

*Town of Trumbull
Board of Education*

6254 MAIN STREET
TRUMBULL, CONNECTICUT 06611

(203) 452-4301

FAX: (203) 452-4305

February 10, 2022

The Honorable Vicki Tesoro
First Selectman, Town of Trumbull
Trumbull, Connecticut 06611

Dear First Selectman Tesoro,

On February 8, 2022, the Trumbull Board of Education unanimously passed its 2022-2023 budget request. In accordance with its statutory responsibility, the Board of Education is requesting \$117,297,398, an amount that represents a 4.45% increase and equates to an addition of \$5,000,740 over the 2021-2022 allocation. Please note that this budget increase is driven by three major categories: 1) salaries (\$3,855,070); and 2) benefits (\$1,254,179); and 3) transportation (\$381,422).

This budget represents the funds needed to ensure that the Trumbull Public Schools remain an outstanding educational option for parents. Although the 2021-2022 school year has had many challenges (i.e., student and staff quarantines), our iReady data indicates growth for many of our students. However, the pandemic caused significant learning loss for too many of our students and we need to eliminate the achievement gaps and get all students back on track. To this end, we have strategically used our Federal grant dollars during the current school year to hire additional staff who are helping reduce these gaps. Our budget for the 2022-2023 school year reduces our emphasis on the diminishing Federal grants while maintaining a high level of support for our students.

The Trumbull Public Schools provide a great deal of pride for the community. Our students and staff have demonstrated their excellence in the classrooms, playing fields, music halls and so much more. During the 2021-2022 school year, we have focused our attention on: providing a safe, inclusive, nurturing, learning environment; emphasizing the use of high-leverage instructional strategies; providing financial stability and fiscal responsibility; and implementing cohesive systems to inform continuous improvement. The investment provided in the 2021-2022 budget for our Director of Human Resources and Director of Operations is paying major dividends for our district as we ensure compliance to industry standards. As we look to 2022-2023, we intend to further counteract the affects of learning loss; eliminate the K-8 Band and Strings fee for parents; reinstitute K paras to 19.5 hours per week; reinstate a World Language component for our 5th graders; and add needed staff to support our students. The Executive Summary in our budget book provides additional information and outlines all of the specific staff that we are requesting.



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The Trumbull Board of Education acknowledges that our request requires additional funding. At the same time, we have demonstrated that on a per pupil cost basis, Trumbull is highly efficient with the taxpayer money we receive. I have heard from many families that a major factor in their home purchase was the quality education provided in the Trumbull Public Schools. You have consistently supported education in your tenure as First Selectman and we thank you for recognizing our commitment to education. We ask that you support our funding request so that we can maintain the high-quality schools our families expect.

On behalf of the Board, I want to thank the Superintendent and his staff for all their efforts and hard work in developing and preparing this document and extend my appreciation to all involved in any way in the process. As you review this proposal, the Board wants to emphasize that any monies the Town appropriates to the Board of Education will be utilized wisely, responsibly and as intended. Trumbull has a superb school system of which our community is proud. It is our hope that you will look with favor on our request, and I thank you again for your continuing support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucinda A. Timpanelli". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'L'.

Lucinda A. Timpanelli, Chairman
Trumbull Board of Education