LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting
May 6, 2026

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

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Susan Fogliano

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Mark Ambruso, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum; 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; Tom Bushnell, Assistant Principal at Lyme-Old Lyme High School; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme- Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Seven 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:
MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of April 1, 2026 and District Budget Hearing Minutes of April 6, 2026 as presented.

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

III. Visitors
1. Elementary Student Art Recognition
Allison Hine, Principal of Lyme Consolidated School, proudly recognized one of this year's 5th grade

visual and performing arts award recipient. Olivia Okonuk, Art Teacher at Lyme Consolidated School, honored Wren Yates for excellence in visual arts.

2. CABE Student Leadership Award
CABE invites its member Boards to recognize outstanding student leaders at the middle and high school levels. The principals of each school are asked to facilitate the selection of the students based on a given set of criteria. Jim Wygonik, Principal of LOLHS, and Mark Ambruso, Principal of LOLMS, recognized the award winners for this year's CABE Student Leadership Award:
Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School: Broderick Morris and Maya Munster
Lyme-Old Lyme High School: Margaret Thuma and Andrew Taylor

2. Student Representatives Isabella Presti and Ainsley Rinoski reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:
At LOLHS: After a wonderful spring break, the high school had many exciting activities and achievements to celebrate. The spring band concert was a great success, showcasing the talent and hard work of the students. The electric vehicle team earned first place at Lyme Rock Raceway for the 14th time, competing against high school teams from Delaware to Quebec. The Robotics team also had an outstanding season, finishing with a strong performance at the New England Regionals and placing in the top 10% of teams worldwide out of more than 3,700 teams. In addition, the high school was recognized by the University of Connecticut as ranking ninth in the state, with 32% of students participating in UConn courses through the Early College Experience Program. This week our students began their AP exams, good luck to everyone!

At LOLMS: In April, middle school students begin preparing for the SBAC assessments taking place in May. While teachers continue to move through their curriculum, there is an increased emphasis on test-taking strategies and sustained effort. Our school counselor, Renee Molnar, worked with several middle school student role models to present at both Mile Creek and Lyme School, supporting the 5th grade transition process as it begins to ramp up. Mr. Ambruso also brought a group of 35 student leaders to a leadership conference at the Integrated Day Charter School in Norwich. The experience focused on developing leadership skills while giving students the opportunity to connect with peers from different school communities and build meaningful relationships and connections. Eighth grade students continue preparing for high school as they select their 9th grade courses and look ahead to their orientation, which will take place in mid-May.

Elementary: At both Mile Creek and Lyme School students in grades 3 - 5 began state testing this week. Our PTOs are working hard to make all teachers and staff feel appreciated this week as we celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week. Fifth grade students in both buildings had the opportunity to participate in a "Gearing up for Middle School" event sponsored by LYSB. Next week all fifth-grade students will participate in a band and choir concert. At Mile Creek we celebrated fifth grade student Ian McDavitt for being one of the winners of the state Arbor Day Poster Contest. Students celebrated Earth Day by creating a magnificent Recycled Garden. The Student Senate is currently running a Food Drive to benefit the Shoreline Soup Kitchens and Pantries. Our Kids Heart Challenge is underway and connects nicely with

our "Get Outside and Play for Mental Health Day" that is scheduled for May 22. Kindergarten students recently enjoyed a program about owls run by the Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center, and students in grade 2 enjoyed the CT River Dwellers Program run by the CT River Museum. At Lyme, students in all grades enjoyed presentations by Denison Pequotsepos Nature Center as part of Earth Day events. These programs are generously funded each year by the Lyme Land Trust. The Curiosity Shop is underway with more than 75% of the students participating in a variety of after-school offerings like dance, karate, field games, learning at Long Table Farm, and art with the Florence Griswold Museum. Just before April break, we had a week-long visit from performers with The National Circus Project. Students in all grades worked on skills like juggling, diablo throwing, clowning, and walking on stilts. The week culminated with a performance by students in grades 4 and 5.

In the Preschool Program: April was an exciting month at Center School! We took our monthly walking field trip to the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library to check out books, and we had so much fun dressing up for Pirate Day. We also enjoyed two visits from our middle school Book Buddies and recognized Earth Day by reading *I Am Earth*, which teaches students about our planet and ways people can help keep Earth healthy. In May, we are looking forward to learning about dinosaurs and fossils. We will read *I Am a Dinosaur*, *I Am a T. Rex*, *I Am a Triceratops*, and other books about dinosaurs. Students will also learn the difference between carnivores and herbivores. We will finish the alphabet by learning the letter Z, and in math, we will learn about ABC patterns. Our color of the month is brown, our shape is a hexagon, and Georgia O'Keeffe 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
Bill Fitzgerald	May 5, 2026	Naviance issues, Instructure, District Contracts

V. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviaser noted that this week is Teacher Appreciation Week and expressed his gratitude to all of our teachers for their hard work and dedication. We will also be recognizing staff members and our retirees at our upcoming end-of-year banquet. Mr. Neviaser also highlighted the first-ever Unified Arts Show held at the Westbrook Outlets. Old Lyme joined with Old Saybrook and Westbrook in this opportunity and hope this continues to grow.

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

Vacancies 2025-2026	
Instructional Assistants	PreK, Elementary, Middle and High School levels
Custodian	Districtwide
Vacancies 2026-2027	
Assistant Principal 0.8 FTE/Principal 0.2 FTE	LOLMS/Center School
Business Teacher	LOLHS
Special Education Coordinator (0.4 FTE)/Special Education Teacher (0.6 FTE)	Transition Program/Mile Creek School

Appointments			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Joanna Gillia	Secretary	LOLHS	June 1, 2026
Alicia Garstka	MTSS Coordinator	Lyme School	July 1, 2026
Natacha Samuel	Custodian	LOLMS	May 6, 2026

Resignations			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Richard Morton	Custodian	Lyme School	April 10, 2026
Kevin Partridge	Custodian	LOLMS	May 6, 2026

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the April enrollment report which reflected a total of 1257 students in-house; no changes from this time last month.

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.

Staff explored open and closed AI workspaces and used The Rithm Project game to have discussions regarding ethical/transparency of use.

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.

PDEC subcommittee formed to address the new district goal (2026-2028) and the new Teaching and Learning Curriculum Committee to support the curriculum renewal process.

Community
Streamline effective communication by expanding the use of ParentSquare's advanced features.
Continued utilizing new services and investigating website transition

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.
Wrapping up HVAC schools by June 10 and planning for end of year and summer work at Mile Creek, all while keeping the community informed of progress.

Sustainability
Implement and maintain a composting program at each school to reduce food waste while educating students on sustainable practices.
All schools continue to compost 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 April 30, 2026. Fluctuations of note: Employee Benefits is due to an early payment to ECHMC to begin the year. Support Services is down due to the need to contract with an outside nursing agency last year to cover a long-term medical leave. This service is not required this year. Administrative Services is down due the builder's risk insurance policies for the school project required last year. Currently Mile Creek is the only school that still requires one. 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. Debt service payments previously scheduled for May have been moved to August as a result of a prior bond refunding.

	2025-2026 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	$25,102,798
Town of Lyme	$5,544,843

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. New spending of $30,000 (estimated) to move the re-purposed generator from Mile Creek to the Main Campus. The Remaining Balance is $83,477.

VI. Educational Presentation:
No Educational Presentation

VII. Chairman & Committee Reports:

a. *Facilities*. No Report.
b. *Finance*. No Report.
c. *Communications*. Mr. Lodge reported that Focus on Education was distributed. A congratulations to Bridget Compagno who received the communications award on behalf of CABE. Reminders for voters for the referendum and continuing to work on social media accounts.
d. *Policy*. Mr. Lodge reported that the committee discussed the current Policy 5118, Enrollment of Nonresident Students: Tuition Fees and Regulations. The committee will explore opportunities to promote diversity within the schools.
e. *LEARN*. No Report
f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. No Report

g. *PreK-8 Building Committee*. At Mile Creek School, landscape plantings along with the property line near Somerset Drive are now in place, and the grass around the addition has been planted. We anticipate that Phase 5 at Mile Creek School (the classroom spaces at the front of the building) will be completed by the end of this school year and 100% ready for fall occupancy. Superintendent Neviaser and Principal Kelly Enoch met with Downes Construction last week to plan for summer construction. The big interior push will be in Phase 7, the music room, the art room and the cafeteria. Having the cafeteria ready for the re-opening of school in August 2026 is a top priority. You might remember that the glass contractor for the windows in the new addition at Mile Creek School installed glass that was not what was specified in the design documents, and it was very distorted. A few sample panels of the correct glass were recently installed, and the new glass was found to be acceptable. All of the glass will therefore be replaced at the subcontractor's expense over the summer. Downes Construction has recently shared their expected summer schedule for remaining exterior site work at Mile Creek School, to include the parent drop-off loop:

1. June 17, 2026 thru June 22, 2026: Delivery site equipment.
2. June 22, 2026 thru July 17, 2026: Rock Removal (VERY noisy).
3. June 22, 2026 thru July 17, 2026: Excavation for new drainage-work will be concurrent with rock removal operations.
4. July 27, 2026 thru August 8, 2026: Bituminous Paving (not as noisy).
5. August 10, 2026 thru September 3, 2026: Landscaping/Lawns.
6. September 24, 2026 thru October 2, 2026: Remove Downes Temporary Office /Restore Lawn areas. Estimated total completion for the Mile Creek School project is February of 2027.

As chair of the Building Committee, I have shared this site work schedule with the closest property holders per their request. The entire Mile Creek School project has an expected full completion date of February of 2027. Moving on the other three HVAC schools (Lyme, Center and LOLMS), Downes Construction is providing a full video-taping training session to Ron Turner and Brian Howe of the schools' Facilities Department on all of the aspects of maintaining the new HVAC installs, including filter replacement schedules, owner's manuals, warranty information, etc. Over the spring and summer months, all of the air conditioning units will be tested, as all of the rooftop connections have been completed, including at the Middle School. The exterior door for Center School (which was a custom design) has been delivered and is to be installed this summer, while students are not in the building. We

continue to work on a resolution for the overused boiler #2 at Lyme School, which seems to be working for now. While there is still a punch list for each of the schools, construction is essentially complete. The budgets for all three HVAC schools should be closed out as of June 10th, and any remaining contingency funds will be moved to the Mile Creek School project. We continue to believe that we will bring this overall project in under budget, without using the Undesignated Funds set aside for potential overruns. Our last tranche of borrowing on the project is expected to occur this summer. Luckily, we will have a better sense of the minimum needed as we move the focus to completion of Mile Creek School portion of the project.

Mr. Kemp mentioned The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education (CABE) has their Legislative wrap up is next Tuesday, May 12th which Sheryl Shyloski will be attending. CABE/CAPSS will be on November 20, 2026.

VIII. New Business

1. Approval of Grades 3-8 Chromebook Purchase

Mr. Turner, Director of Facilities & Technology, presented the proposal for New Chromebooks for Grades 3-8. Mr. Tuner explained this purchase will replace existing Chromebooks currently in use in grades 3–8 at Lyme Consolidated School, Mile Creek School, and Lyme–Old Lyme Middle School, all of which are nearing end of life and require replacement to maintain reliable student access to instructional technology. Mr. Turner mentioned the lifespan is approximately 4-5 years. Devices being replaced at the elementary and middle school levels will be evaluated for resale, with any proceeds returned to the technology budget to help offset future costs.

MOTION: Mrs. James made a motion, which was seconded by Gavin Lodge, to approve the purchase of Grade's 3-8 Chromebooks as presented.

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

2. Approval of Lyme Stair and Ramp Replacement

Mr. Turner, Director of Facilities & Technology, presented the proposal for Lyme School's rear stair, ramp, and railing repairs. Mr. Turner explained the rear concrete stairs, accessibility ramp, and metal railings at Lyme Consolidated School have deteriorated due to age and exposure to the elements and need repair to ensure continued safe use and compliance with applicable safety standards.

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shyloski, to approve the rear stair, ramp, and railing repairs replacement at Lyme Consolidated School as presented.
Only vender who returned with a quote

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

3. Approval of Middle School Hot Water Heater Replacement

Mr. Turner, Director of Facilities & Technology, presented the proposal for the replacement of the Middle schools Hot Water Heater. Mr. Turner explained one of the existing oil-fired hot water heaters at Lyme–Old Lyme Middle School has exceeded its expected service life and has become increasingly unreliable. Replacement is necessary to ensure consistent hot water service and to avoid potential disruptions to building operations.

MOTION Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. McCollum, to approve the Middle School Hot Water Heater Replacement 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

1.Superintendents End of Year

Mr. Lowry made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James, to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the superintendent's End of Year review. Mr. Neviaser was invited to attend the executive session.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:15p.m. upon a motion by Mrs. McCollum and a second Mr. Lowry.

Respectfully submitted,

Gavin Lodge, Secretary

Summary of Communication to Board of Education
May 6, 2026

Sender	Date	Subject
Bill Fitzgerald	May 5, 2026	Naviance issues, Instructure, District Contracts

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: Bill Fitzgerald <bill@funnymonkey.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 5, 2026 6:40 AM
To: Rooney, Paige
Cc: Brown, Scott (BOE); Fogliano, Susan (BOE); Hansen, Michael; James, Anna (BOE); Kemp, Jason (BOE); Lodge, Gavin (BOE); Lowry, Alexander (BOE); McCollum, Cynthia; Shyloski, Sheryl
Subject: EXTERNAL: Questions for inclusion in upcoming school board meeting

Hello,

I hope you are all enjoying the wonderful spring weather!

I am emailing because I would like answers to the following three questions.

I would also like these questions read aloud and addressed in the next public school board meeting, and entered into the notes/minutes. I believe the next meeting is May 6, 2026.

1. As you probably know, Naviance recently settled a class action lawsuit related to privacy issues with Naviance. Regional School District 18 has required students to use Naviance for years. Any student who logged in to Naviance at least once between August 18, 2021 to January 23, 2026 is eligible to receive money as part of the settlement. Because the school district provided access to Naviance and required its use, the school district has an ethical obligation to contact past and present students and families to inform them of their rights. When will the district be following through on this ethical obligation?

2. As you probably know, Instructure had a second data incident (the first was in September 2025). This second, more recent breach appears to impact over 9000 schools and 275 million people, and the compromised data appears to include sensitive information, including private messages. Regional School District 18 uses Canvas from Instructure. When will the district be informing the community that this core service provider has experienced a data breach that puts a range of sensitive, confidential, and personal information at risk?

3. The district maintains a list of contracts at https://www.region18.org/parents/resources/educational-technology-contract-information. It appears that this list has not been updated consistently. At present, many listings have no contract or contract date. The contracts that include dates generally have an end date in 2018, with one service (Wixie) showing a contract ending in March of 2019. Additionally, many listings state that the vendor has signed the Student Data Privacy Pledge, which is odd, because the Pledge was discontinued in April 2025. This lack of transparency probably does not live up the intent, and possibly the letter, of Connecticut State student privacy law. Specifically, the law states that "Not later than five business days after executing a contract pursuant to this section, a local or regional board of education shall post notice of such contract on the board's Internet web site." Regardless of whether or not this is required by law, listing contracts is just good practice, and it helps inspire confidence that the district and school board understand the basics of transparency, student data privacy, data security, and legal compliance. Can the school board provide an update to the community on whether or not this page is current and accurate, and when we can expect to see updated information on this page?

Thank you,

Bill Fitzgerald

Sources:

- Naviance settlement: https://powerschoolnaviancesettlement.com/
- Instructure data breach: https://databreaches.net/2026/05/03/instructure-discloses-second-data-breach-in-less-than-a-year/

- CT State Privacy Law - Contract availability: https://www.cga.ct.gov/current/pub/chap_170.htm#sec_10-234bb - see (g)(1)
- End of the Student Privacy Pledge: https://fpf.org/student-privacy-pledge/

Student Chromebook Computer Lease
Lyme – Old Lyme Schools

May 6, 2026

Action:
Award Trafera a contract to supply 600 Lenovo Yoga Chromebook computers at a total cost of $301,920, including associated financing. This purchase will be distributed over four years at an annual cost of $75,480.

Background:
This purchase will replace existing Chromebooks currently in use in grades 3–8 at Lyme Consolidated School, Mile Creek School, and Lyme–Old Lyme Middle School, all of which are nearing end of life and require replacement to maintain reliable student access to instructional technology.

The District is utilizing PCA contract pricing (ID #OD-372-22) to ensure competitive procurement. Comparable Dell devices were also evaluated and are currently priced at approximately $600 per unit, resulting in a projected total of $360,000. By contrast, the proposed Trafera agreement secures lower per-unit pricing and reflects a total savings of approximately $60,000. Additionally, Trafera has honored its original quoted pricing despite a market increase of approximately $100 per device, further enhancing the value of this proposal.

A significant advantage of the Trafera program is the inclusion of a comprehensive four-year warranty. This coverage includes unlimited accidental damage protection, a three-year battery warranty, free round-trip shipping for repairs, spare parts for in-house service, licensing, and an additional charger per device. This level of coverage substantially reduces financial risk and minimizes unexpected repair or replacement costs for both families and the District.

With this purchase, all students in grades 3–12 will be supported under a consistent device and warranty program, improving operational efficiency, support, and overall user experience.

Devices being replaced at the elementary and middle school levels will be evaluated for resale, with any proceeds returned to the technology budget to help offset future costs. This lease purchase is contingent upon approval of the proposed budget and is aligned with projected expenditures for the FY 2026–2027 budget.

Lyme School Rear Stair, Ramp, and Railing Repairs
Lyme – Old Lyme Schools May 6, 2026

Action:
Award G. Donovan Construction a contract to complete repairs to the rear concrete stairs, ramp, and associated railings at Lyme Consolidated School for a total cost of $62,800.

Background:
The rear concrete stairs, accessibility ramp, and metal railings at Lyme Consolidated School have deteriorated due to age and exposure to the elements and need repair to ensure continued safe use and compliance with applicable safety standards.

The project was publicly advertised for bid in accordance with procurement requirements. One bid was received from G. Donovan Construction in the amount of $62,800.

The scope of work includes the repair and/or replacement of damaged concrete surfaces, restoration of the ramp structure, and repair or replacement of existing railings. Completion of this work will address safety concerns, improve accessibility, and extend the useful life of the existing infrastructure.

G. Donovan Construction has successfully completed similar projects for the District, including prior concrete work at Lyme Consolidated School.

This project is part of the District's multi-year facilities maintenance plan and is contingent upon approval of the proposed FY 2026–2027 budget.

Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School Hot Water Heater Replacement
Lyme – Old Lyme Schools May 6, 2026

Action:
Award F+F Mechanical a contract to replace an oil-fired hot water heater at Lyme–Old Lyme Middle School for a total cost of $77,775.

Background:
One of the existing oil-fired hot water heaters at Lyme–Old Lyme Middle School has exceeded its expected service life and has become increasingly unreliable. Replacement is necessary to ensure consistent hot water service and to avoid potential disruptions to building operations.

The project was publicly advertised for bid in accordance with procurement requirements. Two bids were received, and the bid results are as follows:

- F+F Mechanical – $77,775
- Sav-Mor Cooling & Heating – $92,000

F+F Mechanical has successfully worked with the District on other projects and is currently the maintenance provider for all boiler systems, providing familiarity with District facilities and ensuring continuity of service.

The scope of work includes removal of the existing unit and installation of a new oil-fired hot water heater, along with any necessary connections, controls, and related components to ensure proper operation.

Completion of this project will improve system reliability, maintain consistent service to the building, and reduce the risk of unexpected failure. The project is also under budget.

This project is part of the District's ongoing facilities maintenance plan and is contingent upon approval of the proposed FY 2026–2027 budget.