

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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 CABE 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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