BOARD OF FINANCE

Town Hall
5866 Main Street
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Board of Finance/Finance Board of the Town Council Meeting
Madison Middle School
Public Hearing
Unapproved Minutes
March 21, 2026
10:00 am

Call To Order
Board of Finance Chair, Ms. McHugh, opened the Public Hearing at 10:00 am followed by a moment of silence. Encouraged attendees to sign up to speak on any topic in the budget.

Present
Board of Finance
Lainie McHugh, Chair
Paul Timpanelli
David Galla
Massimo Mallozzi
Michael Colohan
Nathan Tinker
Vincent DeGennaro

Ms. McHugh opened the public hearing at 10:00 am with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by a moment of silence. She noted this is the second public hearing on the 2026-2027 budget. Attendees were acknowledged from the Board of Finance, members of the Town Council, First Selectman Tesoro and members of her staff and Maria Pires, Finance Director. Speakers were requested to sign in, spell their last name and give full address when speaking and to keep comments to line items in the budget. Board members are here to listen but will not comment.

Tracey Cranston, 56 Mariner Circle
- Counselor for eight years.
- Former superintendent stated that it is not the brick and mortar but the people who work there.
- Taking toll on staff.
- Parents are asking more and more of staff.
- Request to put as much money in the budget as possible; staff and children appreciate it.

Leyla Fayyaz, 6 Vintage Road
- Daniels Farm School parent and a member of the Economic and Community Development Commission.
- Spoke on reason family moved to Trumbull.
- Spoke on over-crowding in the classrooms. No positive change in years because of cuts.
- Feels with cuts there will be decline in the schools and property values.

- Please increase the First Selectman's recommendation.
- Willing to pay more to justify the mill rate.

Michael Rupp 50 Colony Avenue
- Trumbull resident for 17 years with two children in the schools.
- Spoke about job in a nearby school and the impact on budget cuts throughout the region.
- Marketing literature points to the exceptional education system.
- Acknowledged the challenge of the 2020 school year and effects to date.
- Education is the core strength of the community.
- Please make this happen for the exceptional families that live here.

Robert Hamilton, 198 Canoe Brook Lane
- Active in the school; Jane Ryan Fathers Club, Marching band, ensembles.
- Direct consequential value between the quality of schools and the value of homes.
- Tax burden is a concern.
- Funding below the rate of inflation has led to consequences we now see.
- Vote to fund the schools.

Danielle Dunleavy, 73 Greenbrier Road
- Lifelong Trumbull resident. Two children in the schools.
- Spoke on the reasons for raising her family in Trumbull.
- Asking to maintain the level of education the parents expect.
- Fully support the Board of Education budget.

Rachel Dustin, 275 Lawrence Road
- Respectfully urged to approve the Superintendent's proposed budget in full.
- Thank you for your time, service and thoughtful consideration given to the decisions.
- Spoke on potential positions lost and the impact on the school community.

Alyssa Himmill, 16 Sentry Hill
- Grew up in Trumbull and is now raising her family here.
- Education is the true anchor of Trumbull.
- Feels they are falling behind compared to neighboring districts.
- Residents would not mind having taxes raised; education is what benefits.
- Fund our future and our schools.

Paula Martins, 4820 Madison Avenue
- Parent of two children in the school system.
- Spoke on reasons for living in Trumbull.
- Spoke on contributions of specialists in the system as well as support staff.
- Effects of the loss of assistant principals.
- Consider fully funding the budget.

Walt Durand, 11 Rennison Road
- Grew up in Trumbull, Trumbull resident for 17 years.
- Spoke on effects of teacher cuts, class size, sports, building closing, security guards.

Liz Juselis, 31 Hills Point Road

- Spoke on reasons to move to Trumbull
- Three children in school system.
- Spoke on the cut in the TAG program.
- Need funds to support staff.
- Fund the proposed budget.

Chris Broas, 25 Doris Street

- Lived in Trumbull for 20 years with three children in the school system.
- Spoke on tax burden – residential and commercial.
- What is long term plan to expand the commercial tax base; what is the plan to draw more businesses to Trumbull; how can the mall become a productive contributor to the tax base.

Erica Friend, 513 Booth Hill Road

- Three children in the school system.
- Decisions made will have consequences.
- Spoke on specialists, kindergarten paras, after school activities.
- Consider funding the budget as fully as possible.

Jarod Lojeck, 133 Wendy Road

- Spoke on his child's experience with special needs in the schools.
- Spoke of the effects of over-crowding, special needs education
- Moved to Trumbull because of the school system.
- Would be willing to move if the school system declines.
- Fully fund the school system remove the $500,00 401a contribution now on the school system.

Rich Southard, 35 Deerfield Road

- Lived in Trumbull for 35 years; three children in the school system.
- Trumbull is known for its community, safety and schools.
- Expectations on educators are high; ask to do more with less.
- Find a way to fund the request.

Nathan Moyer, 5 Butternut Lane

- Two children in the school system.
- Supports fully funding the budget request.
- Spoke of the vital role teachers provide.
- Education should be a top priority.
- Encouraged Board to visit the schools.

Elizabeth Heagney, 110 Fernwood Road

- Two children in school system.
- Fully fund the proposed education budget.
- Spoke of the skilled specialists
- Need funding and appropriate staffing.

John Heagney 110 Fernwood Road

- Not complex concept.
- Home prices driven by the school system.

- Talking about increasing the mill rate, taxes are going up anyway, and assessments are being done.
- Doesn't understand the complexity of the conversation between the BoE and the First Selectman.
- Town benefits from increased taxes.

Erin Rooney, 8 Great Brook Road
- Two children in the school system.
- Schools are an important asset in town.
- Spoke on DRG comparisons, second from last in spending.
- Spoke on under-funding results.
- Willing to pay increased taxes.
- Encouraged to think creatively.

Sara Epperson, 75 Grayrock Road
- Two children in the school system.
- Urged to fully fund the budget and continue to have an exceptional school system.

Lisa Zielinski, 9 Surrey Lane
- Four school system graduates.
- Fully support the proposed budget.
- Teachers are stressed to meet the needs of the students.
- Children are our future – work creatively together.

Annie Mohr, 40 Colonial Drive
- Trumbull parent.
- Spoke on proposed cuts and effects.
- Fully fund the schools or pay triple.

Michael Quach, 15 Blue Ridge Drive
- Trumbull is a great place to live.
- Great reputation over time.
- Asked to do more with less and is not sustainable.
- Budget asks would maintain excellence.

Pauline Sturla, 7 Woolsley Avenue
- Two children in school system.
- Educators do more with less. Do above and beyond.
- Moved to Trumbull because of the schools.
- Consider funding the full budget so we do not fall behind.

Stacy Powell, 114 Teller Road
- Moved to Trumbull for the schools.
- Fully fund the education budget for the future of our children.

Jessie Siegrist, 16 Columbine Drive
- Three children in the school system.
- Speaking to fully fund the schools.
- Property values are what they are because of the schools.
- Does not want to pay more in taxes but look at what they provide.

- Children are the future of the town.

Daniel Bartl, 49 Skyview Drive
- Three children in school system.
- Feels an increase in taxes is worth doing.
- Did vote for the Community Center even though it would have increased taxes; it is part of the investment in the town.
- High quality is why we are here.

Ryan Mones, 6 Norwood Terrace
- Deeply involved in the school community.
- Investing in our schools is an investment in our kids and the future of this town.
- Fully funding the education budget is not a luxury but a necessity.
- Spoke on the importance of school activities.
- Spoke on the effects of the cuts.
- Fully fund the budget.

Liz Buonicore Terifay, 14 Echo Hill Road
- Came to support the teachers
- Two children in the school system that have needed extra help.
- Sad the parent have to fight for the schools and the bare minimum.
- Willing to move or put them in another school system.

Sara Hoefer, 30 Old Sawmill Road
- BoE budget is important.
- Spoke on the reasons for moving to Trumbull.
- Spoke on pay for play music, classroom supply requests.
- Taxes have increased.
- Lowest rate of per pupil expenditures.
- Teachers are asked to do more with less.
- Disappointed they have to fight to have the schools fully supported.

Chouchou Tackie, 82 Francis Street
- Agrees with previous speakers.
- Spoke on what attracted her to live in Trumbull.
- Spoke on lose of educators, increased class size, child care crisis with closing of the schools after hours.
- Urged the Board to look at other ways to add to the grand list.
- Do not balance this on the back of our children.

Maggie Mulcahy, 9 Aragon Drive
- Trumbull resident for 11 years.
- Three children in the school system.
- Spoke on specialists and paras, athletes and after school activities.
- Mall is a disgrace; downtown is vacant.
- Does not care what the mill rate is to have the students get the education they deserve.

Alexis Coutu, 13 Regina Street

- Resident for 11 years.
- Spoke on the reasons they moved to Trumbull.
- Four children in the school system.
- Urged to think of the budget in terms of value not cost.

Christine Lascano, 465 Stonehouse Road

- Grew up in Trumbull.
- Three children in the school system.
- Spoke on her personal experience and moving to Trumbull.
- Schools future is bleak and grim if the budget is not funded.
- Spoke on effect of losses with late buses, after school programs.

Jonathan Dizney, 43 Lafayette Drive

- Lived 42 years in Trumbull.
- Board of Finance wants what is best for Trumbull; same for the BoE.
- People come to Trumbull for the schools but also for the people in the community.
- Asked the BoE, Board of Finance and the Town Council to find creative ways to work together.
- Systems may need to be reviewed and changed.
- Working together as one town, one community. People spend time on both sides of the issue.

Ana Flores, 11 Wisteria Drive

- Spoke on the reasons for moving to Trumbull.
- TECEC experience was important.
- Hard to hear taking the education budget away from the kids.
- Encouraged the board to support and value education especially special programs.
- Thank you to all the special educators.

Ms. McHugh thanked everyone for coming to the public hearing and speak. Heard all the comments and received many emails. The process continues on Tuesday evening for the vote on the budget. The Board will make their adjustments and forward to the Town Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Crandall
Acting Clerk