



**Special Student Achievement & Outcomes Committee
May 27, 2026
MINUTES**

The minutes presented within this document are a summary of the discussion that took place at the Student Achievement Committee meeting. To view the meeting in its entirety and hear full reports please go to: [May 27, 2026 SAC Meeting Recording](#).

PRESENT Committee members: Kara Ledger, Barbara Tedesco, Robert Parenti

ALSO PRESENT: Ken Bagley (Zoom), Carly Fortin, Sara Hale, Laura Lanza, Sarah Lindstrom, Jessica Lemos, Zach Maher, Amy Martino, Mikayla Pascucci-Wallace (Zoom), Debra Vitale, Leszek Ward, Iris White

Call to Order

Commissioner Ledger called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Decision: Approval of Minutes from April 29, 2026 meeting

On a motion made by Commissioner Parenti and seconded by Commissioner Tedesco, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to approve the April 29, 2026 Student Achievement minutes.

Public Comment: No public comment.

Information: Middle School Afterschool World Language Program

Dr. Sarah Lindstrom, World Language teacher, presented the success of a newly implemented middle school after-school language program that engaged both new learners and heritage speakers in Spanish, Italian, and Latin. The initiative aligns with the district's strategic goals to increase world language enrollment by 2030 and foster global communication, literacy, and empathy. While student engagement and confidence were high, Dr. Lindstrom noted that future iterations will focus on starting recruitment earlier to improve attendance and exploring sustainable funding options for expansion.

Questions and comments followed.

Decision: Grade 2 Mathematics Revision

Mrs. Debra Vitale, Elementary STEM Supervisor, presented revisions to the Grade 2 mathematics curriculum to align with the updated Illustrative Math 360 framework, which primarily focuses on deepening student strategies for addition and subtraction. The revised curriculum introduces new success criteria, embedded classroom support for multilingual and diverse learners, and translated family materials to enhance accessibility at home. Pending approval, the district has established a professional development schedule for teachers and administrators to unpack critical units and support effective classroom implementation.

Questions and comments followed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Parenti and seconded by Commissioner Tedesco, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to move the Grade 2 Math Curriculum Revision to the full Board of Education for approval.

Decision: Kindergarten Literacy Revision

Mr. Zachary Maher, Elementary Humanities Supervisor, presented revisions to the Kindergarten literacy curriculum to align with Connecticut's "Right to Read" legislation, shifting from isolated small-group instruction to a comprehensive, whole-group model rooted in the science of reading. The restructured daily schedule integrates phonemic awareness via Heggerty, explicit phonics through Wilson Foundations, and doubles the instructional time for Wit & Wisdom to 60 minutes to deepen comprehension across thematic science and social studies modules. To support this transition, the district will provide ongoing professional development, including modular planning sessions and "lab site" days featuring on-demand, real-time classroom coaching.

Questions and comments followed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Parenti and seconded by Commissioner Tedesco, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to move the Kindergarten Literacy Curriculum Revision to the full Board of Education for approval.

Decision: Grade 1 Literacy Revision

Mr. Maher presented the Grade 1 literacy curriculum revisions, which mirror the Kindergarten structure but scale up in complexity to focus on CVC words, suffixes, and vowel teams. The curriculum features five integrated thematic modules, including "A World of Books," "Creature Features," and international "Cinderella Stories," utilizing a 60-minute Wit & Wisdom block to engage all students in the same high-level, complex texts.

Comments followed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Parenti and seconded by Commissioner Tedesco, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to move the Grade 1 Literacy Curriculum Revision to the full Board of Education for approval.

Decision: Academic Support Transition Grades 9-12, New Curriculum

Dr. Jessica Lemos and Mrs. Mikayla Pascucci-Wallace, Special Education Supervisors, presented a vertically aligned high school Special Education transition curriculum designed to guide students with IEPs toward post-secondary education, employment, and independent living. Structured around the 16 Connecticut Core Transition Skills for students aged 14 and older, the course repeats four thematic quarterly blocks—learning profiles, post-secondary pathways, life skills, and career building—with increasing complexity across grades 9 through 12. To track student success and satisfy state performance indicators, the curriculum builds a comprehensive student portfolio that culminates in a mandatory Summary of Performance upon graduation.

Questions and comments followed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Parenti and seconded by Commissioner Tedesco, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to move the new Academic Support Transition Curriculum to the full Board of Education for approval.

Decision: Grade 7-8 Math Revision

Mrs. Laura Lanza, Secondary STEM Supervisor, presented comprehensive middle school math curriculum revisions to uniformly align all district courses under the Imagine Learning Illustrative Math 360 framework. The updated curriculum manages the vertical articulation of both the standard and accelerated pathways, paring down course content to set realistic instructional expectations and introducing a custom hybrid unit to ensure critical Grade 8 standards are given dedicated focus. To enhance day-to-day instruction and improve data tracking, the documents embed explicit universal design and multilingual language routines, while overhauling sectional checkpoints to serve as standardized, district-wide common formative assessments.

Comments followed.

On a motion made by Commissioner Parenti and seconded by Commissioner Tedesco, it was unanimously;

VOTED: to move the Grade 7-8 Math Curriculum Revision to the full Board of Education for approval.

There being no further discussion, Commissioner Ledger adjourned the meeting at 7:46pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Katlyne Laprise

Katlyne Laprise