LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience ***in a Public School Setting***

Regular Board of Education Meeting
January 7, 2026

Board Present: Jason Kemp, Chair; Anna James, Vice Chair; Susan Fogliano, Treasurer, Gavin Lodge, Secretary; Xander Lowry; Sheryl Shyloski; Michael Hansen; Cynthia McCollum

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Scott Brown

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; Allison Hine, Principal of Lyme Consolidated School; Kelly Enoch, Principal of Mile Creek 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; 6 community members from LOL

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm. by Jason Kemp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Consent Agenda
1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting and Executive Session Meeting of December 3, 2025
MOTION: Mr. Lowry made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting and Executive Session Meeting of December 3, 2025 as presented.

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

III. Visitors

1. CT Association of Public School Superintendents Student Recognition
Maya Cook and Tyler Cann, seniors at LOLHS, were recognized as the recipients of the Superintendent's Award for 2025-2026. This award was based on their service, leadership and academic prowess. They were presented with framed certificates by Jim Wygonik, Principal of LOLHS, who spoke to the many accomplishments of these students.

2. Report from Student Representatives
Isabella Presti and Ainsley Rinoski reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:
At LOLHS: At the high school this past month both band and chorus students had their holiday concerts, additionally they were able to perform select songs at our holiday assembly. Students participated in our holiday spirit week then a variety of holiday themed games to show some school spirit at our pep rally. Students are preparing for midterm exams that begin next week on January 15th. The musical is also getting ready for their show Hello Dolly! Which opens February 5th and runs through the 7th. There will be an in-school performance for the middle school students on February 4th as well. All winter sports are in full swing. And finally, today the seniors celebrated 100 days until graduation!

At LOLMS: December was a lively and engaging month at the middle school. Thirty-five of our students joined peers from the Integrated Day Charter School in Norwich to participate in a day-long leadership conference focused on communication, skill development, and accepting different perspectives. Our sixth-grade science classes hosted a local inventor who spent the entire day with students, explaining the process of developing an idea, from concept to distribution. Both the chorus and band held their winter concerts, giving students the opportunity to showcase their hard work and commitment to the arts. Our students enjoyed a visit from the high school select singers for festive music on December 22nd. Finally, on the last day of school before winter break, we held our annual Reindeer Games pep rally, where students and staff competed together in events such as the Ski Race, Snowball Toss, and "Sleigh All Day." It was a fun and memorable way to end the year.

Elementary: At both Lyme and Mile Creek, students enjoyed a visit from the LOLHS Select Singers as we prepared for the winter break. As we come back from break, we are beginning our midyear benchmark assessments. We will use the information we collect in order to best support students in the coming weeks and months. At Lyme, our students and staff gathered on the day before winter break to sing a variety of winter songs and share some time before we headed off in various directions for break. Our students leaders led a very successful challenge, suggesting an act of kindness for 12 days in a row and challenging every student to take part! At Mile Creek students enjoyed a festive attire day and many classroom celebrations prior to the break. Three fourth grade classes and 3 fifth grade classes have moved into the addition. Students and staff are very much enjoying the new space!

In the Preschool Program: December was a busy month at Center School. We welcomed the high school and middle school select singers for a holiday concert, and families joined us for our annual gingerbread celebration. We also participated in PJ Day for the Kids, wearing pajamas to school and raising nearly $150 for Connecticut Children's Hospital. In January, we will explore winter themes, including wild animals and snowmen. We will read *Animals in Winter* and *The Snowy Day* and create a reenactment of *The Mitten* by Jan Brett. During our good citizenship discussions, we will learn about Martin Luther

King, Jr. and share our dreams for the future. In math, we will practice writing numbers and learn the AAB pattern. In art, students will create their own versions of *Starry Night* by Vincent van Gogh. Our color of the month is blue, and our shape is the star.

3. Public Comment

No public comments.

IV. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

V. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

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

Vacancies	
Instructional Assistants	PreK, Elementary, Middle and High School levels
Second Grade Teacher (long-term substitute)	Lyme Consolidated School
Special Education Teacher (long-term substitute)	Mile Creek School

Appointments			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Nicholas Carlson	Custodian	Center School	TBD
Cari Jacobsen	Third Grade Teacher (LTS)	Mile Creek	February 9, 2026
Sarah Hart	Kindergarten Teacher (LTS)	Mile Creek	January 6 2026
Dean Palenski	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	January 5, 2026
Emily Griswold	Instructional Assistant	Mile Creek	January 5, 2026
Rebecca Bocian	Special Ed Pre K Teacher (LTS)	Center School	January 6, 2026

Resignations			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Deborah Beauprez	Instructional Assistant	Mile Creek School	December 12, 2025
Elizabeth Higgins	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	December 23, 2025

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the January enrollment report which reflected a total of 1249 students in-house; a decrease of 3 students from this time last month, including 1 tuition student.

Mr. Neviaser gave an update on the progress towards the district goals.

Curriculum

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

An AI belief statement is being developed and reviewed by staff which will serve as foundation for AI work.

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.

Continue to use the new rubric for goals, observations, and feedback

Community

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

LOLMS used online permission slips for field trips. Discovered lunch payments are not an option.

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.

Moved into new addition at MC. Completion date for MC is anticipated for November/ December 2026. Substantial completion of HVAC schools should happen this week.

Sustainability

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

All schools are composting lunch food scraps

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.

No new updates

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of December 31, 2025. Fluctuations of note: Special Education costs are currently at 120.6% of the budget due to unexpected student needs, exceeding last year's expenditures. The district will closely monitor the overall impact on the operating budget and consider potential spending restrictions.

The variance in Plant Operation & Maintenance is due to the amount and timing of capital project work and payment versus last year.

The district is about 6 % points over spend to budget versus this same time period last year and has taken a controlled approach to restrict spending. This includes emergent purchases or purchases specifically related to curricular needs.

	2025-2026 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	$14,114,446
Town of Lyme	$3,117,676

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. There was no new spending. Balance stands at $146,922.

VI. Educational Presentation

There was no educational presentation scheduled.

VII. Chairman & Committee Reports:

a. *Facilities*. The committee toured the new addition. Students and staff are enjoying occupancy of the space. The next phase of work will focus on the front of the building. The security system at Mile Creek School will be updated to align with the systems used in the other four buildings.

b. *Finance*. Focusing on the ten-year planning for facilities, replacing the previous five-year facilities plan.

c. *Communications.* The new *Focus on Education* will be sent out next week .

d. *Policy*. Three policies were discussed and approved to move forward to the Board of Ed for approval, one updated policy and two new policies. These will be addressed under New Business.

e. *LEARN*. No Report

f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. No Report

g. *PreK-8 Building Committee*. Presented by Mrs. Fogliano.

While the students and staff were out of the buildings over the holidays, there was a great deal of activity on the project front. The Mile Creek School addition is now being occupied by students and staff, and there has been completion of the work in the mid-building section of classrooms (being done on second shift). Downes Construction has now moved to another phase in MCS, the set of classrooms nearest to the main office to the right of the entrance as you face the building. The classrooms in the completed sections will not be asked to move again unless they are moving back to their original location ensuring our promise of only one move per teacher. Progress! Much of the work on Middle School, Center School and Lyme School is now focused on balancing and commissioning the new heating and air handling systems, including the necessary piping for air conditioning in the Spring. Much of the AC work is complete, except for Middle School, where both the construction management and the school district are reluctant to have anyone on the roofs of our buildings during a freeze unless absolutely necessary. One of the biggest challenges for all of us has been a surprising number of equipment "out of box" failures, both with the oil burner system at Lyme School and with the HVAC rooftop units (mostly at the Middle School). These pieces of equipment are being repaired and replaced as needed, as they came straight from the factory. This has been complicated by the fact that there is essentially one manufacturer's representative of these rooftop units being used all over CT on school projects, with only six technicians available statewide to do the work. Needless to say, this has been frustrating for all. Issues are being worked through one by

one, and all of our buildings have had heat throughout this process. The most important takeaway for the Board of Education is this: None of these glitches have jeopardized our equipment warranties as they do not start until systems are fully operational. None of this work has impacted our designation of this project as on time and on budget, nor has it negatively impacted our grant monies. A reminder to all that Building Committee Meetings are open to the public with a Zoom link available.

VIII. New Business

1. Board of Ed Meeting Schedule 2026-2027
Mr. Neviaser reviewed the regular meeting schedule for the Board of Ed for the school year 2026-2027. The schedule will continue to follow the established monthly meetings.

MOTION: Susan Fogliano made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to approve the 2026-2027 Board of Education meeting schedule as presented.

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

2. Policy Review

Policy 6171 Special Education
The current policy was updated to comply with state and federal law, including the requirement to provide accommodations for testing.

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to waive the second reading and approve the updated Policy 6171 Special Education as presented.

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

Policy 5113.13 Work-Study Student Employment-Work-Release
The program is already in practice; the policy is being created to meet state requirements.

MOTION: Mr. Lowry made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James, to waive the second reading and approve the updated Policy 5113.13 Work-Study Student Employment-Work-Release as presented.

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

Policy 3225 Individuals With Disabilities Education Act Fiscal Compliance
This new required policy is to ensure fiscal compliance with state and federal special education laws.

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shyloski, to waive the second reading and approve the new Policy 3225 Individuals With Disabilities Education Act Fiscal Compliance as

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

3. Tuition Student Request for Lyme-Old Lyme High School Alternative Program
MOTION: Mrs. Fogliano made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lodge, to approve the tuition student request for the high school alternative program as presented.

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

IX. Old Business
There was no old business to report.

X. Executive Session
Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James, to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the Superintendent's mid-year review at 7:10. Mr. Neviaser was invited to attend the executive session.

XI. Adjournment
The regular meeting adjourned at 8:31p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. McCollum and a second by Mrs. Shyloski

Respectfully submitted,

Gavin Lodge, Secretary

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Board of Education
Meeting Schedule for 2026-2027

Meetings Begin at 6:30 p.m.

All meetings will take place in the Board of Education Conference Room at Center School

*Meetings are scheduled on the **first** Wednesday of each month.*

Special meetings will be called as necessary.

August 5, 2026
September 2, 2026
October 7, 2026
November 4, 2026
December 2, 2026
January 6, 2027
February 3, 2027
March 3, 2027
April 7, 2027
May 5, 2027
June 2, 2027
July 7, 2027

Approved by Board of Education on January 7, 2026.

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