LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience *in a Public School Setting*

Regular Board of Education Meeting
September 2, 2026

Board Present: Jason Kemp, Chair; Anna James, Vice Chair; Gavin Lodge, Secretary; Xander Lowry; Sheryl Shyloski; Michael Hansen; Marianne DeBruyn

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Scott Brown, Cynthia McCollum

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Noah Ventola, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum; Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services; 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;, Andrea Montovani, 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: 15 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: Regular Meeting of August 5, 2026 and Special Meeting of August 12, 2026
MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James, to approve the minutes of Regular Meeting of August 5, 2026 and Special Meeting of August 12, 2026 as presented.

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

III. Visitors
1. Invention Convention Recognition

Dick Shriver and Dennis Powers of Mentoring Corps for Community Development (MCCD) presented gifts to last year's Invention Convention winners.
Jonathan Regan: WiFi Detective - An App that gives parents control over household internet use
Caroline Fuller: Netter Getter - An indoor lacrosse practice goal that returns the ball
JR LaPlante: Wallace Fire Mask - An escape mask from house fires for children
James Catucci: Sticky Plugs - A device to prevent AC plugs from wriggling loose from an outlet

2. Student Representatives
Ainsley Rinoski and Marielle Munster reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:

At LOLHS: The high school is overjoyed to welcome back new and returning students for this academic year! Starting up next Wednesday we are going to have our club and activity fair where students are able to see what LOLHS has to offer. Following, we have our back-to-school night on Thursday, with our LOLHS open house as well as our grade specific nights. Homecoming for students will take place September 26th. Additionally, fall sports have gotten into full swing with their scrimmages complete and games starting the following week. We are looking forward to a great year!

At LOLMS: We kicked off the school year with our 6th Grade Meet and Greet on August 25. Students visited the middle school to meet their homeroom teachers and take a tour. During the orientation, interested parents joined middle school staff and other parents for coffee and cookies. Following the Meet and Greet, students went to LYSB for an ice cream social to kick off middle school. Students received their paper planners during the first week of school. This year, the middle school has committed to having all students consistently use a planner to support organization and executive functioning skills. Middle school fall sports are getting underway. All of our teams will be in full swing next week, and we are excited to cheer on our athletes throughout the season. Finally, a big thank you to Mr. Turner, our custodial staff, and our technology staff for all of their work preparing for the start of school. Our building looks great, and we appreciate having technology that works reliably! Their behind-the-scenes work helped make for a smooth and successful opening of school.

Elementary: At both elementary schools, we have had a wonderful start, greeting our new and returning students for the 26-27 school year. We are deeply appreciative of the hard work of the custodial and maintenance teams over the summer in making the schools look clean and shiny! We are looking forward to welcoming our families in for Back-to-School night next Wednesday. This is an opportunity for adults to meet the teachers, learn about a typical school day and see an overview of the learning that will take place over the coming school year.

In the Preschool Program: After a busy first few days settling into our classrooms, we are off to a wonderful start at Center School! We began the school year by welcoming families for tours of Center School on the day before school opened. These tours gave students and families an opportunity to meet their teachers, explore their classrooms, visit the playground, and become familiar with all that Center School has to offer. In our classrooms, students are making new friends, learning classroom routines, and, most importantly, having fun! This month, our themes are "All About Me" and "Apples." Students will also be introduced to the letters A and B as they begin their exciting learning journey. We are looking forward to celebrating International Dot Day on September 15th by inviting everyone to wear dots to school. Later this month, we are excited to welcome our first visitors from the Connecticut Audubon

Society, who will lead students in a fun and engaging lesson exploring weather. On September 24th, we look forward to welcoming our families into Center School for Open House. This will be a wonderful opportunity for families to visit the classrooms, see their children's learning spaces, and learn more about their experiences at school. A very special thank-you to Ron Turner, Brian Howe, and the entire Facilities Team for all of their hard work preparing our classrooms and making sure Center School was ready to welcome our students. We are excited for all the learning, laughter, and wonderful experiences ahead this school year!

3. Public Comment

Jennifer Aghai, Old Lyme resident, expressed concern regarding a student safety issue that has been brought before the Board following the filing of a formal complaint with local leadership. Her statement, in its entirety, is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Jude Nelson, Lyme resident, expressed concern regarding classroom screen time and its potential impact on young, developing minds, including students' exposure to blue light during academic instruction.

Andrea Scaglione, Old Lyme, expressed concern about screen time and blue light exposure and recommended clear daily limits to support younger students' social and emotional development. Her statement, in its entirety, is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

Daniel Flynn, Old Lyme, expressed concern about the direction of the school regarding educational technology and the increasing use of digital tools. His statement, in its entirety, is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

IV. Correspondence

Mr. Kemp reviewed a summary of the correspondence that the Board received over the last month. *The opinions expressed in the 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
Jennifer Aghai	August 24, 2026	Not included due to personally identifiable student information

V. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

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

Vacancies 2026-2027	
Instructional Assistants	PreK, Elementary, Middle and High School levels
Assistant Director of Facilities	Systemwide

Science Teacher	LOLMS
Chemistry and Physics Teacher (Long-Term Substitute Position)	LOLHS
Fifth Grade Teacher -Anticipated (Long-Term Substitute Position)	Mile Creek
Physical Education Teacher (.5 FTE) (Long-Term Substitute Position)	Mile Creek

Appointments			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Kassidy Standish	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	August 24, 2026
Shiloh Bergeson	5th Grade Teacher (Long-Term Substitute)	Mile Creek	August 24, 2026
Abigail Griffith	Instructional Assistant	Lyme School	August 24, 2026
Shawn Hatchel	Instructional Assistant	LOLHS	August 24, 2026
Julia Giegel	LTS-Tech Facilitator	Mile Creek	August 24, 2026
Andy Colangelo	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	August 24, 2026

Retirements			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Brian Howe	Assistant Director of Facilities	Systemwide	October 16, 2026

Resignations			
Name	**Position**	**Location**	**Effective Date**
Barry Harrison	Instructional Assistant	LOLMS	August 17, 2026

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the September enrollment report which reflected a total of 1218 students in-house.

2. Business Manager's Report

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Executive Budget Summary as of August 31, 2026. Fluctuations of note: Certified Salaries is considerably less compared to last year due to an additional payroll in 2025-2026, which included 27 pay periods. Special Education is down to last year due to the unexpected costs that

that were realized for additional student needs early in the year that do not exist year to date. There are no concerns or trends as all other line items are due to timing of purchasing and receipts of invoices.

	2026-2027 Received YTD
Town of Old Lyme	$4,745,735
Town of Lyme	$991,752

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. New spending of $12,800 encumbrance to Lyme School due to the replacement of the AC Unit in the tech closet. The Remaining Balance is $180,156

VI. Educational Presentation:

Mr. Bushnell gave a presentation on NEASC (New England Association of Schools and Colleges). The NEASC self-study helps schools evaluate their practices, identify strengths and areas for improvement, and support continuous growth. The presentation is attached for informational purposes only.

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*. Mr. Lowry reported that we remain under budget and work continues to wrap up at Mile Creek. Mr. Neviaser mentioned that since the completion of the parking lot at Mile Creek, the new parking arrangement has been working as anticipated, with no cars on Mile Creek during pickup. The gym is expected to be back in use by mid-September. The project is anticipated to be complete by mid-October. Installation of the new boiler at Lyme School will begin tomorrow.

Mr. Kemp mentioned contract negotiations are upcoming, with three days scheduled for administration in October. Negotiations with non-certified staff are expected to take place in the spring. Volunteers are needed to participate in the upcoming negotiations.

VIII. New Business

1. Tuition Student Request for Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School for 2026-2027 School Year

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shyloski, to approve the tuition student request for Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School for 2026-2027 School Year.

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

2. Tuition Student Request at Mile Creek School for 2026-2027 school year
3. Tuition Student Request at Mile Creek School for 2026-2027 school year
4. Tuition Student Request at Mile Creek School for 2026-2027 school year

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. James, to approve the three tuition student requests for Mile Creek School for 2026-2027 School Year.

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

5. Setting of 2026-2027 LOLHS Graduation Date

Mr. Neviaser explained that the Safe Grad Committee would like a firm date set for graduation for planning purposes and would like the date of June 11, 2027

MOTION: Mr. Lowry made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lodge, to approve the LOLHS graduation date for 2026-2027 on June 11, 2027.

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

6. Goals for 2026-2027

Mr. Neviaser reviewed the goals that were set at the August Board retreat.

Curriculum

In collaboration with school leaders, educators, families, and students, develop a districtwide Personal Technology Use and Purposeful Screen Time Policy to enhance teaching, learning, and operational efficiency while fostering critical thinking, creativity, and ethical awareness.

Human Resources

In accordance with state guidelines and the Region 18 Educator Support Plan, develop single point rubrics for "service providers" (non-classroom teachers) and gather feedback on the process to inform revisions for future years.

Community

Continue to streamline parent and community communication by increasing the effective use of ParentSquare's advanced features.

Facilities

Bring construction activities to a conclusion while minimizing classroom disruption, adhering to the approved budget and design, and maintaining existing facilities in alignment with the district's Capital Improvement Plan.

Sustainability

Maintain and monitor a composting program at each school to reduce food waste while educating students on sustainable practices.

Board of Education

Through professional development, mentorship, and training, continue to onboard new members and strengthen institutional knowledge that supports the high standards and expectations of Lyme-Old Lyme.

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. Shyloski to approve the Goals for 2026-2027 school year 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

There was no need for an executive session.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 7:24p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Lowry and a second by Mr. James.

Respectfully submitted,

Gavin Lodge, Secretary