

Board of Education Regular Meeting
Tuesday, January 27, 2026 7:00 PM

Town Campus Hammonasset Room/Zoom
10 Campus Drive
Madison, CT 06443

Subject to Approval

Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order / Attendance

The regular meeting of the Board of Education was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Seth Klaskin. Mr. Klaskin led the pledge of allegiance.

Present: Galen Cawley, Mary Ann Connelly, Lisa Deane, Diane Infantine-Vyce (on Zoom), Seth Klaskin, Maureen Lewis, Cathy Miller, Emily Rosenthal, Jessica Wilen (on Zoom)

Also present: Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools; Gail Dahling-Hench, Assistant Superintendent; Stacy Nobitz, Director of Finance

II. School / Community Session

No members of the public spoke.

III. Board of Education Student Representatives' Report

Grace Ackerman and Katherine Rizzo

Grace reported that there will be a career fair for students on Feb. 3, students in grades 9-11 will take a cell phone survey on Feb. 4, the VIBE cabaret was a big success, a world language honor society is being created at the high school. Grace also shared that she is now a Coke Scholars regional finalist and will learn if she is a finalist in the coming weeks. Katherine shared that counselors are meeting with all students in grades 9-11 now to finalize course selection for next year, counselors also visited Polson middle School to speak with 8th graders about high school course selection, and the January freshman orientation event was well attended.

IV. Superintendent's Report

Craig A. Cooke, Ph.D.

- CIP – Dr. Cooke shared that the CIP was approved by committee and now moves forward as part of the town budget.
- Health Insurance Update – Despite hoping for better news, Dr. Cooke shared that health insurance projections have not improved and the budget will move forward with the current health insurance numbers.
- Polson Construction Update – Polson renovations will begin in late spring. Construction equipment has begun arriving at the school and there will be a presentation on the Polson project at the Board Facilities committee on March 24.

V. Board Members' Comments

Mr. Klaskin shared that Dr. Wilen will be the CAGE liaison.

VI. Audience Response to Information Presented (Ref. Bylaw #9540.10)

No members of the public spoke.

VII. Board Committees / Liaison Updates (Ref. Bylaw #9450)

Curriculum and Student Development

Members: Catherine Miller, Chair; Mary Ann Connelly, Jessica Wilen

No report.

Facilities Committee

Members: Emily Rosenthal, Chair; Diane Infantine-Vyce, Lisa Deane

No report.

Finance Committee

Members: Galen Cawley, Chair, Emily Rosenthal, Jessica Wilen

No report.

Personnel Committee

Members: Maureen Lewis, Chair; Catherine Miller, Mary Ann Connelly

No report.

Policy Committee

Members: Diane Infantine-Vyce, Chair; Maureen Lewis, Galen Cawley

No report.

LEARN Liaison

Galen Cawley

No report.

VIII. Action Item: Discuss and take action on the 2026-2027 Recommended Budget.

The discussion can be heard in full on the meeting recording posted on the District website.

MOTION: by Infantine-Vyce, seconded by Deane to amend the proposed budget, reducing the AP Test Prep line item by \$5,000.

AYES: Deane, Infantine-Vyce

NAYS: Connelly, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

ABSTAIN: Cawley

MOTION FAILED: 2 – 6 – 1

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Miller to approve the 2026-2027 recommended budget of \$67,589,794, representing a 4.24% increase in spending.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller,
Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN: Deane, Infantine-Vyce

MOTION CARRIED: 7 – 0 – 2

IX. Action Item: Motion to approve an international trip to Germany in Summer 2026.

MOTION: by Miller, seconded by Connelly to approve an
international trip to Germany in Summer 2026.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin,
Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

X. Action Item: Motion to approve the following curriculum units: Conceptual Astronomy Units 1 & 2.

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Miller to approve the
following curriculum units: Conceptual Astronomy Units 1
& 2

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin,
Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XI. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2026 Board of Education Meeting
(Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Miller to approve the
minutes of the January 13, 2026 Board of Education
Meeting.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin,
Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

XII. Action Item: Motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026 Board of Education Budget
Workshop (Ref. Bylaw #9540.9)

MOTION: by Cawley, seconded by Connelly to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026 Board of Education Budget Workshop.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN: Lewis

MOTION CARRIED: 8 – 0 – 1

XIII. Future Agenda Items

Discussion of Board Mission.

XIV. Adjournment

MOTION: by Rosenthal, seconded by Miller to adjourn at 8:02 p.m.

AYES: Cawley, Connelly, Deane, Infantine-Vyce, Klaskin, Lewis, Miller, Rosenthal, Wilen

NAYS:

ABSTAIN:

MOTION CARRIED: 9 – 0

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