

Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, May 26, 2026 7:00 PM

Somers Board of Education Chambers, 1 Vision Boulevard, Somers, CT 06071

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
3. **AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS**
 1. Retirement Recognitions
On behalf of the BOE, Superintendent Galloway, Melissa Mucci, SES Principal, and Margot Martello, MBA Principal, will present gifts to the following retirees:

Michael McDonnell, SES Assistant Principal
Therese Kowalski, SES Library Media Center Paraeducator
Kim LaBroad, SES Paraeducator
Kevin Nevins, Grade 6 Language Arts Teacher
Stanley Targonski, MBA Math Teacher
4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**
 1. Approval of the May 11, 2026 Meeting Minutes 3
The Board to review and approve the minutes from the May 11, 2026 Board meeting.
5. **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS**
 1. Superintendent Update
 2. SHS Student Representatives
SHS student representatives will update the Board on recent events.
 3. School Wellness Committee Report
Cheryl Fry, Head Nurse, will present the School Wellness Committee update.
6. **OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS**
7. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 1. Warrant of May 26, 2026 9
The Board to review and consent to the warrant of May 26, 2026.
 2. Resignations
 - Emma Dashnaw, MLL Paraeducator, will be resigning at the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
 - Krista Oliver, SES Paraeducator, will be resigning effective May 28, 2026.
8. **OLD BUSINESS**
9. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. 1st Posting DBS Code 5112.01 - Kindergarten Enrollment and Early Entry Waiver 13
(2026-2027)
 2. 1st Posting DBS Code 5131.81 - Use of Electronic Devices 15
 3. 1st Posting DBS Code 9120.1 - Officers - Election 17
 4. 1st Posting DBS Code 9321.4 - Minor Matters 18
10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**
 1. Curriculum
 2. Policy
 3. Planning/Finance
 4. Salary & Negotiations
 5. Building
11. **CIP/CREC/SEF**
12. **ADVANCE CALENDAR**
13. **AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS**
14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board to enter into Executive Session and invite Dr. Galloway into Executive Session to report on his goals.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Somers Board of Education Regular Meeting
Somers Board of Education Chambers
Monday, May 11, 2026
7:00 PM

(The recorded livestream may be viewed on SPS' YouTube channel on the school website)

Present BOE Members: Mike Briggs, Dr. Ed DePeau, JT Galloway, Dr. Sharon Goulet, Anne Kirkpatrick, Shane Manning, Kim Radziewicz

Absent BOE Members: Gina Olearczyk, Derek Zelek

Others: Dr. Sam Galloway, Stephanie Levin, Dr. Jamie Rechenberg, Margot Martello, Erin Clark, Annabelle Kochanek & Family, Weston Cass & Family, Dana Storozuk & Family, Wyatt Estes & Family, Paul Smith

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular Board of Education meeting was called to order by Chair Briggs at 7:00 p.m. in the Board of Education Chambers.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

3.1. 2026 CABE Student Leadership Awards

Rationale: Margot Martello, MBA Principal will present the MBA CABE Student Leadership Awards to Annabelle Kochanek and Weston Cass.

Dr. Jaime Rechenberg, SHS Principal, will present the SHS CABE Student Leadership Awards to Dana Storozuk and Wyatt Estes.

Discussion: Chair Briggs stated that recognizing student leaders is one of the reasons he values serving on the Board of Education. He noted that Somers schools demonstrate a great deal of excellence and that the Board has the privilege of celebrating it. Principal Margot Martello was introduced.

Principal Martello thanked everyone for attending and recognized the CABE Student Leadership Award recipients. This award honors students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, a willingness to take on challenges, mature decision-making, teamwork, diplomacy, and integrity. Two eighth-grade students were selected by their teachers and peers for this recognition.

Principal Martello recognized Annabelle Kochanek as a distinguished leader who positively influences her peers through her actions and character. She noted Annabelle's positive attitude, willingness to support others, and intrinsic motivation in academic and extracurricular activities, including cross-country and drama club. Annabelle also started a student book club, creating an inclusive space that promotes literacy and the joy of reading. Principal Martello also

recognized her participation in band and chorus and described her as a collaborative, kind student who is highly regarded by her peers.

Principal Martello recognized Weston Cass as a student committed to service, discipline, and community engagement. She noted his academic and civic dedication, including his induction into the National Junior Beta Club, as well as his participation in cross-country, wrestling, and lacrosse. Weston served as a cross-country captain for two years after being selected by his peers and gives back to wrestling by mentoring younger athletes. Principal Martello described Weston as a respected student-athlete whose leadership helps strengthen the MBA community.

Chair Briggs welcomed Dr. Jamie Rechenberg to recognize SHS students Dana Storozuk and Wyatt Estes.

Dr. Rechenberg recognized Dana Storozuk for her commitment to the SHS community and proactive advocacy. She described Dana as a student who shares ideas, offers solutions, and seeks out administrators and local leaders to ensure the student voice is included in important conversations. Dana approaches complex discussions with maturity and resilience and works to leave SHS better than she found it. Dr. Rechenberg noted that Dana was one of the first students to participate in a roundtable discussion about the student experience and spoke honestly about what was working well and what could be improved.

Dr. Rechenberg recognized Wyatt Estes for the unique and positive energy he brings to SHS. She described him as a natural leader whose influence is often felt through his kindness, humility, and gentle spirit. Wyatt's peers gravitate toward him, and he consistently looks for ways to help and uplift others. Dr. Rechenberg described him as an authentic leader.

The Board expressed pride in the students and appreciation for their leadership, character, and positive example to their peers.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

4.1. Approval of the April 27, 2026 Meeting Minutes

Rationale: The Board to review and approve the minutes from the April 27, 2026 Board meeting.

Motion to approve minutes from April 27, 2026 Regular Meeting. This motion, made by Sharon Goulet and seconded by Ed DePeau, Carried. **Yea: 5, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Gina Olearczyk, Derek Zelek), Abstain: 2 (JT Galloway, Kim Radziewicz)**

5. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

5.1. Superintendent Update

SBAC testing is underway for students in grades 3-5 at SES and will conclude on 5/22/26. Superintendent Galloway noted the strong energy, focus, and motivation among students and teachers. He shared that motivational posters have helped

encourage students who are engaged and working to show their best effort during the testing window. At MBA, personalized Post-it notes were placed on student lockers to encourage students during testing. Superintendent Galloway looks forward to reviewing how students performed during the testing window. The NGSS assessment was administered at SHS on 5/7/26, and students generally left feeling confident.

Superintendent Galloway thanked the Somers Education Foundation for its continued support of teachers and students. He also congratulated Hall of Fame Coach Ken McCarthy on his 500th win against Ellington, with a score of 15-1.

Superintendent Galloway welcomed Mr. Paul Smith from NEASC, noting that Somers was accepted as one of eight districts in the initial cohort for district-wide accreditation. The accreditation process will align with the district strategic plan update. Superintendent Galloway expressed appreciation for the opportunity to participate in the initial cohort.

5.2. NEASC Accreditation Process Overview

Rationale: Paul Smith, Accreditation Consultant for New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), will discuss the 3-year accreditation process for SPS to the Board.

Discussion: Mr. Paul Smith, a NEASC representative and retired Connecticut educator, presented information on Somers' acceptance into the first Connecticut and New England district accreditation cohort through NEASC and CAPSS. He explained that NEASC accreditation has shifted from a compliance-based high school process to a continuous improvement model that allows districts to identify priority areas and demonstrate growth over time within their entire district.

The district-wide process will focus on student learning, learning culture, professional practices, learning support, and learning resources. Somers will begin with a self-reflection portion in 2026-27, followed by a collaborative conference visit in 2027-28, growth plan development in 2028-29, and a decennial accreditation visit in 2029-30. Ongoing progress updates will continue throughout the 10-year cycle, with support from NEASC, CAPSS, and cohort partners.

Mr. Smith explained that district-wide accreditation will support PK-12 alignment, strategic planning, curriculum cohesion, and shared expectations across schools. He noted that the process is not punitive and is designed to support improvement and accountability. A district steering committee has been assembled to guide the process within the district.

Board members asked about the timeline, district-wide versus high school accreditation, budget implications, and return on investment. Mr. Smith explained that Somers would have completed high school accreditation regardless, and CAPSS is covering steering committee training. He emphasized that the value of the process is in alignment, accountability, and professional growth.

Superintendent Galloway stated that the process aligns with the district's strategic planning work and will help strengthen a culture of continuous improvement. Dr.

Rechenberg added that it will create common language, shared expectations, and clarity of mission across all schools.

Chair Briggs inquired how the process could be impacted by changes to staff, administration, or Board members over time. Mr. Smith noted that the plan and process are grounded in standards. Superintendent Galloway noted that while individuals may come and go, the process solidifies how the district runs and the end goal for success.

5.3. Monthly Budget Report

Rationale: Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will update the Board on the monthly budget report.

Discussion: Stephanie Levin presented the April monthly budget report, noting changes to the maintenance line, including a reduction of approximately \$110,000. The Board of Finance assumed responsibility for certain projects, including the library project, to reduce district obligations for next year. Ms. Levin noted approximately \$34,000 in equipment and furniture expenses related to the library.

Ms. Levin stated that the May report will reflect more of these updates, as well as the anticipated final excess cost deposit. The Board will vote on a balance transfer later in the meeting. There are no significant changes anticipated before the end of the year.

6. OPPORTUNITY TO ADD/DELETE AGENDA ITEMS

7. CONSENT AGENDA

Motion to approve Consent Agenda. This motion, made by Kim Radziewicz and seconded by Anne Kirkpatrick, Carried. **Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Gina Olearczyk, Derek Zelek)**

Discussion: Board Member Ed DePeau asked whether DBS Code 6141.32, Curriculum: Computer Usage, addresses students' use of technology for gameplay that is not part of academic coursework and whether that would be considered misuse of technology even if there is academic value to the tool. Superintendent Galloway suggested that any such technology use is under the supervision of teachers and administration.

7.1. Warrant of May 11, 2026

Rationale: The Board to review and consent to the warrant of May 11, 2026.

7.2. Resignation

Rationale: Elizabeth Neyssen, MBA Paraeducator, resigned effective May 8, 2026 after 2 1/2 years of service with SPS.

7.3. 2nd Posting DBS Code 0521 - Nondiscrimination

**7.4. 2nd Posting DBS Code 4118.5 - Equipment / Staff Telecommunications
Acceptable Use Policy**

7.5. 2nd Posting DBS Code 4152.6 - Personal Leaves

**7.6. 2nd Posting DBS Code 5113.13 - Students / Work-Study Student Employment /
Work-Release**

7.7. 2nd Posting DBS Code 6141.32 - Curriculum: Computer Usage

7.8. 2nd Posting DBS Code 9110 - Number of Members and Terms of Office

7.9. 2nd Posting DBS Code 9120.2 - Officers / Term and Vacancy

7.10. 2nd Posting DBS Code 9230 - Orientation of Board Members

8. OLD BUSINESS

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. FY26 Q3 BOE Transfers

Rationale: The Board to approve the FY26 Q3 transfers. Stephanie Levin, Director of Business Services, will be available to answer questions.

Motion to approve the FY26 Q3 Transfers. This motion, made by JT Galloway and seconded by Shane Manning, Carried. **Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Gina Olearczyk, Derek Zelek)**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.2. Curriculum

There are no updates.

9.3. Policy

This committee met on 5/11/26. There will be policy revisions for the next meeting, which will be held on the fourth Monday in June at 6 p.m.

9.4. Planning/Finance

This committee met the week of 5/4/26 regarding budget transfers. There are no future meetings planned at this time.

9.5. Salary & Negotiations

This committee will meet with the maintenance group on 5/20/26 to finalize the contract. There is a meeting on 5/27/26 with the Nurses' Association to discuss contracts.

9.6. Building

There are no updates. The committee continues to wait for legal opinion regarding the SES HVAC project. The SES boiler project will begin. The next meeting is scheduled for 5/19/26.

10. CIP/CREC/SEF

There is no CIP or CREC report.

SEF hosted a successful fundraiser that raised over \$20,000, resulting in a total endowment of over \$1.4 million. Board Member Shane Manning commended the SEF group for their diligence in reviewing grants. Approximately \$85,000 in grants were awarded this year.

11. ADVANCE CALENDAR

The following upcoming events were noted:

- PTO Meeting on 5/12/26 at 5:30 p.m.
- Celebration of the Arts on 5/13/26, including drama awards, cabaret dinner, and art show
- SES Band and Chorus Concert on 5/14/26
- Town Referendum on 5/19/26 from 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Town Hall
- Memorial Day Celebration on 5/23/26 at 10:00 a.m. at SHS
- Spring Capstone on 6/2/26 from 7:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the SHS gym
- SHS Graduation on 6/10/26 at 6:00 p.m. on the SHS turf
- Eighth Grade Promotion Ceremony on 6/16/26 at 9:00 a.m. on the SHS turf
- Last day of school and Fifth Grade Promotion Ceremony on 6/17/26 at 9:30 a.m. on the SHS turf

12. AUDIENCE TO CITIZENS/STAFF/STUDENTS

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m. This motion, made by Shane Manning and seconded by JT Galloway, Carried. **Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Absent: 2 (Gina Olearczyk, Derek Zelek)**

Dr. Sharon Goulet, BOE Secretary Date

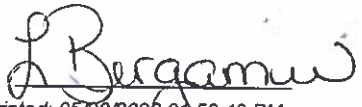
Jenna McDermott, BOE Recording Secretary

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION VOUCHER

Voucher No: 1347

Voucher Date: 05/26/2026

Prepared By:


Printed: 05/20/2026 01:58:48 PM

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION is hereby authorized to draw warrants against SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION funds for the sum of \$286,109.50 on account of obligations incurred for value received in services and for materials as shown below for period July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 (period cannot overlap fiscal year end.)

I certify that this claim is just and correct, and the services and/or materials herein represented have been received during the period listed above. All items are properly coded and not in excess of the budget.


Stephanie Levin Director of Business Services

SOMERS BOARD OF EDUCATION

Fund		Amount
10	GENERAL FUND	\$286,109.50
		\$286,109.50

Somers Board of Education

Check Listing

Fiscal Year: 2025-2026

Criteria:

Bank Account: BOE AP CASH 1918032563

From Date: 5/26/2026
From Check: 27533
From Voucher: 1347

To Date: 5/26/2026
To Check: 27584
To Voucher: 1347

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
27533	05/26/2026	Adelbrook Inc	\$18,732.25	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27534	05/26/2026	Advance Auto Parts	\$462.66	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27535	05/26/2026	Alternative Access Assistive Techology	\$2,940.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27536	05/26/2026	Amazon Capital Services	\$3,157.02	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27537	05/26/2026	ASBO	\$895.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27538	05/26/2026	BSN Sports LLC	\$69.60	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27539	05/26/2026	CDW Government, Inc	\$12,300.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27540	05/26/2026	Cheryl Fry	\$1,184.78	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27541	05/26/2026	Connecticut Mulch Distributors, Inc	\$1,590.80	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27542	05/26/2026	Cummins Sales and Service	\$1,273.80	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27543	05/26/2026	DG Graphics	\$70.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27544	05/26/2026	Dime Oil Company LLC	\$8,020.80	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27545	05/26/2026	EdAdvance	\$499.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27546	05/26/2026	Ellington Board of Education	\$3,750.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27547	05/26/2026	Environmental Systems Corp.	\$3,406.23	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27548	05/26/2026	Eric Barakat	\$300.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27549	05/26/2026	Eversource Energy	\$26,652.45	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27550	05/26/2026	First Student, Inc	\$124,881.37	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27551	05/26/2026	Fletcher Sewer & Drain, Inc	\$407.50	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27552	05/26/2026	Gateway Enterprise Corporation	\$424.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27553	05/26/2026	Graduate Pest Solutions, Inc.	\$231.86	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27554	05/26/2026	Grainger	\$135.39	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27555	05/26/2026	Gregory Logan	\$337.50	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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To Voucher: 1347

Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
27556	05/26/2026	Grizzly Industrial, Inc.	\$890.88	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27557	05/26/2026	Hartford HealthCare Corporation SBO	\$16,252.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27558	05/26/2026	Intensive Education Academy, Inc.	\$8,694.98	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27559	05/26/2026	J.W. Pepper & Son, Inc.	\$12.99	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27560	05/26/2026	Joe Warren & Sons Co., Inc	\$2,400.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27561	05/26/2026	Joseph Migliore	\$300.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27562	05/26/2026	Jostens, Inc.	\$51.10	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27563	05/26/2026	Journal Inquirer	\$56.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27564	05/26/2026	JP Climate Control LLC	\$2,040.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27565	05/26/2026	K&S Distributors	\$247.80	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27566	05/26/2026	Lynn Erickson	\$256.65	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27567	05/26/2026	Magic School, Inc	\$7,999.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27568	05/26/2026	MagnaKleen Services	\$108.61	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27569	05/26/2026	Manchester Board of Education	\$6,640.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27570	05/26/2026	OTIS Elevator Company	\$350.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27571	05/26/2026	ParentSquare, Inc	\$16,947.50	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27572	05/26/2026	Pitney Bowes, Inc.	\$448.35	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27573	05/26/2026	Rolling Meadows	\$3,660.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27574	05/26/2026	Sarah Martin	\$255.20	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27575	05/26/2026	Sarah Uyar	\$75.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27576	05/26/2026	Sherwin-Williams Co., The	\$625.38	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27577	05/26/2026	Stafford Mechanical Services	\$249.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27578	05/26/2026	State of Connecticut-CEC	\$20.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27579	05/26/2026	The Home Depot Pro	\$97.74	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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Check Number	Date	Payee	Amount	Voucher	Status	Type	Cleared?	Clear Date	Void Date
27580	05/26/2026	ULINE	\$85.35	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27581	05/26/2026	USA Waste and Recycling	\$2,455.20	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27582	05/26/2026	Williams Scotsman, Inc	\$100.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27583	05/26/2026	WOZ ED	\$2,775.00	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		
27584	05/26/2026	Zoro Tools Inc	\$293.76	1347	Printed	Expense	<input type="checkbox"/>		

Total Amount: \$286,109.50

End of Report

(Boards of Education that allow waivers for the 2026-2027 school year are required to have a policy allowing such waivers.)

Students

Kindergarten Enrollment and Early Entry Waiver (2026-2027)

I. Purpose

In accordance with the Connecticut General Assembly's **March 2026 Emergency Legislation, §§26-27** and **Public Act 23-208**, this policy establishes the age requirements for enrollment in kindergarten and the specific, time-bound "transitional" waiver process available to families for the 2026-2027 academic school year.

The [Somers](#) Board of Education adopts the following procedures for the 2026-2027 school year.

II. Eligibility for "Automatic" Enrollment

To be eligible for kindergarten, a child must have reached the age of five (5) on or before September 1.

Transitional Waiver (2026-2027)

The District recognizes that the shift in the state-mandated cutoff date (from January 1 to September 1) may place a hardship on families. Therefore, for the 2026-2027 school year, the District shall provide a waiver process for children who turn five between September 2, 2026, and December 31, 2026.

Note: A waiver is not a guarantee of enrollment; it is a request for an exception based on a determination of developmental readiness. However, students transferring to the District from other Connecticut districts and have been assessed in accordance with state requirements and subsequently granted a waiver for the 2026-2027 school year, shall be granted a waiver for the same academic year.

Waiver Application Requirements

To apply for a waiver, parents or guardians must complete the following steps:

1. **Written Request:** Submit a formal "Request for Kindergarten Waiver" to the Principal of the child's assigned school. This request must be submitted no later than (insert District Deadline, e.g., May 1, 2026).
2. **Parental Questionnaire:** Complete a developmental history and social-emotional snapshot of the child to provide context for the school's assessment.
3. **Mandatory Assessment:** Under state law, once a written request is received, the District shall conduct an assessment of the child. The child will be invited to a school-based screening where a certified staff member (e.g., kindergarten teacher, school psychologist, or early childhood specialist) will evaluate:
 - a. Social and emotional maturity
 - b. Communication and language skills
 - c. Physical and cognitive development

Determination

The Principal, in consultation with the assessment team, shall issue a written decision to the family. The decision of the Principal and the certified staff regarding whether early entry is “developmentally appropriate” is final and not subject to further appeal to the Board of Education.

Sunset of “Transitional” Waiver

- **Effective Dates:** This policy applies to the 2026-2027 enrollment cycle.
- **Expiration:** The “transitional” waiver option described herein shall expire on June 30, 2027). Future enrollment cycles shall be governed by the standing Board Policy on kindergarten admissions, which may be more restrictive as the state’s transition period concludes.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-15c
 Public Act 23-208 An Act Making Certain Revisions to the Education
 Statutes
 2026 Emergency Legislation (SB 298), §§ 26 &27 – Kindergarten Waivers

STUDENTS

Use of Electronic Devices

During instructional time, from the official school start time to end of the day school dismissal, which includes class periods, lunch period (elementary schools), and other specified times as determined by administration, electronic communication devices must be kept powered-off and out-of-sight unless:

- a. Permission is granted by an administrator, teacher or school staff member;
- b. Use of the device is provided in a student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 education plan; or
- c. It is needed in an emergency that threatens the safety of students, staff, or other individuals.

Phones and/or electronic communication devices, and accessories (i.e. earbuds, headphones, etc.), should remain concealed and be turned off unless in use pursuant to this policy. Such phones and other electronic communication devices may be used in compliance with the individual school's guidelines for usage. This time of usage may include before/after school as well as during the student's lunch time and in designated locations.

The building administration reserves the right to limit the use of cell phones in the building wherever they deem appropriate.

Unauthorized Use of Devices

A student's possession, display or use of a cellular telephone and other wireless communication devices on school property contrary to the provisions of this policy shall be viewed as the unauthorized use of the cellular phone or other wireless communication devices when such possession, display or use of such devices results in conduct which includes, but is not limited to:

- a. Interference with or disruption of the instructional or educational environment.
- b. Use which violates academic integrity, as the reproduction of images of tests, communication of test or examination contents or answers, to provide access to unauthorized school information, or assistance to students in any aspect of their instructional program in a manner that violates school Board policy or the Student Code of Conduct.
- c. The communication of the marks or grades assigned to students resulting from evaluation or the actual contents, or parts thereof, of any evaluation activity being completed by an individual(s).
- d. Use to commit a crime, under federal or state law.
- e. Violation of a student's or other person's reasonable expectation of privacy, by using such devices with photographic capabilities in student locker-rooms, restrooms, any other student changing areas, or the classroom, whether such use occurs during the instructional school day or on school property. Cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices may not be utilized to take "photographs" or "videos" while on

school property, while on school-sponsored transportation or while a student is engaged in school-sponsored activities.

f. Use in a manner that is profane, indecent, obscene, threatening, discriminatory, bullying or harassing language, pictures or gestures. Cellular telephones and other wireless communication devices which have the capability to take "photographs" or "moving pictures" shall not be used for such purposes while on school property, while on school-sponsored transportation or while a student is engaged in school-sponsored activities.

Unauthorized use of these devices is grounds for confiscation by school officials, including classroom teachers. Repeated unauthorized use of such devices may lead to disciplinary action.

Responsibility/Liability

Any student who chooses to bring a cellular telephone or other wireless communication device to school shall do so at his or her own risk and shall be personally responsible for the security of his or her cellular phone or wireless communication device. Neither the school personnel or Board will assume any responsibility or liability for loss, theft, damage or vandalism to a cellular phone or other wireless communication device brought onto school property, or for the unauthorized use of any such device.

Legal Reference: PA 95-304 An Act Concerning School Safety

PA 96-108 An Act Concerning Student Use of Telecommunication Devices and the Establishment of Graduation Dates

PA 99-256 An Act Concerning AAC Laser Pointers

Connecticut General Statutes

[10-233j](#) Student possession and use of telecommunications devices

Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir 1971)

Trachtman v. Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977) cert. denied, 435 U.S. 925 (1978)

Hazelwood School District v. Ruhlmeir, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S Ct 562 (1988)

Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 US 675 (1986)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Dist., 393 US 503, (1969)

Adopted: July 13, 2009

Revised: July 12, 2010

March 25, 2019

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD:

Officers

Election:

The first order of business shall be the election of a ~~Chairman~~ Chair who shall take office upon election. The Board shall then elect a Secretary and a ~~Vice-Chairman~~ Vice Chair who shall take office upon election. Election shall require the majority vote of the members of the Board.

Duties of the ~~Chairman~~ Chair and Secretary are detailed in policies #9121 and #9123. The ~~Vice-Chairman~~ Vice Chair will chair the meetings of the Board of Education when the Chairman is absent, as well as perform other duties the Board delegates to him/her.

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-218 Officers. Meetings

Adopted: August 28, 1980

Revised: February 24, 1992

Reviewed: April 4, 2000

This policy will be deleted.

BYLAWS OF THE BOARD:

Minor Matters:

In minor matters requiring Board of Education action before the next regular meeting, the board may be polled by the Chairman or Secretary.

Action shall be upon the concurrence of a majority of the board and the vote ratified and recorded at the next regular meeting of the board.

Adopted: March 23, 1981

Reviewed: June 21, 2000