LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience *in a Public School Setting*

Special Board of Education Meeting
November 5, 2025

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

Absent by Previous Arrangement:

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Mark Ambruso, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle 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; Tom Bushnell, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Others Present: seven community members from Lyme-Old Lyme including Diane Linderman, Candace Fuchs, Alan Sheiness, Christy Zelek, John Kiker, Sheryl Shyloski, Michael Hansen

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jason Kemp at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a budget workshop to present and discuss budget needs and drivers with the boards of finance and selectmen from both towns, school administrators, and parent leadership. Mr. Neviaser gave a PowerPoint presentation which detailed the purposes of the workshop and some of the notable influences on the budget that are likely to increase or decrease expenditures. A summary of this presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

At the conclusion of the presentation, input was gathered from the participants. The following is a summary of the comments and observations made on the 2026-2027 budget planning:

- Special education cost increasing-taking proactive approach to avoid outplacement
- Compensate for lack of state funding within our local budget for special education
- Consider Region 18 have a food service, collaborate with other districts and explore local sourcing

- Options for passenger vans/additional bus to help cut down timing students are on bus
- Any additional ways to reduce the most of the secondary transition program
- Have a clear understanding of the cost associated with the HVAC renovations
- Energy costs and contract renewals, consider consortium
- AI costs and educating parents and students
- Increase in costs for supplies, licensing, platforms, etc.
- Debt Service
- Student Technology Club (CCST, AI)
- Sustaining a building/based curriculum with fiscal responsibility
- Cost sharing with other local districts.
- Possible changes to IDEA funding
- Sharing resources district-wide to maintain service quality
- Assessing the necessity and usage of costly curriculum licenses
- Identify and prioritize needs versus wants
- Communication with a broader community, beyond just ParentSquare

There being no other comments or questions, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m. upon motion by Mr. Staab and a seconded by Mrs. Shoemaker.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Shoemaker, Secretary

2026-27 Budget Workshop

NOVEMBER 5, 2025

Purposes of Session

- To present information about prime drivers that will influence the 2026-27 budget.
- To gather and share input from school and community leaders.

Process



- Introductions
- Presentation of budget drivers
- Break out group(s) to gather questions, observations, and comments
- Reporting out on questions, observations, and comments.

Enrollment

Level	2023	2024	2025	2026 Projected (Roll-ups)
Elementary	627	639	613	671 (634)
Middle	271	271	278	285 (269)
High	395	368	357	358 (352)
TOTAL	1293	1278	1248	1314 (1255)

- Change in K/ PK4 start date will continue to impact enrollment/ staffing.
- Over the next five years enrollment is projected to rise over 1400, yet those projections do not yet account for K law impact.

Special Education

Year	# of K-12 Students	% of Population
2020	162	13.5
2021	159	12.2
2022	161	13.2
2023	173	14.3
2024	180	14.8
2025	181	15.7

- Increase in level of services needed to support IEP implementation
- Outplacement uncertainty
- Tuition for special education students at magnet schools
- Impact of legislation (e.g., requirement to educate students beyond the age of 22, requests for IEE's, burden of proof, mandated training)
- Increasing costs

Financial Considerations

- Debt service
- Contractual obligations
- Health insurance rates
- Energy Costs
- State funding

Long Term Financial Considerations

- Long term projects/ debt
- Five Year Facilities Plan
- Undesignated fund balance to support larger projects (storage/ parking/ paving)
- Unfunded mandates

Break Out Group Task

- Create equal groups with representation from the following constituencies: parents, towns, BOE, and administration
- Facilitator will record questions, comments, observations—do not judge or answer. (15 minutes)
- Report out on questions, comments, and observations.

Budget presentations will incorporate the input received today.

