

Board of Education Minutes

October 22, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Education was held in hybrid format on October 22, 2025, beginning at 6:30 PM. Present were Mrs. Mastroianni, Mrs. Mazzella, Mr. Stefanowicz, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mr. Burdick, Mrs. Main, and Mr. Austin. Also, in attendance were Mr. Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools, as well as Kathy Trammell, Business Manager, and Randy Rumrill, Director of Facilities.

Summary:

The Board of Education meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM and opened with public comments focused on the district's recent cyber incident and its impact on teachers and staff. Teachers' Union President Jackie Barry shared survey results outlining challenges faced by educators, and the board expressed appreciation for their resilience and commitment. Superintendent Troy Hopkins provided an update on the incident, including an overview of the associated costs, and reported that recovery efforts and enhanced cybersecurity measures are underway to strengthen the district's technology systems.

Administrative updates included the hiring of a new maintenance employee, open postings for a nurse and paraeducator, and recognition of departing board members Lisa Mazzella and Stephanie Mastroianni for their service. Financial and facilities reports indicated that spending remains on track, with continued work on irrigation system repairs and generator testing. The board approved reallocating funds to address technology expenses, passed the consent agenda, and concluded with an executive session that included discussion of contracts before adjourning for the evening.

1. Call to Order

- Mrs. Mastroianni called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Public Comment

Please be advised that our meeting structure does not allow for two-way dialogue during public Comment, but the Board uses this information to guide their decision-making. Depending on the topic, they may ask the Superintendent or another District employee to follow up with you. Likewise, public comments might lead to a topic being added to a future meeting agenda.

- Several community members, including Carl Johnson and Teachers' Union President Jackie Barry, expressed concerns about the recent cyber incident.

Motion to replace Safety and Security in Executive Session with Teacher Contract and add the Capital List to 6. (e). Motion made by Mrs. Mazzella and seconded by Mrs. Main. This motion carried by unanimous decision.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1 (Mrs. Wagner)

4. Correspondence

- There was email correspondence regarding Board meeting practices and the effect of recent cyber incident.

5. Reports

a. Superintendent Report

- Staffing update
 - Maintenance position hired.
 - Paraeducator and Nurse positions are open.
- Outgoing Board members Lisa Mazzella and Stephanie Mastroianni were recognized for their service.
- Update on the NEASC Conference.
- Randy Rumrill to coordinate a generator test with Cummings.

b. BOE Chair

- Announced plans to step down effective November 5, 2025
- Discussed ongoing initiatives including:
 - Field and facility use guidelines
 - Financial Procedures Manual
 - Student Activities Fund
 - Sustainability and school-town collaboration

6. Finance and Facilities

a. September Financial Report

- Mr. Hopkins reviewed expenditures, noting overall spending remains on pace.
- Early medical insurance payments will offset later expenses, and no significant budget concerns were identified.

- Teacher contract negotiations are proceeding under budget.
- The annual audit is expected by year-end.

b. Non-Lapsing Report

- The Board reviewed current allocations.

c. Irrigation and STEAP Grants

- It was reported that the irrigation reel has been functioning well.
- The hydrant issue is being addressed.
- The increased workload related to the irrigation wheel is not a hardship.

d. Technology Update and Expenses

- The recent cyber incident was addressed
- Incident required rebuilding parts of the network due to aging infrastructure.
- Estimated total cost: \$197,000, with insurance expected to reimburse \$100,000.
- IT staff continue efforts to recover files and evaluate enhanced cybersecurity protections for the future.

Motion to take \$97,000 from what was going to be returned to the undesignated fund to in turn directly fund the cyber incident and expenses there in. Motion made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Dr. Towle-Weicksel. This motion failed by split decision.

Yea: 3 (Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mr. Stefanowicz, Mr. Burdick), Nay: 4, (Mrs. Mastroianni, Mr. Austin, Mrs. Mazzella, Mrs. Main) Abstain: 0, Absent: 1 (Mrs. Wagner)

Motion to take \$65,000 out of non-lapsing, by way of de-obligating \$46,000 meant for irrigation, and reduce the return of funds to the town to by \$32,000 for a total return of \$132,000 to fund the cyber incident. Motion made by Mrs. Mazella and seconded by Mrs. Mastroianni. This motion carried by split decision.

Yea: 4, (Mrs. Mastroianni, Mr. Austin, Mrs. Main, Mrs. Mazzella), Nay: 2, (Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mr. Stefanowicz) Abstain: 1, (Mr. Burdick) Absent: 1, (Mrs. Wagner)

e. Capital List

- Outdoor track was rejected on Capital List.
- Kubota plow loader was rejected.
 - Other options being discussed.
- Floor machine has been approved.

7. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes

a. 9.10.2025

Motion to approve the consent agenda. Motion made by Mrs. Main and seconded by Mr. Burdick.

This motion carried by unanimous decision

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: (Mrs. Wagner)

8. BOE Comments For Future Agenda Items

- No Comments.

9. Public Comment

- There was public comment.
- A community member expressed security concerns related to the recent cyber incident, and administration provided clarification and guidance on next steps.

10. Executive Session

Motion to enter executive session. Motion made by Mrs. Main and seconded by Mr. Burdick.

This motion carried by unanimous decision.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: (Mrs. Wagner)

11. Adjournment

Motion to approve the Superintendent's salary increase 2.95%. Motion Made by Mr. Stefanowicz, and seconded by Mr. Burdick.

This motion carried by split decision.

Yea: 6 (Mrs. Mastroianni, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mrs. Mazzella, Mr. Stefanowicz, Mr. Burdick), Nay: 1 (Mrs. Main), Abstain: 1 (Mr. Austin), Absent: 1 (Mrs. Wagner)

Motion to adjourn. Motion made by Mr. Burdick and seconded by Mrs. Main.

This motion carried by unanimous decision

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, (Mrs. Wagner)

- Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM