LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

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

District Budget Meeting
May 4, 2026

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

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Holly McCalla, Business Manager

Others Present: Lynn Warren, Moderator; 10 community members

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Jason Kemp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Gavin Lodge read the call of the meeting.

Notice is hereby given of the Annual Budget Meeting and Vote for the Regional School District No. 18 to be held at Regional School District No. 18, Board of Education Conference Room at Center School, 49 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, May 4, 2026 to act upon the following:

1. To adopt a budget of $41,477,955 for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 as recommended by the Regional School Board.
2. To conduct such other business as may properly come before the meeting.

By vote of the Regional School District No. 18 Board of Education, the vote on item number 1 shall be by voting tabulators, except where impracticable pursuant to Section 9-272 of the Connecticut General Statutes, in the Towns of Lyme and Old Lyme on May 5, 2026 between the hours of 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. pursuant to Section 7-7 of the Connecticut General Statutes.

Voting will take place at the following locations: in the Town of Lyme, at the Town Hall, 480 Hamburg Road, Lyme, Connecticut and in the Town of Old Lyme, at the Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, 53 Lyme Street, Old Lyme, Connecticut.

Mrs. Fogliano made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James, to nominate Lynn Warren as the moderator of the meeting. There were no further nominations. The vote on the motion was unanimously in favor.

Lynn Warren explained the qualifications for voting at the referendum and the specifics relative to voting in each town. The meeting was opened up for comments and questions.

A community member from Lyme-Old Lyme asked why eight special education students, ages 18–22, require services outside the district. Mr. Lowry clarified that there are not eight students in that age group currently placed out of district. Mr. Kemp explained the district offers an in-town program located at Center School. This program includes Old Saybrook students, which get bussed to Center School. Students with Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) are entitled to services until age 22 under federal and state law. Mrs. Shyloski explained while the goal is to serve students within the district whenever possible, some students may require specialized programming or services that require specialist that are not employed in district. In those cases, out-of-district placements may be necessary.

The same community member also raised concerns about the high costs of the heating and cooling in the district. Mr. Lowry explained that these costs are related to the significant district-wide HVAC renovation project.

Mr. Hansen further clarified that the $54,000 increase in debt service is tied to obligations from HVAC upgrades initiated in 2022 and is separate from any costs associated with the special education students discussed.

A community member from Lyme-Old Lyme asked about student population increases, decreases, and projections going forward. Mr. Neviaser explained that initial projections had anticipated a significant increase in student enrollment following COVID; however, enrollment has remained relatively the same. At the elementary level, there has been a slight increase in student population and the middle school enrollment has decreased. High school enrollment is currently at its lowest point in recent years. Going forward, we expect to see slight increases but not as significant as originally projected.

A community member from Lyme-Old Lyme asked whether students from out of town want to attend LOL schools. Mr. Neviaser explained that the district currently has 17 tuition students, which helps offset costs. He noted that tuition rates are $19,000 for high school, $17,000 for middle school, $15,000 for elementary school, and $10,000 for Pre-K.

A community member from Lyme-Old Lyme questioned the $124,000 increase in Administrative Services. Mr. Neviaser explained that this increase is not related to administrative salaries. These costs are associated with technology, including switch upgrades, program costs, absence management program, hiring programs, PowerSchool, CABE membership and legal services. Mr. Neviaser noted that legal expenses are expected to increase next year as the district prepares to negotiate contracts for non-certified staff and administrative contracts.

There being no further questions or comments, the District Budget Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m. to referendum the following day at the Lyme Town Hall and the Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School in Old Lyme from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Lowry and a second by Mr. Lodge. The vote on the motion was unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Gavin Lodge, Secretary