LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting
March 4, 2026

Board Present: Jason Kemp, Chair; Susan Fogliano, Treasurer; Gavin Lodge, Secretary; Scott Brown; Xander Lowry; Sheryl Shyloski; Michael Hansen

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Anna James, Cynthia McCollum

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; 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

Others Present: Three community members from LOL; Music Department staff: Jacob Wilson, Kristine Pekar, Melissa Rostkoski, Matthew Guevara, Laura Ventres, and Sarah Evans

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:
MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting and Special Meeting of February 4, 2026 as presented.

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

III. Visitors
1. Student Representatives Isabella Presti and Ainsley Rinoski were absent. The following report was

submitted in their absence:
At LOLHS: This month at the high school Old Lyme players had their performance of Hello, Dolly! Which went very well! During each of the show nights there were bake sales for the high school classes. Everyone is very excited as our boys' basketball team has had a very successful season are playing in the Shoreline Championship tonight in Old Saybrook. The junior class is preparing for their SAT which is on March 25th. On March 11th our band will perform a joint concert with the Old Lyme Town Band. March 31st the Music Department will also host the District Choral Festival.

At LOLMS: At the middle school, our 8th graders are in full swing of their high school transition. High school students, school counselors, and administrators have met with our 8th grade students on multiple occasions to help prepare them for this important next step. Our winter sports season has come to an end, with both boys and girls basketball teams having successful seasons. Meanwhile, our yearly musical production of Beauty and the Beast is finalizing preparations for the March 12th opening performance for our grade 3-5 elementary school students. Winter break and a few extra snow days provided a much-needed break as we enter the long month of March and prepare for state testing.

Elementary: At the elementary schools, we celebrated the 100th day of school, and this week we are observing Read Across America week with a variety of different activities including guest readers and spirit days. We are in the middle of our winter data team meetings when we review benchmark data for each student in grade level teams. At Lyme School, our fifth graders presented their Native America projects and had many groups come into the library to view their hard work. Our second graders recently completed a module about various Native American cultures, and so they were able to use this background knowledge to ask meaningful questions. At Mile Creek, first grade students completed their research on Arctic animals and created dioramas representing their learning that are housed in the entryway of the school for all to see and enjoy. Fifth grade students will soon begin their multi-disciplinary study of the Iditarod. Next week ACE, PTO's after-school enrichment program, will begin.

In the Preschool Program: February was a busy month at the preschool. We began the month by learning about shadows and predicting whether the groundhog would see his shadow. Students practiced their fine motor skills in our Friendship Card Workshop and exchanged special cards with their classmates. We wrapped up the month by learning to identify and describe different emotions. Throughout the month, we also enjoyed spending time playing in the snow. We celebrated the Lunar New Year on Monday and are now looking forward to learning about space. Students will explore the planets in our solar system, take a virtual visit to the International Space Station, and learn about astronauts. The shape of the month is the diamond, the color is white, and Jennifer Sanchez is our Artist of the Month.

2. Public Comment
No public comments.

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
Brandy Campbell	February 27, 2026	Concern on Spanish Assignment

V. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviaser expressed appreciation for the members of the Board of Education in recognition of BOE Member Appreciation Month, thanking them for their continued efforts, dedication, and support of our schools.

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

Vacancies	
Instructional Assistants	PreK, Elementary, Middle and High School levels
Director of School Counseling 2026-2027	LOLHS
Elementary Teacher 2026-2027	Multiple Positions
School Psychologist (.2FTE) 2026-2027	Pre-K
Special Education Coordinator (0.4 FTE/Special Education Teacher (0.6 FTE) 2026-2027	Transition Program/Mile Creek School
MTSS Coordinator	Elementary Level

Appointments			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Richard Morton	Custodian	Lyme School	March 9, 2026
Marci Hasenfeld	Special Education Teacher (long-term substitute)	Mile Creek	March 9, 2026
Resignations			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Jolene Montalvo	Custodian	Center school	Did not Proceed

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the March enrollment report which reflected a total of 1256 students in-house; an increase of 1 student from this time last month.

Mr. Neviaser explained that the ADM (Average Daily Membership) for billing the two towns was presented to the Board of Finance last night and will be presented again next Tuesday. Mr. Neviaser noted that ADM is based on October and April enrollment, the rate has changed only 0.1% since October.

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.

Parent meeting with LYSB and Matt Mervis on 2/26

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.

Survey developed and going out this month

Community

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

Signed up 4 admin to attend Parentsquare training in March

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.

Lots of snow plowing and addressing ongoing boiler issues at LCS and LOLMS

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 February 28, 2026. Fluctuations of note: Line item variances are similar with the explanations provided over the past few months. Support Services is down due to the need last year to contract with an outside nursing agency to cover a long-term medical leave; this service is not required this year. Administrative Services is also down due to the builder's risk insurance policies that were required last year for the school project. Currently, Mile Creek is the only school that still requires this coverage. The variance in Plant Operation & Maintenance is in line with typical years, year to date. Last year, however,

we reported less spend than normal, in part due to $150,000 budgeted for a new campus generator that was not spent due to the MC generator being re-purposed. In addition, there's an overall increase in the capital projects/purchased services budget and spend this year.

	2025-2026 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	$19,575,886
Town of Lyme	$4,324,028

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. No new spending in the month of February. The Remaining Balance is $119,257.

VI. Educational Presentation

1. Music Department Update

The Music Department provided an update on the initial proposed programming, course offerings, staffing, successes, and challenges for the 2025–2026 school year. The presentation is attached for informational purposes.

2. Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services, presented a review of the Specialized Reading Instruction and Identification of Students with Dyslexia Program the district engaged in during the 2024–2025 school year, including the review's purpose, goals, resources, processes, student learning, and recommendations. The Board discussed the presentation. The presentation is attached for informational purposes.

VII. Chairman & Committee Reports:

a. *Facilities*. Mr. Hansen reported that this group met earlier in the evening. The Goosinator success was discussed, and the draft of the 10-year plan is progressing toward an obtainable goal.

b. *Finance*. Heat costs have decreased while oil costs have increased; overall expenses are expected to balance out.

c. *Communications.* Mr. Lodge reported the *Focus on Education* has been distributed, and a new video highlighting the school system has been posted on the website. Plans for communicating the upcoming Budget Referendum were reviewed and improvements to the school's social media accounts are ongoing.

d. *Policy*. Discussed two policy updates. Further discussion in New Business.

e. *LEARN*. No Report

f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. No Report

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

Construction at the Mile Creek School site continues to move along well. The permanent electrical switchgear was installed at Mile Creek School over the February break in collaboration with Eversource, a real milestone that was achieved earlier than anticipated. This will allow the District to stop paying rent

for the temporary switchgear that was necessary to power the addition during construction. The newly installed electrical service is designed to power the entire school with the greater draw from the newly installed HVAC systems. Now that the addition itself is occupied by students and staff, the focus has turned to the remaining portions of the MCS building. The ceilings are closed up in the middle section of the building, while ductwork installation continues in the front wing. The structural steel to support the rooftop units is currently being fabricated for the front wing (Phase 5). Downes Construction is anticipating that Mile Creek School Phase 7 (the kitchen, the cafeteria, the art room and the music room) will be worked on over the summer. They also anticipate a large amount of mechanical, electrical and plumbing equipment is already existing above the ceiling line. DCC is working ahead to ensure that the structural steel for those rooftop units fits in the space provided. Since the intention is to complete the MCS project by early 2027, Downes Construction is holding the first of several meetings with all of their subcontractors to coordinate scheduling the remaining work, particularly around April vacation and summer vacation, to maximize the amount of work accomplished during those periods. Over the February break, new fire rated ballistic glass storefront doors were installed at both Mile Creek and Lyme Consolidated Schools. Both Center School and Lyme School are nearing a point where the new electrical heating systems will do the bulk of the work over the oil burners. This commissioning of the new HVAC units is taking longer at the Middle School due to the sheer number of rooftop units there. At all three HVAC schools (MCS, LCS & LOLMS), most of the architectural punch list items (70 - 80 %) are complete, meaning that with the exception of the air conditioning commissioning in the spring, those three school projects are close to completion. Almost all of the State grant monies owed to us on those HVAC projects has been paid out to the District as of this writing, nearly $12 million. State grant monies for the MCS school project are reimbursed under a different program, as this is considered a renovation project. Lyme and Old Lyme will receive approximately 36% reimbursement of all "eligible" items over the course of the Mile Creek School project. While we were hopeful that our troubles with the Lyme School oil burners/boilers were behind us, Boiler #2 shut down again unexpectedly about ten days ago, and every day since. The School District has an independent commissioning agent for the HVAC systems, hired directly by us, who has now recommended in writing that Boiler #2 be completely replaced. This will likely occur over the summer. In the meantime, this equipment has been shut down and we are operating solely on Boiler #1 at LCS. Boiler #1 has been a rock through all of this. Please keep in mind that we are neither paying for this non-performing equipment nor has the warranty started on Boiler #2 until the School District accepts it as functional. Downes Construction has started the process of accountability with the subcontractor and manufacturer for a summer replacement. Our most recent Building Committee meeting included a discussion with Will Walter of Benesch Engineering, who reviewed the Mile Creek parking and drop-off site plans with us at our request. Parents and BC members wanted to be educated on how the traffic flow was designed to work, to hopefully avoid congestion on Mile Creek Road and improve safety for students, parents and staff. The consensus seemed to be that this review was helpful to understand how things were intended to work upon completion this summer, but that parental education will be a large part of its success. We are grateful to Will for making time for us.

VIII. New Business

1. Field Trip Request for LOLHS Trip to China: April Break 2027

Mr. Wang, World Language Teacher at LOLHS, spoke about the field trip to China, highlighting the cultural benefits students will experience. The proposal is attached for informational purposes.

MOTION: Mr. Lowry made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Shyloski, to approve the Field Trip Request for LOLHS trip to China April Break 2027 as presented.

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

2. Policy Review

Policy 6142.101 Student Wellness
The policy was updated to specify that classroom celebrations will focus on activities rather than food.

Original Motion: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Fogliano, to approve the update on Policy 6142.101 Student Wellness

Amendment: The motion was amended to include waiving the second reading.

RESTATED MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Fogliano, to waive the second reading and approve the updated Policy 6142.101 Student Wellness as presented.

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

Policy 4118.15 Bullying
Removal of Policy 4118.15 as it has been replaced with the School Climate Policy 5131.911

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Brown, to remove Policy 4118.15 as presented.

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

3. Healthy Food Certification
Mrs. McCalla explained the following:
Vote 1: Required vote for participation in healthy food option of HFC. This vote is required for all boards of education that participate in the NSLP. Each board must vote "yes" or "no" to participate in the healthy food option of C.G.S. Section 10-215f and follow the Connecticut Nutrition Standards (CNS). The motion and board-approved meeting minutes must include the exact motion language provided.

Vote 2: Required vote for food exemptions for boards of education choosing healthy food option of HFC. This vote is required for all boards that vote "yes" to participate in the healthy food option. The motion

and board-approved meeting minutes must reflect a "yes" or "no" vote to allow food exemptions using the exact motion language provided.

MOTION: Mr. Hansen made the following motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lodge: Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Regional School District #18 Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction, and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organizations and groups.

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

MOTION: Mrs. Fogliano made the following motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry: The Regional School District #18 Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An "event" is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The "regular school day" is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. "Location" means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales.

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

3.Network Switch Project
Ron Turner, Director of Facilities & Technology, explained several of the District's network switches have reached end-of-life status and require replacement. These new switches, which enable connectivity for multiple devices across our schools and offices, will provide enhanced security, improved performance, greater configuration flexibility, and increased overall network reliability. This project will be partially funded through reimbursement under the federal E-Rate program. The proposal is attached for informational purposes.

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion which was seconded by Mrs. Fogliano to approve the Network Switch Project 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

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:05p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. Fogliano and a second Mr. Brown.

Respectfully submitted,

Gavin Lodge, Secretary

Summary of Communication to Board of Education
March 4, 2026

Sender	Date	Subject
Brandy Campbell	February 27, 2026	Concern on Spanish Assignment

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.

Rooney, Paige

From: Brandy Morenko Campbell <bmorenkocampbell2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 27, 2026 9:16 PM
To: Neviaser, Ian; Kemp, Jason (BOE); Rooney, Paige
Subject: EXTERNAL: Flag-on-the-play! Spanish assignment
Attachments: IMG_4696.PNG; IMG_4805.PNG; IMG_5124.MOV

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Superintendent Mr. Neviaser, Chairman Kemp, and School Board Members,

I'm writing to you regarding a 9th grade extra credit Spanish homework assignment that was given to my daughter that I feel you should be made aware of. The Spanish teacher provided an extra credit opportunity by having students film themselves dancing to the Bad Bunny halftime performance on 08Feb2026.

Knowing this was a controversial figure and knowing shock-and-awe performances are the norm at the Superbowl, I was surprised to hear about this assignment the day prior. For your background, this artist has garnered controversial attention for inappropriate touching during concerts, not standing for the national anthem, flag burning, anti-federal immigration law stances, and having explicit sex, explicit drug use, violence, women degradation, and misogyny in his music content.

If it hadn't been for this assignment, we wouldn't have watched it. However, my daughter is a very dedicated student and wanted the extra credit to boost her Spanish grade, so we watched her as she recorded herself awkwardly dancing with Bad Bunny in the background. Despite seeing some suggestive gyrating, it was seemingly benign, and the video was submitted to the teacher. Then the English translations started to emerge the following day, and I became absolutely horrified that I had just witnessed my daughter dance to lewd lyrics and turn it in to boost her grade.

Here are some noteworthy lyrical translated excerpts that hit the primetime family airwaves without FCC approval.

- *"let the ones I already fuc*#d smile"*
- *"my D is being chased and I want you to hide it. Grab it like a bonga. She took a pill that made her horny. She fuc*$ in the Audi, not in the Honda"*
- *"let's go to the bleachers to light up a blunt"*
- *"all the bandits release the pistols"*
- *"she thinks my d*#k is fire"*

This performance was heavily modified from the artist's original song lyrics to accommodate a "family friendly" audience. Some profanity was purposely slurred, half-spoken and truncated or spoken in slang and innuendo, but profane content did get televised. Thankfully, despite taking Spanish for many years, she understood very little. My daughter also reports that this music is frequently played during class.

As a conservative parent requesting understanding and support from a 100% non-conservative board, the bigger issue in my opinion is that I have no representation for issues such as this. Because I am worried that this could be overlooked, downplayed, or even seen as a positive cultural lesson, I'm seeking an alternative

solution. I would like to ensure that sufficient minority representation is consistently maintained in the future.

I respectfully request that the school board reconsider Region 18 Bylaw 9110 and amend it to guarantee representation of minority groups within the composition of school board members. There does appear to be leeway in the CT General Statute 9-167a to develop a minority representation policy. While regional boards are exempt from minority requirements, legal analysis by Shipman and Goodwin affirms that regional boards could theoretically impose party balance rules on their own appointees/elections under charter 10-46(b)-(c). Regional district's formation plan or bylaws could include custom rules if desired.

I do not want any teacher to be reprimanded, but I also do not want another situation such as this to occur. Rather than addressing this as a one-off issue, it would be more effective to address the longstanding imbalance within our school board by implementing policies that require greater diversity among its members.

When our school boards have a diverse spectrum of opinions and values, our connection and accountability to the whole community is strengthened. It becomes less likely that news headlines such as "School Makes Teens Dance to Lewd Performance for Better Grades" could become reality. This is a perfect example of how a permanent supermajority party membership can lead to unchecked imbalances. Incorporating conservative viewpoints and ensuring accountability to these values —allowing these principles to percolate through the board and influence our school culture— could have brought more balance and helped prevent this situation.

I recognize that this is a significant request, requiring collaboration across two communities, and substantial changes in policy, practice, and mindset. However, without accurate representation of all of our parents and the student body, this school cannot achieve its full potential and could remain vulnerable to the introduction of extreme curriculum proposals.

I've attached pictures of the PowerSchool assignment, proof of completion, and the video that was submitted to the teacher for your reference and review. Please let me know if you have any other questions or if you would like to discuss this further.

Respectfully,

Brandy Campbell

(734) 417-6416

Initial Proposed Programming

Level	Proposal	Considerations
Elementary	0.8 LC/0.2 PreK 1.2 MC (.2 to be covered by MS/HS staff)	• Implement instrumental lessons beginning in Grade 4 • Implement choral music at Mile Creek School, and expand choral music at Lyme Consolidated School, to allow for a weekly 30-minute chorus class for Grades 3, 4, and 5 • Smaller lessons sizes and earlier start to full band rehearsals for Mile Creek.
Middle School	0.975 Vocal Instruction 0.975 Instrumental Instruction 0.3 General Music/Impact	• Implement 6th Grade General Music, and music courses within 7th and 8th grade IMPACT
High School	0.6 Vocal Instruction 0.4 Instrumental Instruction 0.6 Electives	• Adjust programming as proposed to classify Music Theory as STEM • Unified Voices

2025-2026 Offerings

Level	Proposal	Implementation
PreK	• General Music	• Lyme Consolidated - added PreK due to enrollment • Center School - Melissa Rostkoski (Monday - 5 classes); Kristine Pekar (Thursday - 2 classes)

Elementary	• Instrumental in Grade 4
	• Choir Grades 3-5
		• Mile Creek:
		  ○ 4th Instrumental: Co-taught by Sarah Evans and Matthew Guevara
		  ○ 3rd Grade Choir: Matthew Guevara
		  ○ 4th Grade Choir: Kristine Pekar, Melissa Rostkoski
		  ○ 5th Grade Choir: Laura Ventres
		• Lyme Consolidated:
		  ○ 4th/5th Instrumental and 3-5 Choir taught by Melissa Rostkoski

Middle School	• Offer General Music	• 7th and 8th Grade Music Impact course taught by Jacob Wilson III
High School	• Look at music course classification	• Music Theory courses now classified as STEM • Increase visibility of music electives to students outside music ensembles by using the large-screen monitors at the high school, especially for STEM and ECE courses

Music Staffing

Melissa Rostkoski: PK-5 General Music, 3-5 Choir, 4-5 Instrumental (LC, MC and CS)

Matthew Guevara: 1-5 General Music, 3rd Grade Choir, 4-5 Instrumental (MC)

Laura Ventres: 5-8 Choir, 6-8 Choral DS Lessons (MC and MS)

Sarah Evans: 4th Grade Instrumental, 6-8 Instrumental and DS Lessons (MC and MS)

Jacob Wilson III: 9-12 Instrumental and Electives, 7-8 Music IMPACT (HS and MS)

Kristine Pekar: PreK and K General Music, 4th Grade Choir, 9-12 Choir and Electives (HS, MC and CS)

Successes

Level	Program	Reflection
Elementary	• Instrumental Music in Grade 4	• Grade 4 students are on par with beginning Grade 5 students • As each grade progresses, their success will have a positive impact on the middle school and high school music programs
	• Grades 3, 4, and 5 Chorus	• Consistent procedures and instruction • Dedicated choral time separate from general music classes
		• Elementary classroom teachers have been supportive and flexible regarding the changes to programming and the increased music time for students.
Middle School	• Impact - Music Production	• All middle school students are receiving music education • Students in the class are engaged and producing original compositions using music technology

Challenges

- Travel time - multiple building schedules hamper timely start of classes
- Space - construction impacts ability to hold instrumental and choral instruction (Mile Creek)
- PreK-12 planning - not enough time allotted to maintain horizontal alignment, plan and implement multi-level performances, write curriculum, etc.

Specialized Reading Instruction, Identification of Students with Dyslexia Program Review

Conducted by Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)

Spring 2025

Intention of the Review

- Voluntarily engaged in the review with CREC following the due process decision
- CREC "developed the approach to the reading program reviews that aims to continuously improve programs and services for students. The review process is intended to:
  - Assess the quality of an educational institution's services for students with SLD/Dyslexia.
  - Determine priority need areas; and
  - Detail recommended goals and activities that will change practices and improve outcomes for students."

Goals of the Review

- Analysis and recommendations related to the effectiveness of services and support provided to students identified with SLD/Dyslexia at the elementary schools

- Review district alignment with best instructional practices based on current research.

Domain 1: Resources

Questions:

- Do the programs and materials match the essential elements of Structured Literacy instruction?
- What training does the district personnel currently have in evidence based reading intervention?

Commendations:

The district has sufficient materials and resources to meet the instructional needs of students

The district has sufficient assessment materials approved by CSDE to complete a comprehensive evaluation to determine SLD/Dyslexia

The district has an outlined MTSS structured approach to providing academic and social emotional support for students

Domain 2: Organizational Structures/Processes

Questions:

- Is there alignment between special and general education goals and instruction?
- Does the district have an evaluation process that results in the accurate identification of student strengths and needs?

Commendations:

Multiple special education teachers have dual certification

Special education and related services demonstrate a commitment to ongoing professional development

Special education staff are appropriately trained to provide reading instruction using specific Structured Literacy programs

Domain 3: Student Learning

Questions:

- Are students learning plans appropriately aligned with student needs?

Commendations:

Region 18 staff are improving the development of IEPs that are reasonably calculated to result in educational benefit

Structured Literacy programs implemented with fidelity

Essential elements of Structured Literacy were implemented effectively and accurately in special and general education classrooms

Diagnostic lesson planning of Structured Literacy lessons was evident

Special education staff go above and beyond to meet the needs of students with disabilities

Recommendations and Response

Recommendations	Response
Finalize MTSS Handbook with the updated language	MTSS Handbook has been updated by MTSS District Team
Professional learning on topics related to the educational determination of SLD/Dyslexia	Engaged with outside consultant to support more in-depth understanding of specific assessments for SLPs/special education staff reviewed CSDE modules
Educational Benefit Session/Refine IEPs with more in-depth data	Full day training conducted in November 2025
Establish a Professional Learning Plan for new hires	All new hires engage in Structured Literacy overview and most engage in specific reading program training within the first two years of hire/Review of CT Competencies
Use of a template for evaluation decisions	CREC provided a template for district use
Increase progress monitoring/data collection during lesson instruction	Has been an on-going process and practice
Ensure special and general education teachers have opportunities for collaboration	District practice

Questions?

Thank you

LOLHS Proposal Trip to China: April Break 2027

Group: Maximum 20 Students
Groups to be included:
- First: All students in Chinese classes
- Then: Any other Sophomores, Junior and Seniors in history classes

White: Beijing, Shanghái, Xi'an, Chengdu, Shanghái

When: Trip: 12 days, April 8, 2027– April 19, 2027*
Sign-up: Before April 1, 2026, with $95deposit to ensure flight cost.

Tour Company: EF Tours: http://www.eftours.com

Goals:
Students will:
- Be exposed to the Chinese language
- Experience the sounds and sights of an ancient civilization with a 5000-year history
- Experience the cuisines and customs of the people
- See a blend of modern and ancient China
- Experience the dynamics of a thriving economy and the changes in people's way of life

Chaperones:

- John Wang – World Language Teacher, LOLHS
- Emily Kelly – History Teacher, LOLHS
- Additional Teacher(s): TBD depending on the number of students

Ratio of Students to Chaperones: 6:1

Program Cost: $4279.00**

Program Cost Includes:
- Full-time Tour Director;
- Sightseeing:
- 4 sightseeing tours led by expert, licensed local guides;
- 2 sightseeing tours led by the Tour Director;
- 1 rickshaw tour
- Entrances: Tiananmen Square; Forbidden City; Summer Palace; dragon boat ride (seasonal); tai chi lesson; Great Wall of China; cable car ride; bike ride on Xi'an city wall; Terracotta Army; calligraphy class; panda research center; tea farm; Jiangnan Irrigation System; Mount Qingcheng; Shanghai Tower; Jade Buddha Temple; Yu Garden; with extension: Peak Tram; Star Ferry ride;

- Personalized learning guide: personalized learning experience engages students before, during, and after tour, with the option to create a final, reflective project for academic credit.
- All of the details are covered: Round-trip flights on major carriers; comfortable motor coach; 2 internal flights (3 with extension); 7 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms (10 with extension); breakfast and dinner daily (2 dinners with extension)

Program Cost does not include:

- Visa application fee, plus postage, photo, etc.
- Passport fee, plus postage, photo, etc.
- Tour Director, Bus Driver, Local Tour Guide tips: $150 per student
- Bus to and from the US Airport(s): Cost depends on number of students
- $4-6 tips to US bus driver to and from the airport
- Student spending money on gifts, souvenir, etc.

Transportation to China: (JFK, Newark or LaGuardia – Beijing)

Ground Transportation, Round trip Old Lyme – Greater NYC airport: Coach Bus or other arrangement based on the number of students and chaperones.

Communication itinerary prior to trip:

- Distribute information to students / parents and hold informational meeting March 12, 2026
- Hold parent meetings both early in the school year 2026, and prior to departure.
- Provide payment schedule.
- Have students fill out LOLHS field trip permission form.
- Have students fill out medical form.
- Hold student meetings (as scheduled) to discuss such issues as passport, visa, attire, spending money, and other aspects of trip preparation.
- Invite Mr. Wygonik to meet with students and parents to discuss appropriate behavior and school rules, as they apply in international venues.
- Provide periodic updates to students, parents and administration as necessary, with respect to information received from the tour company throughout the year.

Health: Everyone should check with his or her personal physician about vaccinations.

Safety: No State Department alerts to date.

All-Inclusive Insurance Policy: Each individual who enrolls will be covered by the global travel insurance plan.

Itinerary

Day 1: Fly overnight to China

Day 2: Beijing– Meet your Tour Director at the airport in Beijing, the capital of the People's Republic of China. During your stay, behold the opulence of its ancient temples, palaces, and gates.

Day 3: Beijing– Take an expertly guided tour of Beijing, where you'll visit Tiananmen Square, the Summer Palace and the Forbidden City, whose grandeur is epitomized by the golden-roofed Imperial Palace. – Take a dragon boat ride (April-Oct). – Participate in a tai chi lesson. – Visit a local school (if in session). – Enjoy an authentic Peking duck dinner.

Day 4: Beijing – Visit a section of the Great Wall of China that's less traveled by tourists and one of its best preserved. Construction of the wall began in the third century B.C.– Take a cable car ride for a scenic view of the Great Wall. – See the Bird's Nest Olympic stadium. – Take a guided walking tour of a Hutong neighborhood. These narrow, interconnected alleyways and courtyard homes date back to the 13th century. – Enjoy an authentic Chinese meal with Hutong families.

Day 5: Beijing | Xi'an – Fly to Xi'an, where the massive wall surrounding the city is a testament to its importance: It has served as the capital of 11 dynasties. While here, you'll follow in the footsteps of Silk Road traveler Marco Polo. – Take a bike ride on the ancient City Wall. – Enjoy a free evening to explore more Xi'an or take a dumpling class.

Day 6: Xi'an– Take an expertly guided tour of Xi'an. – Visit the Terracotta Warriors. These life-size sculptures were created to protect the tomb of Emperor Qin Shi Huangdi, founder of the Qin Dynasty. Of these 6,000 models, no two are alike. – Participate in a calligraphy class. – Visit a street food market in the city's Muslim quarter.

Day 7: Xi'an | Chengdu– Travel by high-speed train to Chengdu. – Tour Chengdu's most famous pedestrian street. – Take a guided tour of Chengdu. Learn about the city's ancient history with an expert local guide, and see why it's a modern-day hub of communication, economic, and transportation. – Enjoy a family-style hot pot dinner. – Explore on your own or enjoy a Sichuan Opera "face-changing" performance.

Day 8: Chengdu– Spend a half day at a panda research center. Learn about the center's research and conservation efforts to save giant pandas. – Bike to a tea farm and try your hand at picking tea leaves alongside local farmers.

Day 9: Chengdu | Jiangnan– Take in the Chinese countryside on a day trip to a UNESCO World Heritage Site. – Explore the Jiangnan Irrigation System, a feat of engineering dating back to 256 B.C.– Enjoy a cable car ride and short hike to the top of Mount Qingcheng.

Day 10: Chengdu | Shanghai– Fly to Shanghai and discover a nexus point of ancient custom and modern technology. – Ascend Shanghai Tower, the tallest building in all of Shanghai and take in this world-class city from the observation deck. – Enjoy time to explore the Bund at your own pace. Once considered the "Wall Street of the East," the Bund is a waterfront promenade offering a postcard-perfect view of Shanghai's famous skyline. – Explore more of Shanghai on your own or attend Chinese acrobatics show.

Day 11: Shanghai– Take an expertly guided tour of Shanghai. – Visit the Jade Buddha Temple. Sculpted out of white jade, these Buddhas were brought from Burma by a Chinese monk in the last century. One portrays Buddha experiencing Enlightenment, the other his transcendence into Nirvana. – Stroll past goldfish ponds and admire the classical Chinese landscape in the Yu Garden. – See Nanjing Lu, or Nanjing Road.

Day 12: Depart for home

ARRIVE AT JFK.

Disclaimer:

* 12 travel dates are based on the range between April 7 and April 20, 2027. These dates are a range due to working with suppliers to provide the best options for our travelers. Students will get a confirmed departure date three months ahead.

** All costs are based on the quotes at the time of this Proposal. Any part of the items listed may change according to market conditions in time ahead.

District-Wide Switch Replacement Project
Lyme – Old Lyme Schools
March 4, 2026

Action: Award Connecticut Computer Services a contract to upgrade and install new network switches in the amount of $79,553.00.

Background: Several of the District's network switches have reached end-of-life status and require replacement. These new switches, which enable connectivity for multiple devices across our schools and offices, will provide enhanced security, improved performance, greater configuration flexibility, and increased overall network reliability.

This project will be partially funded through reimbursement under the federal E-Rate program. The project was publicly advertised through the E-Rate open bidding process. The District received four proposals, and Connecticut Computer Services (CT Comp) was determined to be the lowest responsible bidder meeting project specifications. The bid results are as follows:

Connecticut Computer Services	$79,553.00
Questivity, Inc.	$99,427.01
VoDaVi Technologies, LLC	$83,550.50
Atlantic.com	$39,470.00

While Atlantic.com submitted the lowest dollar bid, it did not meet the required specifications outlined in the bid documents.

CT Comp is a vendor with whom the District works regularly and is highly familiar with our systems and infrastructure. In 2023, they successfully completed a similar district-wide wireless upgrade project.

This project is included in the FY 2026–2027 budget. The contract award is contingent upon approval of the FY 2026–2027 proposed budget. We anticipate approximately 50% reimbursement through E-Rate funding upon completion of the project.