

S.C. MINUTES

Hoosac Valley Regional School Committee
School Committee Meeting
May 18, 2026 - 6:30 p.m.
Hoosac Valley High School, Resource Center, 125 Savoy Road, Cheshire, MA

PRESENT: Erin Milne, John Duval, Robert Tetlow, Fred Lora, Tracey Tierney, Kyle Malloy, Daniel Barnes

ABSENT:

OTHERS: Aaron Dean, Kristen Palatt

104462 **Call to Order - Aaron Dean called the meeting to order at 6:30.**

104463 **Reorganization of Committee**

A. **Election of Chairman** - Nominations were opened for District Chairperson. Erin and Fred were nominated. Erin highlighted her six years of experience on the School Committee, her professional background in higher education technology and assessment, and her involvement in ongoing initiatives including the Northern Berkshire Regionalization effort. Fred emphasized goals centered on transparency, establishing a shared understanding of conflict-of-interest laws, and promoting a collaborative process for setting committee agendas.

MOTION: Following a roll call vote, Fred was elected Chairperson of the School Committee.
VOTED: The vote was 4 to 3

B. **Election of Vice Chairman** - Nominations were opened for Vice Chairperson. It was noted that the position traditionally alternates between representatives from Adams and Cheshire to maintain balanced town representation. Tracey was nominated.

MOTION: On Motion of Robert Tetlow and second by Erin Milne
VOTED: To approve Tracey Tierney as Vice Chair. The vote was unanimous.

C. **Election of Treasurer** - The Business Manager Erica introduced Camille ("Cami") La Mica as the nominee to succeed retiring District Treasurer Dick Jetty effective June 30. Cami currently serves as treasurer for the Southern Berkshire, Bay Path Regional, and Dudley-Charlton school districts.

Erica clarified the distinction between the roles of Business Manager and Treasurer. The Business Manager oversees daily financial operations, budgeting, and planning, while the Treasurer serves as an independent overseer responsible for cash transactions, borrowing, warrants, and audits. The Treasurer role requires approximately two to three hours every other week. Cami will shadow Dick through the month of June.

MOTION: On Motion of John Duval and second by Danny
VOTED: To approve the appointment of Camie Lamica, CPA. The vote was unanimous.

D. **Election of Assistant Treasurer** - Fred was nominated by Erin Milne and unanimously elected Assistant Treasurer to serve as legal signer in the absence of the Treasurer.

MOTION: On Motion of Erin Milne and second by Kyle Malloy
VOTED: To approve Fred Lora as Assistant Treasurer. The vote was unanimous.

E. **Election of Secretary** - Superintendent Aaron Dean

MOTION: On Motion of Fred Lora and second by Kyle Malloy
VOTED: To approve the election of Aaron Dean as Secretary. The vote was unanimous.

F. **Election of District Counsel** - The Committee reviewed the existing contract with Russel Dupere, Dupere Law Offices, which has served as district counsel since 2020 handling labor matters, warrants, and legal mediation services under a \$1,500 monthly retainer.

G. **Appointment of Sub-Committees** - Fred noted that five of the seven committee members are either new or serving their first term. Members were asked to review the proposed subcommittee assignments distributed via email and provide feedback directly to Fred or Aaron. Subcommittee appointments will be finalized at the June 15 meeting.

104464 **Public Comment or Questions** - None

104465 **Approval of Minutes - April 27, 2026**

MOTION: On Motion of Erin Milne and second by John Duval

VOTED: To approve April 27, 2026 meeting minutes. The vote was 5 - 0 - 2 abstained

104466 **Report of Business Manager** - .

A. Authorization to Borrow - That the District Treasurer be authorized under the provisions of General Laws Chapter 71, Section 16 (g), as amended by Chapter 134 of the Acts of 1972, and with the approval of the Chairman of the District Committee, to borrow money from time to time in anticipation of revenue for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, and to issue a note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year in accordance with General Laws, Chapter 44.

Erica explained that although borrowing has not been necessary since Chapter 70 funds shifted to monthly payments, maintaining the authorization remains an important legal safeguard

MOTION: On Motion of TraceyTierney and second by John Duval

VOTED: To approve authorization to borrow. The vote was unanimous.

104467 **Report of Sub Committees** - An update was provided on ongoing contract negotiations, which continue to take place through the negotiations subcommittee and union representatives. Discussions are ongoing and progress is being made, although no specific timeline for completion was provided. Because negotiations remain active, details of the discussions cannot be publicly shared until a tentative agreement is reached.

The approval process for any tentative agreement was reviewed. Once an agreement is reached, it will undergo a thorough review to ensure all negotiated changes and contract language accurately reflect the parties' intentions. Legal counsel will review the document as needed, and the agreement will be presented for discussion before being brought forward for formal ratification in open session. Depending on the timing of negotiations, a special meeting may be necessary to allow adequate review before the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The discussion highlighted that reaching a tentative agreement is only one step in the process. Significant work remains afterward to review contract language, incorporate agreed-upon changes, and confirm that all provisions are properly documented before final approval. Communication with membership and other stakeholders will occur as appropriate once a tentative agreement is ready for consideration.

While there is hope that negotiations could be completed before the end of June, no commitment was made regarding a final timeline. Progress will depend on continued discussions and resolution of the remaining issues. It was also noted that if a successor agreement is not finalized before the current contract expires, the existing contract will remain in effect until a new agreement is negotiated and approved, ensuring continuity of contractual terms and protections throughout the process.

Overall, the update reflected cautious optimism regarding progress while recognizing that negotiations remain ongoing and subject to further review and discussion before any final agreement can be reached.

Maintenance subcommittees are expected in June. A coordination meeting will be scheduled within the next two weeks to review updates, finalize the maintenance plan, and align on next steps, including the gym, grounds and everything maintenance.

104468 **Communications** - Kristen Palatt requested approval for a high school Career Pathways Field trip. Approximately 20–30 students in the Business, Marketing, and Finance pathway will tour the Amazon Fulfillment Center in Windsor, Connecticut on June 10. It was noted that the Windsor facility is the only heavily robotized Amazon fulfillment center in New England. The trip will be fully funded through the Innovation Career Pathway Experience Grant at no cost to students or the district.

MOTION: On Motion of John Duval and second by Fred Duval

VOTED: To approve field trip. The vote was unanimous

104469 **Report of Superintendent** - The committee reviewed the proposed 2026–2027 academic calendar, which includes staff returning during the week of August 24:

- August 24: New Teacher Induction

- August 25–27: Full Staff Professional Development Days
- Good Friday may change depending on contract and snow days.

Committee members requested corrections to:

- Clarify whether classes resume on January 4 or 5, the 4th was clarified
 - Explicitly identify the June 18 Juneteenth closure
- The amended calendar was approved.

MOTION:

On Motion of Erin Milne and second by Tracey Milne

VOTED: To approve 2026-2027 calendar. The vote was unanimous

104470 Chairman's Report - None

104471 Unfinished Business - None

104472 New Business -

- A. To accommodate required new member training related to Open Meeting Law, agenda development, and conflict-of-interest requirements, the committee tentatively scheduled a one-day strategic planning and training retreat for Saturday, September 19 at the Mount Greylock Glen Center.
- B. The final meeting of the school year, on June 15 will focus on:
 - District and school improvement data assessments
 - Literacy planning updates
 - Standards-based grading triangulation data

Erica will also present a preliminary May month-end fiscal status report prior to the official fiscal close later in the summer.

104473 Action Items -

The following upcoming events were announced::

- Adaptive Games — Thursday, May 21 at 9:30 AM at the track
- Memorial Day Ceremony and Fire Marshal visits — Friday/Monday schedule
- Class Night and Graduation — Reserved front-row seating will be available for committee members; RSVPs should be coordinated through Mary Lisa

Town Meetings

- Cheshire Town Meeting — June 8
- Registered voters may vote directly from the floor
- Adams Town Meeting — June 22 at 6:00 PM

104474 For the Good of the Order - Members shared positive community highlights and recognitions, including:

- Praise for student peer support efforts during a recent presentation
- Congratulations to the Class of 2026
- Welcoming of the new board members and they extended their appreciation to be a part of the committee
- Congratulated new Chairman
- Appreciation for the high school basketball team volunteering water support during a local trail road race
- Recognition of the varsity softball team's 20–0 victory as the top seed entering Western Massachusetts tournament play

MOTION:

On Motion of Erin Milne and second by Kyle Malloy

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting 7:37 p.m. The vote was unanimous

Respectfully Submitted,

Aaron Dean, Superintendent

Mary Lisa Irizarry, Recording Secretary