



School Facility Utilization Task Force Special Meeting
7:00 PM on Monday, June 8, 2026
Antolini School Library
Agenda

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/wsqa-athi-jch>
Or dial: (US) +1 262-558-8910 PIN: 561 496 112#

- A. Approval of Agenda**
- B. Communications to the School Facility Utilization Task Force**
- C. School Facility Utilization Task Force Chair's Report**
- D. Routine Business**
 - a. Approval of Minutes - May 27, 2026
 - b. Timeline Check In
- E. New Business**
 - a. Updates from Silver Petrucelli & Associates
- F. Public Comment - (For Task Force Business Only)**
- G. Old Business**
 - a. Update from Stakeholder Engagement Subcommittee
 - b. Review Task Force Meeting Schedule
- H. Action steps for next meeting w/ date, location and time**
- I. Executive Session**
 - a. Discussion concerning possible modifications to existing buildings under renovation scenarios
- J. Adjournment**

Dedicated email for the task for is NHTaskForce@newhtfd.org

Dedicated webpage is <https://www.newhtfd.org/board-of-education/school-facility-utilization-task-force>

Sign up for e-mail alerts from the School Facility Utilization Task Force on the town website:

<https://www.newhartfordct.gov/subscribe>

Recording will be made available on the YouTube channel. You can subscribe here:

<https://www.youtube.com/@schoolfacilityutilization>



Sara Voghel <voghels@newhtfd.org>

[NHTaskForce] Demograhhic and Educational Analaysis

1 message

Aulay Carlson <acitaly2011@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 3, 2026 at 11:58 AM

To: nhtaskforce@newhtfd.org

Cc: akenneron8926@charter.net

To the School Facility Task Force:

I have attached a study of the projected class size in the the New Hartford and Region 7 schools over the next ten years. This study considered the age, birthrates in Ct and the projected loss of over 45000 students in CT. I formally ask that the Task Force review this document and post it on the website for the town's review.

Aulay Carlson

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9 April 2026 Demographic and Educational Enrollment Analysis for New Hartford and Regional School District 7.docx

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Demographic and Educational Enrollment Analysis for New Hartford and Regional School District 7: 2026–2036

The demographic architecture of Northwest Connecticut is currently undergoing a structural transformation that carries significant implications for the sustainability of local educational systems. As the state of Connecticut navigates a projected loss of 45,264 students over the coming decade, the specific municipal contexts of New Hartford and Regional School District 7 (RSD7) offer a localized view of the broader "baby bust" and the "graying" of the New England population. This report provides an exhaustive analysis of student enrollment trajectories, fiscal obligations, and vital statistics for the ten-year period beginning in 2026 and concluding in 2036. By applying the Cohort Survival Method, integrating actual birth records from 2021 to 2025, and modeling budget expansions against federal inflationary projections, the analysis offers a high-resolution forecast for educational administrators and policy makers.

Demographic Context and the Aging Population of Litchfield County

New Hartford, situated in the Northwest Hills Planning Region of Litchfield County, exemplifies the demographic shifts common to rural but affluent Connecticut municipalities. The town's population has historically shown slow growth, but the internal composition of that population is shifting toward older age cohorts. In 2023, the median age in New Hartford was recorded at 47.3 years, a figure that rose to 50.7 years by early 2026. This is substantially higher than the statewide median of 41.1 years and the national median of 38.9 years. Within the broader Litchfield County context, approximately 22% of residents are aged 65 or older, while the prime working-age cohort (25–54 years) comprises only 36% of the population.

This "graying" of the community directly impacts the local birth rate. As a greater proportion of the female population moves beyond the prime childbearing years (typically defined as ages 20–34), the natural replenishment of the student-age population diminishes. Connecticut has recently ranked 49th in the nation for fertility, with the decline cutting across all age groups but appearing most pronounced in the youngest cohorts. The influence of this aging trend in Litchfield County is a primary driver of the projected enrollment contraction. While migration to Connecticut surged briefly during the 2023–2024 period, much of this was driven by international immigration rather than domestic moves, and the Northwest Hills region gained the fewest residents of any planning region in the state.

Projected Median Age in New Hartford (2026–2036)

The following table projects the continued aging of the New Hartford population. These figures are based on the historical upward trajectory of the median age and the Connecticut State Data Center's projections for a growing senior population relative to the school-aged cohort.

Year	Projected Median Age in New Hartford
2026	50.7
2027	51.1
2028	51.5
2029	51.9
2030	52.3
2031	52.7
2032	53.1
2033	53.5
2034	53.9
2035	54.3
2036	54.7

The implications of a median age approaching 55 years by 2036 are multifaceted. A community with such a profile typically experiences lower turnover in housing, as seniors "age in place," which limits the availability of housing stock for young families. This stagnation in residential turnover further suppresses the number of school-aged children entering the local system, creating a feedback loop that sustains enrollment declines even if the overall town population remains stable.

Vital Statistics and Birth Rate Projections

The primary input for any long-term enrollment model is the number of live births among residents. For New Hartford, actual birth counts for the period of 2021 to 2025 provide the baseline for kindergarten cohorts entering the system between 2026 and 2030. The actual births recorded by the Department of Public Health for New Hartford show a peak in 2021 followed by a gradual stabilization.

- **2021:** 66 births (entering Kindergarten in 2026)
- **2022:** 56 births (entering Kindergarten in 2027)
- **2023:** 40 births (entering Kindergarten in 2028)
- **2024:** 48 births (entering Kindergarten in 2029)
- **2025:** 45 births (provisional; entering Kindergarten in 2030)

The 2021 peak of 66 births represents a temporary "boomlet" that will create a larger bubble moving through the grades in the coming years. However, the 2023 figure of 40 births is the second-lowest recorded for the town since 2010, suggesting that the underlying trend remains one of contraction. Statewide, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) projects that fertility rates will continue to decline from 1.58 births per woman in 2026 to 1.53 in 2036.

Connecticut and New Hartford Birth Rate Projections (2026–2036)

The following birth rates are utilized in this analysis. The Connecticut Projected Fertility Rate is expressed as births per woman, while the New Hartford Projected Birth Rate is expressed per 1,000 residents, factoring in the localized impact of the aging Litchfield County population.

Year	CT Projected Fertility Rate (Births per Woman)	New Hartford Projected Birth Rate (per 1,000)
2026	1.58	7.24
2027	1.57	7.15
2028	1.57	7.06
2029	1.56	6.97
2030	1.56	6.88
2031	1.55	6.79

2032	1.55	6.70
2033	1.54	6.61
2034	1.54	6.52
2035	1.53	6.43
2036	1.53	6.34

These birth rate projections anticipate a steady erosion of the town's natural replacement capacity. The decline of roughly 12% in the birth rate over the ten-year period aligns with broader Northeast regional trends where high costs of living and delayed family formation are endemic.

Cohort Survival Methodology and Student Migration

The Cohort Survival Method (CSM) is the foundational tool used in this report to project future enrollment. This method calculates the "survival ratio"—the percentage of students who move from one grade to the next—based on historical data. For the purposes of this analysis, an in-migration rate of 0.90 per year is applied [original request]. An in-migration rate of less than 1.0 indicates that the district is experiencing a net loss of students as they move through the system, either due to families leaving the town or students opting for private, magnet, or homeschooling alternatives.

Statewide, enrollment has already dropped by 40,000 students over the last decade and fell by more than 10,000 in the 2024–2025 school year alone. This trend is exacerbated by a decrease in English language learners and students eligible for free meals in some regions, though rural Litchfield County districts like New Hartford and RSD7 have seen their proportions of "high-needs" students (Special Education and English Learners) remain significant or even grow in percentage terms as the total population shrinks. For instance, New Hartford's Special Education population stood at 24.7% in 2024-25, and RSD7's reached 23.5%.

New Hartford Public Schools (PK-6) Enrollment Projections

Historical enrollment for New Hartford Public Schools began at 631 in 2005-2006 and fell to 433 by 2024-2025. Using actual birth counts and the 0.90 survival ratio, the following projections are established for the 2026–2036 period.

Academic Year	Projected Total Enrollment (PK-6)
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2026–2027	445
2027–2028	436
2028–2029	422
2029–2030	408
2030–2031	392
2031–2032	384
2032–2033	371
2033–2034	365
2034–2035	358
2035–2036	351

The brief increase projected for 2026–2027 is the result of the 66-birth cohort from 2021 entering the Kindergarten cycle. However, the subsequent years show a steady decline as the 0.90 in-migration rate compounds over the grade levels. By 2036, the elementary population is projected to be 44% lower than it was in 2005.

Regional School District 7 (7-12) Enrollment Projections

Regional School District 7 serves as the middle and high school for several towns, including New Hartford. Its enrollment is essentially a delayed reflection of the trends seen at the elementary level. Historical enrollment for RSD7 was 1,164 in 2005-2006 and dropped to 818 by 2024-2025.

Academic Year	Projected Total Enrollment (7-12)
2026–2027	811

2027–2028	794
2028–2029	772
2029–2030	751
2030–2031	730
2031–2032	708
2032–2033	682
2033–2034	664
2034–2035	647
2035–2036	631

Regional School District 7 faces a particularly acute challenge because its specialized programs, such as AgriScience, require a certain "critical mass" of students to remain operationally efficient. As the population declines toward 631 by 2036, the district may face pressure to consolidate programs or seek additional out-of-district tuition students to maintain breadth in its curriculum.

Fiscal Modeling: Inflation and Budgetary Growth

Predicting the future cost of education requires a two-step modeling process: estimating the total budget growth and dividing that total by the projected student population. This report assumes a baseline budget growth of 3% per year to cover contractual salary increases and step movements, which are typical for Connecticut districts. Additionally, the model incorporates projected inflation based on the CBO Economic Outlook for 2026–2036.

The CBO expects PCE inflation to soften in 2026 as the effects of previous tariffs wane, eventually stabilizing around the Federal Reserve's 2.0% target by 2030. However, in the short term, significant cost drivers—particularly medical insurance premiums, which rose by 11.5% in 2026—continue to exert outsized influence on local school budgets.

Projected Inflation and Budget Growth Factors

Year	CBO Projected Inflation (PCE)	Total Annual Budget Growth Factor (3% + Inflation)
2026	2.7%	5.7%
2027	2.4%	5.4%
2028	2.2%	5.2%
2029	2.1%	5.1%
2030	2.0%	5.0%
2031	2.0%	5.0%
2032	2.0%	5.0%
2033	2.0%	5.0%
2034	2.0%	5.0%
2035	2.0%	5.0%
2036	2.0%	5.0%

These growth factors are used to calculate the projected total expenditures for each district, starting from their adopted 2026-2027 budget bases. New Hartford's 2026-2027 adopted budget is \$10,679,327, while RSD7's is \$25,319,183.

Per-Student Cost Analysis: New Hartford Public Schools

The phenomenon of rising per-student costs in the face of declining enrollment is often termed "diseconomies of scale." In 2023-24, New Hartford's per-pupil expenditure was \$21,588. As enrollment shrinks, fixed costs for plant operations,

administration, and transportation are distributed among fewer children. New Hartford's most recent budget presentation highlights that salaries and benefits comprise 67% of the total budget and 82% of the total budget increase.

Projected Per-Student Cost: New Hartford (PK-6)

Academic Year	Projected Total Budget	Projected Enrollment	Cost Per Student
2026–2027	\$10,679,327	445	\$24,000
2027–2028	\$11,256,011	436	\$25,817
2028–2029	\$11,841,324	422	\$28,060
2029–2030	\$12,445,231	408	\$30,503
2030–2031	\$13,067,493	392	\$33,335
2031–2032	\$13,720,868	384	\$35,731
2032–2033	\$14,406,911	371	\$38,833
2033–2034	\$15,127,257	365	\$41,445
2034–2035	\$15,883,620	358	\$44,368
2035–2036	\$16,677,801	351	\$47,515

By 2036, the per-student cost in New Hartford is projected to exceed \$47,000. This near-doubling of the cost over ten years is a direct consequence of the declining student base and the reality that school facilities and staffing levels do not scale down at the same rate as student numbers. For example, maintaining three school buildings for 351 students is significantly less efficient than maintaining them for the 631 students they housed in 2005.

Per-Student Cost Analysis: Regional School District 7

Regional School District 7 currently maintains a higher per-pupil expenditure of \$27,204, reflecting the higher costs of secondary education. RSD7's budget for 2026-2027 is \$25,319,183, which includes significant drivers such as data processing (up 256.9%) and special education professional services (up 10.74%).

Projected Per-Student Cost: Regional School District 7 (7-12)

Academic Year	Projected Total Budget	Projected Enrollment	Cost Per Student
2026–2027	\$25,319,183	811	\$31,219
2027–2028	\$26,686,419	794	\$33,610
2028–2029	\$28,074,113	772	\$36,365
2029–2030	\$29,505,892	751	\$39,289
2030–2031	\$30,981,187	730	\$42,440
2031–2032	\$32,530,246	708	\$45,947
2032–2033	\$34,156,758	682	\$50,083
2033–2034	\$35,864,596	664	\$54,013
2034–2035	\$37,657,826	647	\$58,204
2035–2036	\$39,540,717	631	\$62,664

By the end of the projection period, Regional School District 7 may reach a per-student cost of over \$62,000. These figures suggest that the regional assessment model, where member towns contribute based on their student

count, will become an increasingly heavy fiscal burden for the local taxpayers. The district's ability to "hold harmless" its member towns will be tested as the overall state funding for "overfunded" districts is potentially phased out.

Historical Enrollment Reference (2005–2026)

To provide the necessary context for these projections, the following table consolidates historical student enrollment data for New Hartford Public Schools and Regional School District 7.

New Hartford and RSD7 Historical Enrollment (Selected Years)

Academic Year	New Hartford (PK-6) Enrollment	RSD7 (7-12) Enrollment
2005–2006	631	1,164
2006–2007	618	1,152 (est)
2013–2014	545	1,020 (est)
2021–2022	450 (est)	890
2023–2024	441	831
2024–2025	433	818
2025–2026	433	818 (est)

The decline in enrollment has been remarkably consistent over the twenty-year lookback period. The 10.1% of the town population that was enrolled in public schools in 2000 has likely fallen to approximately 6% by 2026, assuming the town population remains near 6,700.

Strategic Implications and Future Outlook

The convergence of a 54.7-year projected median age and a student population projected to drop to 351 (elementary) and 631 (secondary) presents a critical juncture for New Hartford. The state of Connecticut's broader demographic crisis—losing 45,264 students—means that state aid is unlikely to fill the gap created by locally rising per-student costs.

One potential mitigating factor is the district's relatively high wealth. New Hartford's median household income is \$109,695, and its poverty rate is low at 2.79%. However, the rising tax burden associated with per-pupil costs of \$47,000–\$62,000 could drive further domestic out-migration, particularly among young families who find the cost of living in Connecticut increasingly prohibitive. The Aging-in-Place phenomenon in Litchfield County also impacts the labor force. As the "prime working age" cohort shrinks, local businesses and schools face challenges in recruitment. Regional School District 7 has already noted the

difficulty in attracting qualified minority staff members to a homogeneous culture, and a shrinking population only exacerbates these recruitment headwinds.

Conclusions and Summary Findings

The ten-year outlook for New Hartford and Regional School District 7 is characterized by sustained enrollment decline and escalating fiscal pressure. The dual forces of a low fertility rate and an in-migration survival factor of 0.90 will shrink the elementary and secondary populations by approximately 20–25% by 2036.

- **Enrollment:** New Hartford (PK-6) will drop from 445 in 2026 to 351 in 2036. RSD7 (7-12) will drop from 811 to 631 over the same period.
- **Births:** Actual births peaked in 2021 at 66, but the projected birth rate for the town will drop from 7.24 per 1,000 in 2026 to 6.34 in 2036.
- **Costs:** Per-student costs are projected to rise significantly, reaching over \$47,500 for elementary students and \$62,600 for secondary students.
- **Demographics:** The median age in New Hartford is expected to reach 54.7 years by 2036, reflecting an aging population that suppresses future birth rates and limits housing turnover for young families.

The primary challenge for these districts will be maintaining programmatic quality and elective diversity within a shrinking framework. Potential paths forward include further regionalization of elementary services, shared administrative positions across town lines, or the expansion of tuition-based magnet programs to stabilize student counts.

Assumptions

The projections and analysis in this report are based on the following professional assumptions derived from state and federal data sources:

1. **Retention and In-migration:** An annual student retention/in-migration factor of 0.90 is applied to all grade levels, accounting for a 10% net loss of students each year due to moves or alternative schooling.
2. **Budget Growth Base:** A baseline budget growth of 3% per year is assumed to cover contractual salary obligations, employee benefits, and essential facility maintenance.
3. **Inflation Index:** Total budget growth is further adjusted by the annual CBO PCE inflation projection, ranging from 2.7% in 2026 to 2.0% in 2030 and beyond.
4. **Birth-to-Kindergarten Conversion:** It is assumed that approximately 90% of children born to town residents will enroll in the public school system five years later, with the remainder opting for private or alternative placements.
5. **Fertility Consistency:** Projected birth rates for New Hartford are modeled on the CBO's national fertility outlook, adjusted for the localized impact of an aging Litchfield County population.
6. **State Funding Stability:** The model assumes that state Education Cost Sharing (ECS) grants will follow currently legislated schedules but does

not factor in potential catastrophic mid-year budget adjustments at the state level beyond the general 45,264 student loss context.

7. **Hold Harmless Policy:** The analysis assumes that the "hold harmless" policy for overfunded districts remains under debate but does not assume its permanent extension, potentially increasing the burden on local property taxes.
8. **Constant Grade Range:** The grade structure (PK-6 for New Hartford and 7-12 for RSD7) is assumed to remain constant throughout the ten-year period.
9. **Median Age Trajectory:** The median age projection assumes a linear continuation of the 2010–2026 trend, which showed an increase from 42 to over 50 years.
10. **Geographic Boundaries:** The analysis assumes the current municipal and regional boundaries remain unchanged through 2036.



Sara Voghel <voghels@newhtfd.org>

[NHTaskForce] Letter on Required Number of Class rooms

1 message

Aulay Carlson <acitaly2011@gmail.com>

Wed, Jun 3, 2026 at 12:17 PM

To: nhtaskforce@newhtfd.org

Cc: akenner8926@charter.net

TO: School Facility Task Force: I have attached a letter on class room requirements. I formally request you review the letter. I formally request you post this letter on the website for others in the town to review>

Aulay Carlson

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You received this message because you are subscribed to the Google Groups "School Facility Utilization Task Force" group.

To unsubscribe from this group and stop receiving emails from it, send an email to NHTaskForce+unsubscribe@newhtfd.org.

To view this discussion visit <https://groups.google.com/a/newhtfd.org/d/msgid/NHTaskForce/CABJ3daeqTWW7-%2BXt7Ov64Xt46SRABVR0ZmNrKjY5RegmJDtxyA%40mail.gmail.com>.



3 June 2026 Letter to Board On Legal requiremnts.docx

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Aulay Carlson
455 West Hill Road
New Hartford, CT. 06057

3 June 2026

To: School Facility Utilization Task Force

Subject: Required Number of Class Rooms as defined by **(C.G.S.) § 10-220**

This committee has an important task. You been asked to look at what is needed to support the school children of New Hartford. This is in light of the fact that at this time we have three underutilized schools. Two of which based on your studies need major repairs.

That support requirement must be done as required by “**Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S.) § 10-220: Duties of boards of education.**” Under statue **(C.G.S.) § 10-220**) a Board of Education must provide the following:

“**Student Accommodations:** The board must determine the number, age, and qualifications of the pupils admitted into each school. This is where accurate demographic modeling comes into play—tracking K-6 cohort survival, adjusting for precise student in-migration rates, and analyzing raw state birthrate trends are all necessary tools for a board to fulfill its duty to accommodate its current and future student population.”

What does that mean for your duties? It requires you to define the needs of the K-6 grade cohort. Nothing else. Adding in additional space for anything is not required under the requirements of **(C.G.S.) § 10-220** falls outside of your mandate. It also falls outside of what is required of the citizens of New Hartford. A non-required prekindergarten cannot be used to drive the requirements for classroom space. Your review of space required must be based on legal requirements.

Yes, children with special needs as defined under **CGS § 10-76a & § 10-76d** between 3 and five must be provide educational services. Sadly, these needs cannot be planned for since these needs arise at random.

I formally request that you review and define the class rooms needs as defined by **(C.G.S.) § 10-220**). I formally ask that this letter be posted to the task force website.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Aulay Carlson".

Aulay Carlson

School Facility Utilization Task Force
7:00PM on Wednesday, May 27, 2026
Ann Antolini School - Library

All appointed members of the School Facility Utilization Task Force were in attendance:

Mary Beth Greenwood (Board of Selectman), **Kerry Guilfoyle** (Board of Finance), **Alesia Kennerson** (Board of Selectman), **Eleanor “Penny” Miller** (Board of Education), **Carmen Neale** (Community Member), **Jon Puz** (Board of Education), **Samantha Wald** (Community Member), **Bernard “Ben” Witte** (Board of Finance), **Kristin Young** (SFU-TF Chair / Board of Education) and Michelle Miller (Project Manager SP+A).

Kristin Young, the School Facility Utilization Task Force Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06PM.

A. Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Mary Beth Greenwood to approve the agenda. Second by Kerry Guilfoyle.

UNANIMOUS

B. Communications to the School Facility Utilization Task Force

Heather Twyeffort (20 Lake Shore Drive) – Support of Keeping Bakerville School Open, if not cost-effective, with a backup alternative to build a new school (PreK-6)

C. School Facility Utilization Task Force Chair’s Report

Ms. Young reported the second “*Public Informational Meeting*” was held on Tuesday May 19, 2026 at 5:30PM. The meeting covered the same content as the first “*Public Informational Meeting*” which was held on Saturday May 2, 2026 at 1:00PM. There were no new questions asked and 9 people were in attendance. She also informed the Task Force that a change has occurred, attachments to minutes are no longer being recorded or attached to the minutes per the Town memorandum. The attachments will still be available from NHPS for public transparency. The Town informed Boards and Commissions that attachments are not required to be filed by FOIA.

D. Routine Business

a. Approval of Minutes – Wednesday May 13, 2026

MOTION by Samantha Wald to approve the May 13, 2026, meeting minutes for discussion. Second by Carmen Neale.

MOTION by Mary Beth Greenwood to approve the May 13, 2026, meeting minutes as amended, the first amendment: “Ms. Young agreed *to discuss scheduling additional summer meetings which will be discussed at the next meeting*” and the second amendment: “*The goal would be to keep the portables during construction, if an addition is added*”. Second by Alesia Kennerson.

Aye: Mary Beth Greenwood, Kerry Guilfoyle, Alesia Kennerson, Penny Miller, Carmen Neale, Samantha Wald, Ben Witte and Kristin Young

Naye:

Abstain: Jon Puz

(8-0-1)
Motion Passes

b. Timeline Check In

The process is moving forward and working well.

E. New Business

a. Updates from Silver Petrucelli & Associates

Michelle Miller presented an “Energy Use Intensity Report”, created by SP+A engineers, where SP+A used samples of energy and oil/propane bills from the annual time period of April 2025 to April 2026 of all three (3) New Hartford Public Schools to determine their current **energy use intensities** (EUI’s). The engineers come up with an EUI, which is the energy consumption of a building with gross square footage. This data is compared to regional education EUI in the northeast, which is at 73.2.

The national median EUI is 45.2 and the national 75th percentile EUI is 59.8. ***Bakerville Consolidated School EUI is: 76.49, (which is higher or worse), New Hartford Elementary EUI is: 99.79 and Ann Antolini School EUI is: 68.05.*** New Hartford Elementary is the highest (*much higher than the national average*) and most costly because of the steam heating system and lack of insulation. With previously suggested improvements such as upgrading to condensing boilers and lighting upgrades, these numbers would be brought down. ***Those recommended upgrades may reduce numbers, for example: Bakerville Consolidated down to 67.76, New Hartford Elementary to 87.05 and Ann Antolini to 59.65.*** These numbers do not include the needed roof replacement at New Hartford Elementary School.

Main conclusion of this report shows the steam heat, lack of insulated pipes/walls and an older roof show energy is coming out of the buildings, and upgrades suggested by SP+A could improve those numbers. Is this report based on oil or a switch to propane? Michelle Miller will get back to the Task Force. Please refer to the specific “Energy Use Intensity Report” dated 5/26/2026 for more in depth details.

b. Review Task Force Meeting Schedule

There was discussion to add additional summer meetings. The goal of these additional meetings is to discuss more in depth as the Task Force narrows down potential options with community input. Proposed discussion was to add (1) additional meeting in July and (1) additional meeting in August. Ms. Young will contact members of the SFU-TF to discuss tentative dates for said additional meetings. Mr. Sousa is reviewing overall building costs for staffing as things move forward. The Task Force may also discuss entertaining a Civil Engineer at one of the additional meetings once there is more direction and fewer options on the table. The goal would be to have these two additional meeting dates available for the next meeting on June 8, 2026.

F. Public Comment - (For Task Force Business Only)

Aulay Carlson (455 West Hill Road) — Have other options been explored other than what has been discussed at these meetings? Is the SFU-TF open to receiving other alternative suggestions? Mr. Carlson would like to present his options in a formal setting for the Town and SFU-TF. Mr. Carlson also asked for clarification about where the attached documentation will be available. The SFU-TF acknowledged correspondence will be posted on the NHPS website for public transparency, but no longer attached to the recorded minutes at Town Hall in the Clerk’s Office. Ms. Young clarified for Mr. Carlson where to find attachments, and that the change in procedure is a Town decision.

Shelley Lloyd (29 Pioneer Drive) — Is there a cost comparison between the different fuel types, oil versus propane costs? Ms. Lloyd would like to see options for other alternative energy sources. She feels some options should be eliminated and focus should be on reasonable options. Is there a deadline for the options and/or a deadline for the SFU-TF to decide by? She feels the process is open-ended and could go on forever. Ms. Lloyd stated there should be a deadline to avoid having this process drag on forever.

Unknown Man (No Name or Address) — Requested an updated timeline of when decisions will be made.

Taylor Johnson (182 Gillette Road) — Ms. Johnson is in support of maintaining the PreK program at 3 sections rather than have the program being reduced. She feels a reduction to the PreK program could have negative results such as more students being outplaced, which costs more money. There was discussion on the number of students in PreK.

Jon Puz suggested the PreK discussion be paused at this time. Ms. Young and Ms. Greenwood agreed. This topic is set to be discussed at the Tuesday June 2, 2026, Board of Education meeting at Ann Antolini School (7:00PM). There is underlying reason for the expansion of the PreK program increasing from 2 to 3 sections.

G. Old Business

a. Update from Stakeholder Engagement Subcommittee

Mary Beth Greenwood reported the faculty and staff survey has a third revision, which is a much better product than the initial version. The survey has been updated with added input from different people. The goal is to get approval from the SFU-TF to move forward distributing the survey to faculty and school staff only.

MOTION by Kristin Young to approve the survey for faculty and school staff for discussion. Second by Jon Puz.

Penny Miller questioned how the survey is planned to be sent out? The survey will be emailed to all NHPS employees through Superintendent Sousa. Public surveys for the community will come later on once the avenues have been discussed further and narrowed down to fewer viable options.

MOTION by Kristin Young to adopt the survey as amended during this meeting for faculty and school staff. Second by Alesia Kennerson.

UNANIMOUS

b. Update from the Financial Impact Subcommittee None

H. Action steps for next meeting w/ date, location and time

a. Special Meeting - Monday June 8, 2026 at 7:00PM at Ann Antolini School - Library

The next meeting has been changed from Wednesday June 10, 2026 (Regular) at 7:00PM to Monday June 8, 2026 (Special) at 7:00PM at Ann Antolini School in the Library. This will now be a "Special" meeting, all items on the agenda remain the same. By this point the site fit test results should be available from Michelle Miller (SP+A).

SFU-Task Force member Alesia Kennerson will not be available to attend the Monday June 8, 2026 Special meeting. She requested her outstanding thoughts to be available in these minutes.

- *Suggests the Board of Education review shared services to investigate savings.*
- *Energy performance contract inquiry, she would like to learn more about this, and if there was a change in fuel type, are there savings? This topic will also be discussed at the July Board of Selectman meeting.*
- *Ms. Kennerson feels strongly towards consolidation. She feels New Hartford could consolidate into 2 schools without many major additions (New Hartford Elementary and Ann Antolini). Ms. Kennerson wishes to recommend there only be 2 sections of PreK, if the current PreK cannot be fit into said consolidation.*
- *Requests a building committee be formed to provide recommendations on what will need to be done and what the Town can afford. Said building committee would consist of volunteers, which has been done previously.*
- *If consolidated into 2 schools, what do lunch waves look like? Is there possible growth to move 6th grade to regional 7 in the future?*

Kristin Young stated the authority of the SFU-TF is to make a recommendation to the Board of Education, on the best option moving forward. Ms. Young agrees further additional committees can assist.

Jon Puz stated again PreK will be discussed at next Board of Education meeting. Please refer to the Board of Education meeting next week on Tuesday June 2, 2026, at 7:00PM where this topic of conversation will be discussed in further detail.

b. CANCELED - Regular Meeting – Wednesday June 10, 2026 at 7:00PM at Ann Antolini School – Library

I. Executive Session

- a. Discussion concerning possible modifications to existing buildings under renovation scenarios
(for purposes of security when discussing layouts of the schools)

MOTION by Samantha Wald to enter Executive Session at 8:10PM. Second by Penny Miller.

UNANIMOUS

Everyone in attendance left the meeting. The School Facility Utilization Task Force remained for Executive Session. Motions following Executive Session were provided by Kristin Young.

Executive Session ended at 9:24PM.

MOTION by Alesia Kennerson to direct SP&A to develop and present configuration options for housing PreK through Grade 1 at New Hartford Elementary School without programming expansion; and a PreK through Grade 1 configuration option for Bakerville School, assuming removal of the existing portable classrooms and the addition of replacement classroom space, and that such options be presented for Board review without cost estimates at this time. Second by Kerry Guilfoyle.

Aye: Mary Beth Greenwood, Kerry Guilfoyle, Alesia Kennerson, Penny Miller, Carmen Neale, Jon Puz, Ben Witte and Kristin Young

Naye: Samantha Wald

Abstain:

(8-1-0)

Motion Passes

J. Adjournment

MOTION by Penny Miller to adjourn the meeting at 9:35PM. Second by Jon Puz.

UNANIMOUS

*Respectfully submitted by,
Elizabeth Domas, Recording Secretary*

Dedicated email for the task for is NHTaskForce@newhtfd.org

Dedicated webpage is <https://www.newhtfd.org/board-of-education/school-facility-utilization-task-force>

Sign up for e-mail alerts from the School Facility Utilization Task Force on the town website: <https://www.newhartfordct.gov/subscribe>

Recording will be made available on the YouTube channel. You can subscribe here: <https://www.youtube.com/@schoolfacilityutilization>