

**Board of Education
Town of Windsor Locks
Regular Meeting - Minutes
August 20, 2026 5:00 pm**

Windsor Locks High School Auditorium

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Member Present: Alba Osorio, Greg Guyette, Amber Mortensen-Hurdle, Lindsay Cutler, Dennis Gragnolati (arrived at 5:10 pm)

Administrators: Shawn Parkhurst, Rebecca Bissonnette, and various members of the Leadership Team

Others: Members of the community (in person and online)

Call to Order

Chairwoman Osorio called the meeting to order at 5:06 pm in the Windsor Locks High School Auditorium.

Roll Call

Superintendent Parkhurst conducted roll call with four (4) Board members present at the time of roll call; Dennis Gragnolati arrived at 5:10 pm bringing total voting members to five (5).

Pledge of Allegiance

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance

Added Agenda Items

Greg Guyette made motion to add two agenda items: *Superintendent and Board Comments, Discussion of 9/10 Board Meeting*; seconded by Lindsay Cutler; motion passed unanimously.

Board Comments

Chairwoman Osorio thanked all the new teachers for participating in the New Staff orientation today. She commented on a correspondence to be added to the minutes. She did highlight that much of the information in the correspondence was addressed by Superintendent Parkhurst's presentation and the Board at the August 5, 2026 Board meeting.

Vice Chair Guyette asked about discussing school consolidation. After some discussion and recommendation from Superintendent Parkhurst this will be a discussion and agenda item on the 9/8 Board of Education meeting.

Superintendent Comments

Superintendent Parkhurst thanked all the 12 month employees for their work to prepare us for the opening of the 26-27 school year; thanked all that have been working diligently on the budget and their patience throughout that process; thanked WLMS and WLHS for the recent student orientation events; expressed gratitude to Dr. Bissonnette for her work and finally wished all of the Graduates of 2026 good luck as they embark on their post high school plans in the coming days.

Discussion of 9/10/26 Board Meeting

The Board discussed the conflict that members have with that date. After discussion, the Board reached consensus to move the 9/10 Board meeting to Tuesday 9/8/26 at 6:30 pm.

Public Audience:

None

Community Recognition

Superintendent Parkhurst gave thanks and appreciation to Michelle Singh for her contributions to ensure that our student athletes had the opportunity to be a part of *She Got Next* Summer Basketball League. Superintendent Parkhurst presented her with a token of appreciation and the Board thanked her for her financial support of this program.

Approval of Minutes

Chairwoman Osorio shared that she wanted to clarify that the Board does have line item control of the Board of Education budget which may have been said slightly differently or interpreted differently at the last meeting. Amber Mortensen-Hurdle made a motion to approve the minutes of August 3, 2026 & August 5, 2026; seconded by Lindsay Cutler; motion passed unanimously.

Human Resources Report

Lindsay Cutler made a motion to accept the resignations of Melissa Adams, Grace Canon, Kari Percoski, and Ben Carroll; seconded by Dennis Gagnolati; motion passed unanimously.

Appointment of Director of Pupil Services

Superintendent Parkhurst made a recommendation to the Board to approve the appointment of Mr. Jeffrey Ferranti as the Director of Pupil Services, effective August 21, 2026. Motion was made by Greg Guyette; seconded by Lindsay Cutler to approve the appointment; motion passed unanimously. Mr. Ferranti made brief comments to the Board.

CABE/CAPSS Convention

Superintendent Parkhurst shared the Fall convention information with the Board

School Liaisons 26-27

After a brief discussion the following assignments were made for 26-27:

WLHS: Greg Guyette

WLMS: Lindsay Cutler

SES: Alba Osorio

NSS: Dennis Gagnolati

PMA: Amber Mortensen-Hurdle

RISE: Amber Mortensen-Hurdle

Policy:

Greg Guyette made a motion to approve the following Policies:

1330, 5111/5112, 5114, 5138 and 5144.1; seconded by Amber Mortensen-Hurdle; passed unanimously.

Legislative Update

Superintendent Parkhurst provided the Board with the latest legislative updates and what is on the horizon for the 26-27 year and beyond.

Community Outdoor Wellness & Athletic Center

Superintendent Parkhurst provided an overview of the kickoff meeting and the plans that are underway to engage a larger committee to the work ahead. There will be forums for community engagement as the work begins and on 9/2. The Town Directors will be provided with an overview from the KBA Architectural Firm.

Opening Professional Development

Dr. Bissonnette provided an overview of the first three staff professional development days.

Public Audience

None

Executive Session

Greg Guyette made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 5:38 pm; seconded by Lindsay Cutler to include the Board and the Superintendent; motion passed unanimously.

The Board exited the Executive Session at 5:49 pm. A motion was made by Greg Guyette; seconded by Amber Mortensen-Hurdle to approve the out of town residency request as presented; motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Motion was made by Dennis Gragnolati to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 pm; seconded by Greg Guyette; passed unanimously; meeting adjourned at 5:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Parkhurst

Dear Members of the Windsor Locks Board of Education,

We are writing as concerned Windsor Locks parents and taxpayers to respectfully request that the Board conduct a comprehensive review of district leadership, including Superintendent Shawn Parkhurst, the Assistant Superintendent, and the district's principals and other administrative leadership.

This request is not based on personal dislike or a single disagreement. We believe the district's leadership structure should be evaluated objectively based on measurable results, fiscal responsibility, communication with families and staff, administrative effectiveness, and whether the district is receiving appropriate value for the significant compensation being provided.

Windsor Locks is a relatively small school district, yet substantial taxpayer's resources are devoted to administrative salaries and benefits. The superintendent's current base salary is approximately \$223,000, with additional compensation and benefits bringing the overall package considerably higher. When the compensation of the Assistant Superintendent, principals, and other administrators is considered as well, the total cost of district administration represents a significant investment by Windsor Locks taxpayers.

Given the financial pressures facing our schools and community, We believe residents have a reasonable expectation that these substantial expenditures be accompanied by strong, effective, accountable, and measurable leadership at every level.

We are asking the Board to:

1. Conduct a thorough and objective evaluation of the superintendent's performance against the goals and responsibilities established in his contract.
2. Review the performance, responsibilities, and compensation of the Assistant Superintendent and each building principal in relation to their respective roles and the needs of the district.
3. Review the total cost of district administration, including salaries, benefits, stipends, allowances, annuities, and other forms of compensation, and compare those costs with similarly sized Connecticut school districts.
4. Evaluate whether the current administrative structure is appropriately sized and organized for a district of Windsor Locks' enrollment and financial circumstances.
5. Evaluate concerns raised by parents, staff, and community members regarding district leadership, communication, decision-making, accountability, and administrative effectiveness.
6. Establish and make clear what measurable goals and expectations each member of the district's administrative leadership is currently being held to, and how the Board determines whether those goals are being met.
7. Consider whether the district is receiving an appropriate level of performance and value from its administrative leadership relative to the compensation being provided.
8. If the Board determines that any member of the administrative team is not meeting the standards expected of their position, seriously consider what corrective action is appropriate, including whether a change in leadership is warranted.

We recognize that individual personnel matters may need to be discussed in executive session and that there are legal limitations on what the Board can publicly disclose regarding individual employees. We are not asking the Board to violate those requirements. We are asking the Board to fulfill its responsibility to independently evaluate district leadership and ensure that taxpayer-funded positions are being managed responsibly and effectively.

This is ultimately about more than any one individual. It is about whether Windsor Locks has the right leadership structure, the right level of administrative spending, and the level of accountability that our students, families, staff, and taxpayers deserve.

Our community deserves confidence that decisions involving hundreds of students and millions of dollars are being made with strong leadership, transparency, fiscal responsibility, and accountability.

We respectfully request written acknowledgment of receipt of this letter and confirmation that this request for a comprehensive review of district leadership and administrative compensation will be presented to the full Board.

Also respectfully request that this letter be entered into the public record.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to the Windsor Locks community.

Sincerely,

Heather & Ryan Wilson

Concerned Windsor Locks Parents and Taxpayers

My name is Riley Wilson, and I am 10 years old and a student in Windsor Locks. I am writing this letter with the help of my parents because I am worried about the future of our schools and the students who go here.

I believe education is very important. School is not just about getting good grades. It is where we learn, make friends, play sports, join clubs, go to school events, and make memories that we will have for the rest of our lives. But I am worried that some of the things that make our school special may not be here in the future.

Sports, school activities, clubs, and school functions are important to kids. They give us something to be proud of and something to look forward to. If these things continue to disappear, what will we have to look forward to? What will our schools be like for the kids who come after us?

I am also worried that the people making decisions about our schools are not thinking enough about the future. We are the kids who will have to live with these decisions. I don't think the Board of Education should only be thinking about what works right now. They should be thinking about what our schools will look like 5, 10, and even 20 years from now.

I also feel like sometimes problems at school are not taken seriously enough. When students have concerns, we need to know that the adults in charge are listening. Our principals and school leaders should take student concerns seriously and make sure students feel heard and safe.

I am only 10 years old, but that doesn't mean my opinion doesn't matter. Kids are the ones sitting in these classrooms every day. We see what is happening in our schools. We know what we are losing, and we worry about what might be taken away next.

I am asking the Board of Education to really look at what is happening in our school system and ask if the decisions being made are truly in the best interest of the students. I think the entire Board of Education should be willing to look at what can be improved and listen to the people who are affected by these decisions—including students.

Please don't wait until there is nothing left to save. Please think about our future.

We deserve schools that we can be proud of. We deserve opportunities to learn, play sports, participate in activities, and make memories. Most importantly, we deserve adults who will listen to us and fight for our future.

Please take our schools and our future seriously.

Sincerely,
Riley Wilson
10-year-old Windsor Locks student