LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience *in a Public School Setting*

Regular Board of Education Meeting
September 3, 2025

Board Present: Jason Kemp, Chair; Anna James, Vice Chair; Treasurer; Martha Shoemaker, Secretary; Scott Brown; Laura Dean-Frazier; Susan Fogliano; Gavin Lodge; Alexander Lowry

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Christopher Staab

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Mark Ambruso, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; Thomas Bushnell, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School; Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum; Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services; Kelly Enoch, Principal of Mile Creek School; Allison Hine, Principal of Lyme Consolidated School; Sean Kennedy, Assistant Principal of Mile Creek School; Holly McCalla, Business Manager; Ron Turner, Director of Facilities & Technology; Noah Ventola, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Isabella Presti and Ainsley Rinoski, High School Student Representatives; 15 community members from LOL

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Chair Jason Kemp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes
MOTION: Martha Shoemaker made a motion, which was seconded by Gavin Lodge, to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting and Executive Session of August 6, 2025.

VOTE: The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

III. Visitors

1. Invention Convention Recognition

Michael Beaudette of Mentoring Corps for Community Development (MCCD) presented Natalie Gibbons, a middle school student, with a book prize for winning the State Invention Convention for her invention, *Plastic Gone*. Natalie also won the Kutnick Family Foundation Award and an invitation to the National Competition in Dearborn, Michigan this coming year. Appropriately, the Kutnick Family Foundation Award is given to a student with a "particularly innovative approach to keeping water safe, clean and sustainable."

2. Report from Student Representatives

Isabella Presti and Ainsley Rinoski reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:

At LOLHS: Freshman orientation went really well, with students getting the chance to tour the school and get comfortable with their new surroundings. On the first day of classes, each grade held meetings where everyone was able to bond, enjoy food together, and kick off the year as a community. Seniors received their senior shirts and proudly wore them on Friday, marking an exciting tradition. Fall sports are back in action, with plenty of exciting games ahead, and the fall play has been announced as *The Election*, with auditions happening later this month. Clubs are also beginning for the year, including Mock Trial and Amnesty International, and much more giving students plenty of opportunities to get involved.

At LOLMS: Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School is off to a fantastic start this year! Sixth graders enjoyed their orientation day, complete with an ice cream social at LYSB, while families benefited from a special evening session to help parents prepare for the transition to middle school. Tomorrow evening at 6:15, we look forward to welcoming families back for our annual Back-to-School Night.

Sports are already underway, with tryouts taking place this week, and students will begin the iReady assessment in math and reading to establish baseline data for the year. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our maintenance and custodial teams—the building looks terrific despite ongoing construction work. We're excited for a year full of growth, learning, and community!

Elementary- We had a great start to the school year at both Lyme Consolidated and Mile Creek! Students and staff have been working to establish classroom routines and have been getting to know one another. In grades k - 3 the implementation of our new literacy program, Bookworms, has begun. We are very grateful to our custodial and maintenance staff who worked so hard to make sure our buildings were ready for students on the first day of school.

At Lyme Consolidated School: At Lyme, we have welcomed our new PreK class and we are getting ready for our first schoolwide assembly on Friday. Our fifth-grade students have been embracing their leadership role in the school and they have been finding ways to be role models for the younger students.

At Mile Creek School: At Mile Creek next week we will have our first school-wide community meeting. At this meeting each classroom shares the classroom agreements they have created that link to the elementary school pledge to "Be Safe, Be Kind and Do our Best." At this assembly we'll talk about what the Wildcat Way means, and how we are all members of the Wildcat Family.

In the Preschool Program: After a busy first few days moving back into our classrooms, we are off to a great start at Center School! We began the year by providing families with tours of Center School on the day before school opened. The tours introduced students and families to our classrooms, our playground, and all of our preschool facilities. In our classrooms, we are making new friends, learning our classroom routines, and having fun. Our 3-year-old students have been exploring and loving their new playground. We are looking forward to our first visit from the Connecticut Audubon Society later this month for a lesson exploring weather. This month, our themes are "All about me" and "Apples." We are looking forward to celebrating International Dot day on September 15th by wearing dots to school, and we are excited to have our families visit our classrooms for Center School's open house, which is scheduled for September 25th.

A special thanks to Ron Turner, Brian Howe and the entire facilities team for all their hard work helping to get our classrooms ready for students!

3. Public Comment

Mary Powell St. Louis, an Old Lyme resident, expressed concern about safety during the student led walkout scheduled this Friday at 10:00 at the high school and requested clarity on how the district plans to handle discipline for students who participate. Ian Neviaser explained he could not discuss specific security measures in a public setting, but that student safety remains a priority and disciplinary action would only occur based on disruptive behavior.

Mike Reiter, an Old Lyme resident and member of the Old Lyme Little League is seeking school field access for children on his Little League team. He is appealing to the Board of Education. Ian Neviaser explained the current policy reserves natural fields for middle and high school programs to prevent overuse, while the new turf field is available for rental and can accommodate Little League activities. This matter will be discussed at the upcoming Policy Committee meeting.

IV. Correspondence

Mr. Kemp reviewed a summary of the correspondence that the Board received over the last month. The correspondence is attached to the minutes for informational purposes. *The opinions expressed in the attached correspondence are solely those of the authors. They do not purport to reflect the position of the Regional School District #18 Board of Education or its employees.*

Sender	Date	Subject
Mike Reiter	August 20, 2025	Lyme-Old Lyme Little League, Request Access to High School Baseball Field

V. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the September personnel report which reflected the following:

Vacancies	
Instructional Assistants	PreK, Elementary, Middle and High School levels
Media Specialist	Lyme Old Lyme High School

Appointments			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Cari Jacobsen	First Grade Teacher (LTS- Megan Wilson	Mile Creek	August 22, 2025
Carrie Akarslan	Administrative Assistant	LOLHS	August 15, 2025
Pamela Gerardo	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	August 26, 2025
Melissa Nash	Payroll Clerk	Business Office	September 2, 2025
Delanie Rourke	Instructional Assistant	Transition Program-Center School	August 26, 2025
Emma McCulloch	Instructional Assistant	Transition Program-Center School	August 28, 2025
Ellen Littlefield	Technology Facilitator	Lyme Consolidated	September 22, 2025

Resignations			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Lisa Sizer	Technology Facilitator	Lyme Consolidated	August 4, 2025
Margaret Dewey	Media Specialist	LOLHS	August 6, 2025
Ashley Ross-Shelley	Instructional Assistant	LOLHS	August 7, 2025

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the September enrollment report which reflected a total of 1248 students in-house. With only 3 kindergarten classes in the district and an additional PK3 class, one PK4 class was relocated to Lyme Consolidated to maintain 12 classes. There are currently 16 tuition students.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of August 31, 2025. Fluctuations of note: The July 25-26 budget numbers were not updated, resulting in an inaccurate presentation last month. Most line items are trending the same or close to last year with the exception of: Special education- costs are trending higher due to increased tuition costs-which were expected. The year over year differential in transportation is attributed solely to this year's transportation encumbrance not yet entered. It's still too early in the fiscal year to fully recognize any trends of concern; however, the total percent of spend to budget year over year is similar.

	2025-2026 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	$4,168,599
Town of Lyme	$920,784

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. There was no new spending so the balance remains at 200,000.

VI. Educational Presentation

1.Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum, reported on the general guidelines to support both students and staff in understanding and navigating the use of AI in education. This initiative aims to ensure that AI is used thoughtfully and ethically in the classroom, enhancing traditional learning methods. The district is planning a kickoff event on November 4th in the form of an AI-focused EdCamp for professional development. This day will provide teachers with the time and tools to explore how AI can be meaningfully integrated into instruction, support student learning, and align with existing curriculum through a process known as "crosswalking".

During initial discussions, important questions were raised, such as how teachers can help students determine whether AI-generated information is factual. A major component of this initiative will be teaching students to critically evaluate AI output, verify information using credible sources, and understand that not all content generated by AI is accurate or reliable. Opportunities such as a parent night or collaboration with local organizations like LYSB were discussed to help families understand AI's role in education and support students in using it appropriately. A copy of Mrs. Dean's presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

VII. Chairman & Committee Reports:

a. *Facilities*. No Report

b. *Finance*. No Report

c. *Communications*. No Report
d. *Policy*. No Report
e. *LEARN*. No Report
f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. No Report
g. *PreK-8 Building Committee*. Mrs. Fogliano gave the following report:

As the new school year begins, there is much to report on the progress of the School Renovation project. Downes Construction, SP&A Architects and Engineers, Town Officials, the District Administrative Team, and many subcontractors are responsible for a flurry of summer work and, in my view, a somewhat miraculous job in getting our schools ready to open on time. There have been glitches, of course, but the work continues in all four schools. FYI, none of our schools lost their certificate of occupancy throughout the summer work, and the Building Inspector and Fire Marshall signed off on allowing students and staff back into the building.

Please note that the Middle School cafeteria will not be serving hot lunch from the usual kitchen line until sometime after September 20th. Despite construction drawings and camera scans above the ceiling line, the contractors found unexpected obstacles as they installed new HVAC units and ductwork. In particular, the LOLMS cafeteria had some challenges which resulted in some redesign of the MEP (mechanical, electrical and plumbing) in this part of the building. The time needed for the resolution of this problem has caused the cafeteria kitchen to be out of commission for a few weeks. Students and families will be able to purchase milk, fruit, sandwiches, etc. until the MS kitchen is ready for occupancy again.

As previously reported, the Mile Creek School underground drainage system is installed and the binder course is paved on the bus loop side of the building, with the remaining parent dropoff loop to be completed in the summer of 2026. The final pavement coat will go down on all surfaces next summer. Some of the landscaping, including grass and trees, has begun to be planted at MCS. The sitework/landscape subcontractor will be responsible for watering and maintaining these plantings for at least 60 days, which is fortunate given our current drought conditions. Additionally, the plantings also carry some warranty.

Now that students and staff are back, construction times at all but Mile Creek will revert to "second shift" work with an occasional weekend day to accomplish some remaining tasks not advisable when the building is occupied. The focus has turned to two milestones expected in December of 2025.

In order to receive the nearly $12 million in State HVAC grants, the work on the HVAC systems in the three schools (Lyme, LOLMS and Center) must be certified as "substantially complete" and reported to the State of CT by December 31, 2025. Downes Construction has turned its focus to delivering on that commitment.

Also in December of 2025, Downes expects the Mile Creek School addition to be ready for occupancy by students. This will allow the District to shift some students to the newer rooms, and complete the remaining phases of the HVAC install in other parts of that building. Mile Creek School is not part of the HVAC grant process due to it being designated as a Renovation and Alteration project. The District will ultimately receive approximately 37 percent school reimbursement monies on all eligible work at MCS, so the December 2025 HVAC deadline does not apply here.

As always, the Superintendent and Director of Facilities and myself are available to you and our citizens to answer any questions that may surface. We thank the communities for their patience with both construction vehicles and noise during this past very busy summer.

VIII. New Business

1. Mr. Neviaser reviewed the goals that were set at the August Board retreat.

MOTION: Susan Fogliano made a motion, which was seconded by Anna James, to open the discussion for goal review.

Curriculum
Responsibly leverage artificial intelligence (AI) tools to enhance teaching, learning, and operational efficiency while fostering critical thinking, creativity, and ethical awareness.

Human Resources
In alignment with state guidelines, refine and calibrate use of the Region 18 Educator Support Plan with the new single point rubric and gather feedback on the process to inform revisions for future years.

Community
Streamline effective communication by expanding the use of ParentSquare's advanced features.

Facilities
As construction continues, amend and adapt strategies to minimize classroom disruption, adhere to the approved budget and design, and maintain existing facilities via the five-year plan.

Sustainability
Implement and maintain a composting program at each school to reduce food waste while educating students on sustainable practices.

Board of Education
Through professional development, mentorship, and training, transition new members into their roles and share processes and procedures that support the high standards and expectations of Lyme-Old Lyme.

MOTION: Gavin Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Martha Shoemaker to approve the Goals for 2025-2026 school year.

Vote: The Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

2. Purchase of Lift Gate Truck

Mr. Turner gave the following background information on this agenda item:

We request approval to proceed with the purchase of a new lift gate truck, which is essential equipment used multiple times per week to transport equipment and materials throughout the District.

The current vehicle, a 13-year-old truck, has become unsafe for staff use. During recent lift gate repairs, significant structural rust was discovered, rendering the truck unsafe and not economically feasible to repair. While replacement was originally planned for the end of the current fiscal year, the extent of the damage has made continued use unviable.

The new vehicle will also serve as a backup plow truck during the winter months, providing critical support for snow removal operations.

The purchase will be made through the **State of Connecticut purchasing contract #24PSX0110,** ensuring compliance with procurement regulations and competitive pricing.

Cost Summary: Total Vehicle Cost: $95,910.70

We are requesting approval to allocate $95,910.70 from the District's reserve fund for this purchase. By purchasing the vehicle outright using reserved funds, the District will avoid approximately **$17,600 in interest,** as the current best available financing rate is 8.5%.

MOTION: Susan Fogliano made a motion, which was seconded by Laura Dean-Frazier, to approve the purchase of a new lift gate truck that will also serve as a backup plow truck, at a total cost of $95,910.70. The vehicle will be paid for using the District's reserve fund.

VOTE: The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion.

IX. Old Business

X. Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m. upon a motion by Alexander Lowry and a second by Anna James.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shoemaker, Secretary

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Delaura, Jeanne

From: Rooney, Paige
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 9:52 AM
To: Delaura, Jeanne
Subject: FW: EXTERNAL: Lyme-Old Lyme Little League, Request Access to High School Baseball Field

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From: Neviaser, Ian <neviaseri@region18.org>
Sent: Thursday, August 21, 2025 9:48 AM
To: Bushnell, Thomas <bushnellt@region18.org>; Rooney, Paige <rooneyp@region18.org>
Subject: FW: EXTERNAL: Lyme-Old Lyme Little League, Request Access to High School Baseball Field

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From: Michael Reiter <reiter2207@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 20, 2025 9:23 PM
To: Brown, Scott (BOE) <sbrown@region18.org>; Dean-Frazier, Laura (BOE) <deanfrazierl@region18.org>; Fogliano, Susan (BOE) <foglianos@region18.org>; James, Anna (BOE) <jamesa@region18.org>; Kemp, Jason (BOE) <kempj@region18.org>; Lodge, Gavin (BOE) <lodgeg@region18.org>; Lowry, Alexander (BOE) <lowrya@region18.org>; Shoemaker, Martha (BOE) <shoemakerm@region18.org>; Staab, Christopher (BOE) <staabc@region18.org>; Matthew M Reed <presidentlolll@gmail.com>; Nicole Barreto <nicolenbarreto@yahoo.com>; Tanner Glantz <t_glantz@comcast.net>; mpward815@gmail.com; Dan Driscoll <daniel.p.driscoll@gmail.com>; ecfrazier@gmail.com; Carleton Birk <carletonbirk@gmail.com>; Timothy Yester <timothyyester1987@gmail.com>; Noelle Geremia <ngeremia@aol.com>; Colleen Harmon <colleenharmon9364@gmail.com>; Tim Stokes <tim@jstokescontractors.com>; Christopher Konow <cmkonow1984@gmail.com>; garvchris@aol.com; Neviaser, Ian <neviaseri@region18.org>; Don Bugbee <dbugbee@oldlyme-ct.gov>; Winnie Edmed <wedmed@oldlyme-ct.gov>
Subject: EXTERNAL: Lyme-Old Lyme Little League, Request Access to High School Baseball Field

Hello Region 18 Board of Education,

I'm Mike Reiter, Secretary for the Lyme Old Lyme Little League Board of Directors and I'm writing on behalf of the Board to request access to the high school baseball field three times a week in the fall and again in the spring.

Per the Region 18 policy "Use of School Facilities, Buildings and Grounds General Philosophy:"

> 6. Athletic field use is subject to approval by the Director of Facilities based on field conditions and weather/climate.
>
> 7. If a community group is denied the use of Regional School District 18 school facilities by the Director of Facilities, the group may appeal that decision to the Superintendent of Schools and, if necessary, to the Regional School District 18 Board of Education.

We made a request to Ron Turner and were denied, we appealed to Ian and were denied. So now we are appealing to the full Board of Education.

Currently, the only regulation size baseball field in town is at the high school. This is the size field needed for a Juniors level team, which is ages 12-14. We fielded a Juniors team this summer and 14 kids signed up and we believe this shows the interest in town for Little League to have a team at this level. However without a field we were significantly limited in our ability to practice and could only play away games.

Our goal is not to compete with the middle school team for players, our goal is to be a supplement to that team. The Middle School baseball team carried 21 players, which is a lot for a game with 9 on the field at a time. And kids who were cut got no playing time. A Juniors team will provide all the at bats for kids who were cut and provide additional at bats for kids who make the team. All of this with the goal of keeping as many kids as possible involved with baseball and turn them over to the varsity and junior varsity high school programs.

Please consider our request. One look at our fields Cross Lane is proof we know how to take care of a field and we will treat the high school field with the same care. Our summer Juniors team showed the pull for this level of team in town and can be one piece of returning Region 18 baseball to its former glory.

Thanks,
Mike

Summary of Communication to Board of Education
September 3, 2025

Sender	Date	Subject
Mike Reiter	August 20, 2025	Lyme-Old Lyme Little League, Request Access to High School Baseball Field

STAFF AND STUDENT AI GUIDELINES

In the spring of 2025, the AI User Group worked together to develop AI use guidelines to support ethical and responsible use of AI tools/resources.



Regional School District 18 AI Guidelines

Definition of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

Artificial Intelligence (AI) refers to computer systems designed to perform tasks that typically require human intelligence- such as problem-solving, recognizing patterns, learning from data, and making decisions.

Examples: Large Language Models (LLMs) based on Generative AI, Reasoning Models, Agentic AI, Physical AI, Multi-Modal AI, Machine Learning (ML)

Equitable Access

Providing all students with fair and equitable access to AI tools and resources is essential for ensuring equal opportunities in learning, creativity, and innovation.

AI Competency

Developing AI literacy—including skills like effective prompting and critical evaluation of AI-generated content—is essential for students, educators, and leaders. Understanding how AI may use intellectual property, introduce bias, or generate false information ("hallucinations") is key to using it responsibly and with integrity.

Augmentation Over Replacement

Human insight, creativity, and critical thinking must remain at the core of every learning experience. AI should serve as a tool to enhance learning and productivity—not to replace human effort or original thinking.

Verification and Fact-Checking

AI-generated content must always be verified for accuracy and credibility. It is critical to cross-check AI outputs with trusted and reliable sources.

Human in the Loop & the Central Role of Cognitive Skills

AI use must strike a balance between technological support and human thought. All AI-assisted work should involve human oversight to ensure ethical, thoughtful, and context-appropriate results.

AI should never replace the learning process; instead, it should support and deepen cognitive skills like problem-solving, critical thinking, and creativity.

Transparency and Accountability in Use

AI must be used in safe, ethical, and constructive ways. As a district, we are committed to fostering a school culture where AI enhances responsible learning. We will continue to monitor this rapidly evolving technology and adapt our practices to best support students and staff.

Work Cited

Using AI is a research tool that must be cited as any other resource. It is important to remember that AI is pulling from multiple sources from the internet and does not always produce factual information. How to cite AI generated content.

The following format is appropriate for attribution (although students must check with their instructors to ensure this is sufficient):

- AI tool and version
- Date
- All prompt/s or instructions put into any/all AI tools

Examples of AI Models include:

- Large Language Models (LLMs) based on Generative AI: AI systems that generate and understand human language by processing large amounts of text data, like virtual assistants and chatbots. They can create new content, such as art, music, or *even* realistic videos, by learning from existing data. This is the most common type of AI that staff and students will use in school.
- Reasoning Models: AI systems designed to simulate human-like reasoning and problem-solving. These models use techniques like chain-of-thought prompting, retrieval-augmented generation (RAG), and symbolic reasoning to improve their ability to analyze information, provide justifications, and support decision-making.
- Agentic AI: AI systems designed to operate autonomously, making decisions and taking actions to achieve specific goals without continuous human intervention.
- Physical AI: AI systems integrated into robotic or embodied systems (examples: robots or self-driving cars), enabling them to interact with and manipulate the physical world through sensors, actuators, and real-world navigation.
- Multi-Modal AI: AI systems that process and integrate information from different types of data (such as text, images, audio and video).
- Machine Learning (ML): AI systems that learn and improve from experience without being explicitly programmed, such as recognizing handwriting or predicting weather patterns.

Regional School District 18 AI Student Guidelines

Roles and Responsibilities

Students Will:

- Use AI in a safe, ethical, and productive manner, when appropriate.
- Engage in academic work honestly, disclosing AI use to maintain trust and integrity.
- Evaluate the credibility, accuracy, and potential bias of AI-generated content.
- Reflect on and explain how AI was used and how it supported their learning.
- Report any unsafe or unethical AI use to a trusted adult.

Students: How to Know If and When to Use Generative AI (GenAI)

- **Always ask your teacher** if GenAI is allowed for a specific assignment.
- **Track your usage** by copying and pasting your AI interactions into a Word or Google document.
- **Cite the tool** properly when submitting your assignment.





Appropriate Uses of AI

- **Research Assistance**: Gathering information and building background knowledge for topics, assignments, or assessments.
- **Creative Projects**: Generating ideas for art, music, or writing to spark original work.
- **Practice & Revision**: Using AI for practice problems, grammar checks, or constructive feedback.
- **Personalized Learning**: Using AI as a tutor to support individualized learning at your own pace.

Inappropriate Uses of AI

- **Submitting AI-Generated Work**: Turning in AI-created assignments without disclosure or personal input.
- **Plagiarism**: Using AI to rephrase content without proper citation to avoid plagiarism detection.
- **Spreading Misinformation**: Relying on AI content without verifying its accuracy with reliable sources.
- **Not Asking Permission**: Using GenAI without confirming it's allowed for the assignment.

Region 18 AI Staff Guidelines

GENERATIVE AI DATA PRIVACY



- Generative AI refers to systems capable of producing new, original content such as text, images, and music by accessing existing data
- Never enter personally identifiable information like names, class rosters, or other confidential data into AI tools
- Any such information becomes unsecure and may be accessed by AI systems
- Staff should be cautious about which AI products they are using
- Always consider the purpose and context before using AI tools

CREATIVITY/AGENCY



- Staff are encouraged to explore how AI can boost productivity, enhance creativity, and save time when planning
- AI can be used to draft lessons, generate activities, and connect content to standards
- AI can provide feedback to students based on uploaded rubrics
- AI can serve as a planning partner for nearly all aspects of teaching
- When used appropriately, AI supports increased rigor and durability of learning
- AI can also support differentiated instructional practices

TRANSPARENCY



- Staff using AI should be clear about how it supports their work, especially when providing feedback on student work
- It is imperative that all AI-generated content is reviewed to keep "the human in the loop"
- AI should be used to enhance, not replace, critical thinking, problem solving, and pattern recognition
- Great teaching blends content expertise with empathy, timing, creativity, and intuition
- AI does not generate the human elements essential to effective teaching

RESPONSBILITIES



- Staff must follow the R18 Norms when using AI
- It is our responsibility to model ethical use of AI
- Staff should instruct students on when, how, and for what purpose they can use AI to support their work
- AI literacy is critical for both students and staff as we enter a new phase of technological advancement
- Following norms and building trust within our community provide the foundation for new learning and literacy development

BIAS/LIMITATIONS



- AI accesses both vetted and unvetted resources, which can lead to incorrect information known as "hallucinations" and reinforce biases, stereotypes, and assumptions
- When using AI for grading, providing a rubric helps ensure more accurate and fair feedback
- AI lacks original thought and human experience, which limits its contextual understanding
- Equitable access to AI tools and literacy development is essential in this evolving landscape

Region 18/Lyme-Old Lyme
Goals for 2025-26

Curriculum

Assess the efficacy of Panorama as an educational data platform by analyzing its ability to provide accurate data and actionable insights in a functional manner that support student achievement, inform instruction, and guide targeted interventions.

OR

Responsibly leverage artificial intelligence (AI) tools to enhance teaching, learning, and operational efficiency while fostering critical thinking, creativity, and ethical awareness.

Human Resources

In alignment with state guidelines, refine and calibrate use of the Region 18 Educator Support Plan with the new single point rubric and gather feedback on the process to inform revisions for future years.

Community

Streamline effective communication by expanding the use of ParentSquare's advanced features.

Facilities

As construction continues, amend and adapt strategies to minimize classroom disruption, adhere to the approved budget and design, and maintain existing facilities via the five-year plan.

Sustainability

Implement and maintain a composting program at each school to reduce food waste while educating students on sustainable practices.

Board of Education

Through professional development , mentorship, and training, transition new members into their roles and share processes and procedures that support the high standards and expectations of Lyme-Old Lyme.

Lift Gate / Backup Plow Truck Purchase
Lyme–Old Lyme Public Schools
September 3, 2025

Action:
Approve the purchase of a new lift gate truck that will also serve as a backup plow truck, at a total cost of $95,910.70. The vehicle will be paid for using the District's reserve fund.

Background:
We request approval to proceed with the purchase of a new lift gate truck, which is essential equipment used multiple times per week to transport equipment and materials throughout the District.

The current vehicle, a 13-year-old truck, has become unsafe for staff use. During recent lift gate repairs, significant structural rust was discovered, rendering the truck unsafe and not economically feasible to repair. While replacement was originally planned for the end of the current fiscal year, the extent of the damage has made continued use unviable.

The new vehicle will also serve as a backup plow truck during the winter months, providing critical support for snow removal operations.

The purchase will be made through the **State of Connecticut purchasing contract #24PSX0110**, ensuring compliance with procurement regulations and competitive pricing.

Cost Summary:

- **Total Vehicle Cost:** $95,910.70

We are requesting approval to allocate $95,910.70 from the District's reserve fund for this purchase. By purchasing the vehicle outright using reserved funds, the District will avoid approximately $17,600 in interest, as the current best available financing rate is 8.5%.