LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

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

Regular Board of Education Meeting
June 3, 2026

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

Absent by Previous Arrangement:

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: Five 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
MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. McCollum, to approve the consent agenda which included the following items:

- Participation in State and Federal Grants
  To authorize the Superintendent of Schools to apply for, receive and otherwise act as the legal representative of Regional School District No. 18 in connection with the following State and Federal Grants along with any other grants he deems appropriate:
  Adult Education
  Handicapped Preschool Incentive – Section 619 Education of the Handicapped Act
  National School Lunch Program

Open Choice Attendance
Title I Improving Basic Programs
Title II Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting
Title VI Part B of the Education of the Handicapped Act PL 94-142
Carl D. Perkins
School Transportation
Science and Technology
Investing and Personal Finance

- Superintendent Appointment of Designee(s) per Policy 2131.1
  To designate Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum, and Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services, as the designees to act in the absence of the Superintendent per Policy 2131.1.

- Food Service Management Contract
  To approve the Food Service Contract between Regional School District #18 and Chartwells for the 2026-2027 school year.

- Approval of Minutes
  To approve the minutes of District Budget Meeting Minutes of May 4, 2026 Regular Meeting of May 6, 2026, Executive Session Meeting of May 6, 2026, and as presented.

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

III. Visitors

1. Recognition of Crew Team – State Champions

Members of the boys and girls crew team were recognized by the Board for their state championship season.

2. Recognition of Retirees

The following staff members, who are retiring this year, were recognized for their years of service to the district:
Leslie Traver – 30 years

Richard Fisler – 7 years

Tracy Lenz – 14 years

Susan Oliver – 31 years

Kathy Mulligan – 27 years

Lisa McDermott – 21 years

3. Student Representatives Isabella Presti and Ainsley Rinoski reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:
At LOLHS: This past month has been full of exciting events and accomplishments! Juniors and Seniors enjoyed a memorable Prom on May 16 at the Pequot Museum. The following week, students showed their school spirit during Spirit Week, participating in fun activities such as Jersey Day, Twin Day, and more. Spring Spirit Week and Field Day continued to bring students together, strengthen school pride, and create lasting memories as the school year winds down. The Latin Society also hosted a successful book drive. On May 19, 33 students were inducted into the Spanish, French, Chinese, and Latin Honor Societies, while 34 students were inducted into the National Honor Society on May 20. Congratulations to all of these outstanding students! The Senior Class kicked off its end-of-year celebrations with a fun trip to Six Flags and will begin exams tomorrow, with the rest of the school following next week. As the year comes to a close, excitement continues to build for Graduation on June 11. We look forward to celebrating the Class of 2026 and all they have accomplished! Thank you!

At LOLMS: As we approach the end of another successful school year, our middle school continues to be filled with excitement, celebration, and memorable experiences for students. Our spring athletic teams wrapped up their seasons yesterday, and both our Band and Chorus programs showcased their hard work and talent through outstanding year-end concerts. This Friday, our 7th and 8th grade Band and Chorus students will travel to Six Flags New England to participate in the "Music in the Parks" festival, while our IMPACT students will enjoy a trip to Mystic Aquarium. Additional end-of-year activities include trips to Adventure Park at the Discovery Museum, Roger Williams Park Zoo, Ocean Beach Park, and our annual 8th grade lock-in. We are also looking forward to our 6th grade Quinceañera celebration and the 8th grade promotion on June 18th in the high school auditorium. Academically, students continue to remain focused as the year comes to a close. Our 8th grade Algebra and Spanish students will complete their final exams, while our 7th graders prepare for the annual Bookies Showcase, highlighting creative presentations connected to books they have read throughout the year. We are incredibly proud of our students and staff for making this such a positive and successful school year.

Elementary: At both elementary schools, we are preparing for many of those annual culminating events and celebrations. Our fifth graders came together for a District-wide band and choral concert in the middle of May and our third and fourth grade students are performing for their families at each school this week. Field Day schedules are created and preparations for the 5th grade promotion ceremonies are underway. We are holding orientation events for families of incoming kindergarteners tomorrow evening at both schools. Our MTSS teams have been holding meetings to review student's data and progress in order to inform the startup of the school year in September. At Lyme, students ran the final mile of the Kids Marathon yesterday afternoon. There were over 65 students who participated this year! Leading up to the final mile, students document their running distances at home, before school, and during recess, working to collect 25 miles before the final 4 laps on the High School track. At Mile Creek, the fifth-grade musical, "The Granny Awards" was performed for students, staff and families last week. Fifth-grade students took their class trip to Camp Hazen and are looking forward to their class picnic at Town Woods. We will be having our last, school-wide community meeting for the year on Monday.

In the Preschool Program: May was a busy and exciting month at the preschool! We welcomed the Connecticut Audubon Society for its final visit of the year. During the program, students learned about

how birds build nests, care for their young, and learn to fly. We also enjoyed our monthly walking field trip to the Phoebe Griffin Noyes Library and were thrilled to welcome our middle school Book Buddies for one last visit this school year. In addition, students enjoyed a special performance by the middle school's "Good Morning Club," which was a wonderful way to celebrate our school community. Families also have the opportunity to attend Kindergarten Orientation tomorrow afternoon, where they will learn more about the exciting experiences that await their children next year. As we head into June, we are looking forward to celebrating a wonderful year together at our End-of-Year Celebration on Friday, June 12th. Thank you for helping make this such a positive and memorable preschool experience at Center School. We are grateful for your support throughout the year!

Mr. Kemp recognized Isabella Presti and Ainsley Rinoski; student representatives, who served at the BOE meetings throughout the year and expressed his appreciation and thanks for their contributions.

4. Public Comment

No public comments.

IV. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

V. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

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

Vacancies 2026-2027	
Assistant Principal 0.8 FTE/Principal 0.2 FTE	LOLMS/Center School
Special Education Coordinator (0.4 FTE)/Special Education Teacher (0.6 FTE)	Transition Program/Mile Creek School
Special Education Teacher (Long-Term Substitute)	LOLMS
Instructional Assistants	PreK, Elementary, Middle and High School levels
Secretary (10 Month Position)	LOLHS

Appointments			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Marta Solla	Custodian	Lyme Consolidated	May 27, 2026
Edward Carroll	Business Teacher	LOLHS	August 24, 2026

Noah Ventola	Principal	LOLMS	July 1, 2026

Retirements			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Susan Oliver	Third Grade Teacher	Mile Creek	June 30, 2026
Kathy Mulligan	Second Grade Teacher	Mile Creek	June 30, 2026
Tracy Lenz	Director of School Counseling	LOLHS	August 28, 2026
Lisa McDermott	First Grade Teacher	Lyme Consolidated	June 30, 2026
Mary Dargie	SRBI Specialist	Lyme Consolidated	June 30, 2026
Leslie Traver	Business Teacher	LOLHS	June 30, 2026
Richard Fisler	Science Teacher	LOLHS	June 30, 2026

Resignations			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Mark Ambruso	Principal	LOLMS	June 30, 2026
Joanna Gillia	Secretary	LOLHS	June 2, 2026

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

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of May 31, 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	$27,967,003
Town of Lyme	$6,177,505

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. No new spending in the month of May.

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.* No Report
d. *Policy*. No Report
e. *LEARN*. No Report
f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. No Report

g. *PreK-8 Building Committee*. The month of May gave us some mixed weather to be sure, but the warm spell allowed us the opportunity to start up the new air conditioning functions on the HVAC systems at Lyme School, Center School and Middle School. As you might expect given our experience during the winter heating season, there were rooms that were either too hot or too cold, so troubleshooting is now in progress. There were a few minor new equipment failures and glitches which need resolution. Some of the issues were related to the control settings and need to be adjusted. At all three HVAC schools, the control systems will be tested to determine that the HVAC roof top units shut down automatically if the fire alarm goes off. This is an important precaution because, in the event of an actual fire, smoke from one portion of the building would not be pumped into other parts of the building. Additionally, simulated power outages are being staged to ensure that the HVAC systems will continue to function under generator power. This month, we anticipate that the budgets will be closed out on the three HVAC schools (excluding Mile Creek). Any contingency monies that remain unspent will automatically roll over for use on completion of the Mile Creek School project. Because Center School is a historic building, the Old Lyme Historical Society had input into the look of the new outer vestibule door in that building. This door was custom designed and, as such, took a long time to get delivered. It will be installed as one of the final construction components for Center School when school ends in a few weeks. At Mile Creek School, the construction supervisor there has been working closely with our Superintendent, our Director of Facilities, and the MCS building administrators to maximize the amount of work they can do in advance of the summer construction season. Recently, Downes Construction put in a paved asphalt sidewalk and patched an area of the playground which was considered a safety hazard. In Phase 5 of Mile Creek School (classrooms near the front by the bus loop), all of the old unit ventilators in those classrooms have been removed or are in the process of being removed. Preparations are underway to place the new roof top units on this section of the building as soon as possible (without students in the building due to the use of a crane). Replacement of all the distorted glass in the windows on the MCS addition will occur once school ends, at the subcontractor's expense. Finally, while some of the summer work will revolve around outdoor finish paving and sitework, particularly around the parent drop off, the bulk of the interior work will be in Phase 7 (the cafeteria, music room, art room). Downes Construction very clearly understands that having the cafeteria back on line for the new school year is the top priority for the school district. Representatives for RD #18 continue our weekly meetings with the construction, design, and commissioning teams. This team includes the Superintendent, the Director of Facilities and his associate Brian Howe, myself as Building Committee Chair, and Alan Sheiness from Lyme. Each month, we report out to the full Building Committee and ultimately to the Board of Education. I can say with some confidence that this weekly oversight has led to better outcomes on both the construction and financial aspects of a project with many moving pieces.

Mr. Kemp reported that the CABE/CAPSS Convention will be held November 20–21, 2026 and noted upcoming CABE webinars and opportunities for board members if interested. Mrs. Shyloski attended the legislative wrap-up and reported that it provided valuable information that she will share with the Board.

1. Proposed Price Increase to Student Lunches
Holly McCalla explained the Food Services Department continues to offer a variety of student engagement programs, including the Mood Boost initiative, special breakfast promotions, participation incentives, themed fun days, pizza-making activities with Unified Buddies, and celebrations of National School Lunch and Breakfast Weeks. Farm-to-School efforts include tasting events, special menus, and a Pre-K Farmers Market program, which was featured at the SNACT conference. Farmer Matt tasting events will expand to both Lyme Consolidated and Mile Creek next year, and Food Services Director Sam served as a guest speaker at the Farm to School Conference. Chartwell's also adopted a cow, at no cost, giving students a fun opportunity to follow its progress. Mrs. McCalla reported that universal free breakfast will be available next year. The Paid Lunch Equity Tool indicated a need for a $0.10 lunch price increase, primarily due to inflation.

MOTION: Mr. Lowry made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Fogliano, to approve the Proposed Price Increase to Student Lunches as presented.

Mrs. Shyloski asked about unpaid meal balances. It was reported that while some unpaid balances exist, there is not a significant amount of debt. Collection opportunities are limited, but balances are monitored and followed up on regularly. Approximately 15–20% of students qualify for free or reduced-price meals.

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

2. Approval of Tuition Student: 7th Grade 2026-2027 School Year
Mr. Neviaser reviewed a tuition student request for a 7th grade student at LOLMS.

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. McCollum, to approve the tuition student request as presented.

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

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

IX. Executive Session
Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Fogliano, to move into executive session for the purpose of interviewing for the Assistant Principal at Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School 0.8 FTE / Principal at Center School 0.2 FTE Position. Mr. Neviaser and the candidate were invited to attend the executive

session.

The Board reconvened into open session at 8:25 p.m.

MOTION: Mrs. McCollum made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to approve Andrea Montovani as the Assistant Principal at Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School 0.8 FTE / Principal at Center School 0.2 FTE.

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

Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Fogliano, to move into executive session for the purpose of discussing the superintendent's evaluation and the Central Office administrative contracts at 8:28 p.m. Mr. Neviaser was invited to attend the executive session.

The Board of Education reconvened into open session at 9:26 p.m.

MOTION: Mrs. Fogliano made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Brown, to approve the Evaluation of the Superintendent

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

MOTION: Mrs. McCollum made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James, to approve the 2026-2029 Superintendent Contract.

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

MOTION: Mr. Lowry made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shyloski, to approve the 2026-2029 Director of Facilities Contract.

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

MOTION: Mrs. James made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. McCollum, to approve the 2026-2029 Business Manager Contract.

VOTE: the Board voted unanimously in favor of the motion

Upon a motion by Mrs. Fogliano and seconded by Mrs. McCollum, the meeting was adjourned at 9:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Gavin Lodge, Secretary