

## Board of Education Minutes

March 25, 2026

A Special Meeting of the Board of Education was held in hybrid format on March 25, 2026, beginning at 6:30 PM. Present were Mr. Stefanowicz, Mrs. Friend, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mr. Burdick, Mrs. Wagner, Mrs. Main, and Mrs. Mello. Also, in attendance were Mr. Hopkins, Superintendent of Schools, Kathy Trammell, Business Manager, as well as Olivia Tavares, Student Ambassador. Mr. Austin was not present at this meeting.

### **Summary:**

The Board reviewed and discussed the FY2027 budget, focusing on reducing the proposed increase and maintaining staffing levels while minimizing impact on students. Significant discussion centered on a 1.36% budget target communicated by the Board of Finance outside of a public meeting, which the Board agreed should not be considered until formally presented. Through various adjustments, including changes to transportation, medical benefits, building services, and technology funding, the Board approved an amended budget reflecting a 2.74% increase (\$439,876).

The Board also discussed correspondence protocols, emphasizing the need for clear designation of items intended for public sharing at meetings. Updates were provided on retirements, district finances, and student activities. The Board approved Policy 5112.01 (Kindergarten Early Entrance Waiver, one-year) and revised Policy 6146 (Graduation Requirements). Additional discussion included superintendent search, school resource officer funding, and facility improvements. The consent agenda was approved, and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

### **1. Call to Order**

- Mrs. Wagner 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.

#### **4. Correspondence**

- There was no correspondence.
  - Board members sought clarification regarding what qualifies as correspondence.

#### **5. Reports**

##### **a. Superintendent**

- Announced retirements.
- Provided updates on discussions with town officials regarding general building services.

##### **b. Chair**

- Noted upcoming Board of Finance meetings.
- Acknowledged Olivia Tavares for serving as Student Ambassador.

##### **c. Student Ambassadors**

- Reported on recent and upcoming activities, including:
  - Spring sports
  - Scholarship fair
  - SAT testing
  - Debate and academic team participation
  - Model UN trip
  - Elementary school events and performances
  - Upcoming assessments and conferences

##### **d. February Financial Report FY26**

- The district is trending favorably

#### **6. Old Business**

##### **a. FY 27 Budget Update**

- Initial budget proposal of 5.47% was reduced through various adjustments.
- A 4.13% option was presented without staffing reductions.
- The Board expressed strong concern regarding a 1.36% increase target communicated by the Board of Finance outside of a public meeting.
- Members agreed this figure should not be considered until discussed publicly by the Board of Finance.
- Key Budget Adjustments Discussed:

- Move Chromebook purchases to current year budget.
- Reduce general building services.
- Adjust transportation (including midterm busing)
- Consider medical insurance savings (removal of one family plan)
- Staffing considerations with an emphasis on managing changes through attrition.

Motion to approve the budget increase of 2.73%, \$439,876. Motion made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick.

Amended Motion to approve the budget increase of 2.74%, \$439,876. Motion made by Mr. Stefanowicz and seconded by Mr. Burdick.

This motion carried by unanimous decision.

Yea: 7, Nay: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, (Mr. Austin)

**b. Production Lighting**

- Currently seeking quotes for review

**c. Superintendent Search**

- The superintendent search is still ongoing with the survey and focus groups being held this week.

**d. Resource Officer**

- Administration from both schools met with local CT State Police
- Troy met with local CT State Police
- Troy plans to continue these meetings on a more frequent basis
- Continued discussion of School Resource Officer funding, including grant opportunities

**7. New Business**

**8. Policy**

**a. 5112.01 – Kindergarten Early Waiver**

Motion to adopt policy 5112.01. Motion made by Mr. Burdick and seconded by Mrs. Main.

Motion carried by split decision.

Yea: 6, (Mr. Burdick, Mrs. Main, Mrs. Mello, Dr. Towle-Weicksel, Mrs. Friend, Mr. Stefanowicz), Nay: 1 (Mrs. Main), Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, (Mr. Austin)

## **b. 6146 – Graduation Requirements**

Motion to adopt policy 6146 with the changes indicated as well as changing Social Studies 2.0 credits to 2.5 credits. Motion made by Mr. Burdick and seconded by Mrs. Main.

Motion carried by unanimous decision.

Yea: 7, Nay :0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, (Mr. Austin)

## **9. Consent Agenda**

### **a. Approval of Minutes**

#### **i. 02/25/2026**

#### **ii. Move Financials to BOF**

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

This motion carried by unanimous decision.

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

## **10.Future Agenda Items**

- Budget updates and potential further reductions
- Late bus usage and cost-saving alternatives
- School Resource Officer

## **11.Public Comment**

- No public comment

## **12.Adjournment**

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

This motion carried by unanimous decision.

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

- Meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM