. Timpanelli added that the department should follow up on requests for additional sections if needed, knowing that it could affect other sections as well.

Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated curriculum guide for Guitar I (Grades 9–12) and bring it to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Petitti seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

c. Curriculum Guide Update – Lifetime Activities (Grades 11–12)

Wellness Teacher Michelle Dankulich and Department Chair Vincent DiScala presented the revised curriculum guide for Lifetime Activities. The course operates as a quarter-long "selective" fulfilling upperclassmen Wellness/PE graduation credits. Mrs. Danukich began by thanking the Board for supporting the purchase of new equipment, such as the foam arrows needed for the archery unit. She displayed a model which the committee inspected. She went on to explain that the units, such as Net & Racket Sports which features seasonal rotation of tennis, badminton, pickleball, and ping pong, or Archery & Experiential Units, which integrates a safe archery utilizing recurve bows, foam-tipped arrows, and target setups, alongside student-designed mini-golf courses, have been very successful and highly engaging for students. Mr. DiScala added that at a recent state conference, other schools were impressed with the nature of the course and wanted to know more. The district is exploring the idea of hosting our own Physical Education Conference, given the high-caliber of expertise our team in

Trumbull brings to the table. Mrs. Timpanelli asked that we please share this idea at the Board meeting and Dr. Iwanicki agreed.

Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated curriculum guide for Lifetime Activities (Grades 11–12) and bring it to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Timpanelli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

d. Curriculum Guide Updates – Physical Education Grade 9 & Physical Education Grade 10

Wellness Teacher Michelle Dankulich and Department Chair Vincent DiScala also reviewed the comprehensive revisions to the 9th and 10th-grade Physical Education curriculum guides, which have been aligned with updated state physical education standards. PE Grade 9 focuses on foundational team sports, skill development, tactical strategies, teamwork, and sportsmanship. PE Grade 10 incorporates the Connecticut Physical Fitness Assessment, goal-setting protocols, retesting tracking, interactive conditioning activities (e.g., "Deal or No Deal"), and introductory exposure to lifetime selective options.

Mrs. Nuland motioned to approve the updated curriculum guides for Physical Education Grade 9 and Physical Education Grade 10 and bring them to the full Board for approval. Mrs. Timpanelli seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:10 a.m.