

LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience



in a Public School Setting

Regular Board of Education Meeting

October 7, 2026

Board Present: Jason Kemp, Chair; Gavin Lodge, Secretary; Xander Lowry; Sheryl Shyloski; Michael Hansen; Marianne DeBruyn; Cynthia McCollum; Devin Berke

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Anna James

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Noah Ventola, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; 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; James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme- Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Ainsley Rinoski and Marielle Munster, High School Student Representatives; 3 community members from LOL

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Chair Jason Kemp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

II. Consent Agenda

1. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of September 2, 2026

MOTION: Mr. Lowry made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lodge, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 2, 2026 as presented.

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

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III. Visitors

1. Recognition of Teacher and Employee of the Year

The Board recognized David Luke, Campus Security at Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, for being selected the 2026-2027 Employee of the Year. Ron Turner, Director of Facilities, detailed the various reasons why Dave was chosen for this recognition.

The Board recognized Marc Vendetti, Sixth Grade ELA Teacher at Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, for being selected the 2026-2027 Teacher of the Year. Noah Ventola, Principal at Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School, highlighted the various reasons Marc was chosen for this well-deserved recognition.

As well, Susan Lessard of VFW Post 1467 presented Marc with the VFW Teacher of the Year Award, which included a monetary award.

Both staff members were presented with framed certificates and flowers by the Board of Ed.

2. Report from Student Representatives

Ainsley Rinoski and Marielle Munster reported on the following activities taking place at the schools:

At LOLHS: Things have been going very well so far this school year. Fall sports are now in full swing, with boys' and girls' soccer, volleyball, field hockey, football, and cross country. Homecoming went well last Friday night, and Spirit Week had a great turnout, with a lot of students participating in the different activities and showing their school spirit. Students are officially settled into the school year, and quarter one has been great. The back-to-school night also went well, along with the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior nights. Several clubs and extracurricular activities are also getting started, including Student Council, Athletic Leadership Council, Model UN, and Trivia Club, giving students many opportunities to get involved with the school. We've also had some class fundraisers, as well as college representatives visiting the high school to speak with students about college and different opportunities after graduation. PSAT testing is also coming up on October 21st for students 9-11. Overall, it has been a busy and positive start to the school year, as students settle in.

At LOLMS: LOLMS has had a smooth start to the 2026-27 school year. We welcomed families on September 17th to our Back to School night. We ran a modified schedule so parents could visit classrooms and meet teachers. Our Grade 6 team continues to support the transition to middle school through Middle School 101, with recent lessons focusing on grades, PowerSchool, organization, and the expectations of middle school. Our 7th and 8th graders participated in their first Pursuits advisory block with students participating in a wide range of interest-based activities, including reading with our preschool students, playing floor hockey, and knitting. Pursuits provides students with opportunities to connect with peers and adults outside of their traditional academic classes. All three grade levels participated in fall field trips. Grade 6 traveled to Bushy Hill for team-building activities, Grade 7 visited the Connecticut River Museum, and Grade 8 spent a day at Camp Hazen. Our students represented LOLMS exceptionally well and were engaged, respectful, and enthusiastic throughout the experiences. Athletics are in full swing, with our cross country, soccer, field hockey, and volleyball teams competing

throughout September and early October, and we are also looking forward to our first school dance on October 16.

Elementary- At both Lyme and Mile Creek, we are in the middle of our fall data team process, collecting benchmark data and determining how best to meet the learning needs of our students. We hosted well-attended Back to School Nights and welcomed care givers into school to learn more about the year to come. At Lyme School, our PTO is running a Read A Thon and as of this morning, students have read over 12,153 combined minutes since we began last week. Students are very excited to check in on their class and school totals each day. Clubs have started up and we have students attending a variety of activities including Green Team, Adventure Book Club, Magic Mailbox, and Lego to name a few. At Mile Creek the Old Lyme Fire Department visited students in grades K-2 to celebrate fire prevention month. Student Leaders met this week to plan out the school's initiatives for the year. Our Trex collection is well underway for the year.

In the Preschool Program: At Center School, we have been so busy learning that we can hardly believe it is already October. On September 24, families joined us for Back to School Night, where they met teachers, explored classrooms, and learned more about the preschool day. Last week, the Connecticut Audubon Society visited Center School for a hands-on lesson about weather. This past Tuesday, the Old Lyme Fire Department visited and taught students about fire safety and prevention. Yesterday, students also enjoyed the second annual Farmers Market, hosted by the District Dining Services. Currently, students are exploring pumpkins and leaves as we welcome the fall season. Throughout the month of October, students will learn the letters C–F, practice AB patterns, and enjoy fall-themed books such as *Pumpkin, Pumpkin* and *Leaf Man*. We are also looking forward to Picture Day on October 20th and Black and Orange Day. Our artist of the month is Wasyly Kandinsky, our color focus is orange, and our shape of the month is the triangle.

3. Public Comment

IV. Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

V. Administrative Reports

1. Superintendent's Report

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the October personnel report which reflected the following:

Vacancies 2026-2027	
Instructional Assistants	PreK, Elementary, Middle and High School levels
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

Third Grade Teacher (Long-Term Substitute Position)	Lyme Consolidated
Board Certified Behavior Analyst (Long-Term Substitute Position)	Districtwide
Campus Security Officer	Districtwide
Custodian	Districtwide
Art Teacher (Long-Term Substitute Position)	Lyme Consolidated (.5 FTE)/Center School (.2 FTE)

Appointments			
Name	Position	Location	Effective Date
Nick Slater	Assistant Director of Facilities	Systemwide	October 17, 2026
Shiloh Bergeson	Instructional Assistant	Mile Creek	August 22, 2026
John Stearns	Science Teacher	LOLMS	October 2026
Emanuel Diaz	Maintenance Staff	Districtwide	October 17, 2026
Rebecca Halsey	Pre School Teacher (Long-Term Substitute Position)	Center School	October 13, 2026

Resignations			
Name	Position	Location	Effective Date
Margaret O'Brien	Instructional Assistant	Mile Creek	September 21, 2026
Tisha Kirk	Technology Facilitator	Mile Creek	October 2, 2026
Roger Reed	Campus Security Officer	Lyme Consolidated	October 9, 2026

Mr. Neviasser reviewed the October enrollment report which reflected a total of 1,219 students in-house, one more from this time last month.

Mr. Neviasser gave an update on the progress towards the district goals.

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.

Developed plan and timeline, met with faculty at MS and MC.

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.

Met with SLP’s and counselors and discussed plans for development of rubric. Planned future meetings with LMS and School Psychologists.

Community

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

Researched different add ons for use.

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.

Glycol and “wood filler” issues at MC. No disruptions at other buildings. Temperatures are decent.

Sustainability

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

Connected the principals to town recycling coordinator for education presentations.

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.

4 signed up for CAFE/ CAPSS.

2. Business Manager’s Report

Overall year-to-date spending is in line with a few fluctuations noted. Certified Salaries are considerably lower compared to the prior year due to an additional payroll in 2025–26 resulting from a 27-pay-period calendar. This variance is expected to balance out as the current fiscal year progresses. Special Education spending is higher than the prior year due to increased encumbrances for private and public tuition, which are based on student needs and placements. This line item is also impacted by the timing of invoices received from placement facilities. At this time, there is no indication of concern regarding spending versus budget in this area. Support Services appears to show a big change year over year; however, any change in spending on such a small budget number appear more impactful in percentages than actual dollars spent. The variance can also be attributed to the timing of purchases, and there is currently no concern with this line-item year to date. Administrative Services spending compared to the prior year is primarily affected by the timing of technology purchases, with no current concerns in this area.

The district is also closely monitoring heating oil and diesel costs due to ongoing world events. Year-to-date, the district has spent just under one-third of the total heating oil budget, compared to no spending during the same period last year. The district is paying market rates and continues to monitor pricing daily to identify opportunities to lock in pricing for the remainder of the current year and next. Additionally, electricity usage continues to be a bit difficult to pinpoint as the balancing of the campus systems from the Pre-K to 8 project continues.

2026-2027 Received YTD

Town of Old Lyme	\$7,254,391
Town of Lyme	\$1,516,005

Mrs. McCalla reviewed the Contingency Maintenance Report. Last month I reported on the replacement of the A/C unit in the tech closet at Lyme School. The actual spend on this project and what was invoiced was \$290 higher than the original encumbrance. The remaining balance is \$179,866

VI. Educational Presentation

1. Review of State Achievement Test Data

Kelly Enoch, Principal of Mile Creek School; Noah Ventola, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme Middle School; and James Wygonik, Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School, gave a presentation on the results of the annual state achievement tests including the SAT, AP, SBAC and NGSS. The presentations can be found on the district website here: <https://www.region18.org/district-information/board-of-education/presentations>

VII. Chairman & Committee Reports:

- a. *Facilities*. The committee walked around campus at tonight's meeting, the fields and turf were noted to be in good condition. Areas identified for future attention include the aging track, replacement of the storage buildings, and removal of the temporary classrooms.
- b. *Finance*. The committee discussed the 10-year plan and reserve fund policy as part of its long-term financial and facilities planning.
- c. *Communications*. Mr. Lodge reported Mrs. Compagno working on social media content and she is also preparing ideas and updates for the new *Focus on Education* magazine.
- d. *Policy*. Mr. Lodge reported policies regarding *Electric Personal Mobility Devices* and *Meal Charging* updates. Also, the committee plans to gather additional data from parents, staff and students to help develop guidelines for appropriate technology use and consider a potential new policy.
- e. *LEARN*. No report. Scott Brown has retired, LEARN is currently looking for a new representative.
- f. *LOL Prevention Coalition*. No Report
- g. *PreK-8 Building Committee*. The district remains under budget and continues to make progress, although timeliness remains a challenge. There were also some issues at Mile Creek that have been addressed. Brian Howe, Assistant Director of Facilities, is

retiring. The Board thanks him for his hard work and dedication. Brian has gone above and beyond and his efforts are greatly appreciated. Congratulations were extended to him on his retirement.

VIII. New Business

1. Policy Review

Policy 5142.3 Restriction of Electric Personal Mobility Devices and Motorized Recreational Vehicles

The Board discussed and explained is intended solely to ensure the safety of others and help maintain the district's campus. Approval for use as transportation will be at the discretion of the Superintendent or designee.

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Lowry, to waive the second reading and to Policy 5142.3 Restriction of Electric Personal Mobility Devices and Motorized Recreational Vehicles as presented.

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

2. Policy 3542.43 *Food Service Charging*

Mr. Kemp explained this is a current policy, just consolidated.

MOTION: Mr. Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Mrs. McCollum, to waive the second reading and to approve Policy 3542.43 Food Service Charging as presented.

Discussion regarding clarification the policy to ensure that students and families understand the meal pricing structure. Breakfast is provided at no cost to all students. Lunch is charged at the regular lunch price when a complete meal, including all required meal components, is selected. Any à la carte items purchased separately or in addition to the complete meal or full breakfast will be charged as individual items.

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

3. Appropriation to the Reserve Fund for Educational Purposes

C.G.S. Sec. 10-51(d)(2) allows regional boards of education to appropriate up to 2% of the current fiscal year's budget to a reserve fund for educational expenditures. The unaudited budget balance for fiscal year 2025-2026 is \$620,000.

After further discussion and consideration, it was decided to appropriate \$475,000 to the reserve fund.

MOTION: Lowry made a motion, which was seconded by McCollum, to appropriate \$475,000 to the reserve fund for educational expenditures.

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

4. Budget Process Timeline

Mr. Neviaser presented the schedule for the development of the 2027-2028 budget.

MOTION: Lodge made a motion, which was seconded by Lowry, to approve the budget calendar for the 2027-2028 budget.

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

IX. Old Business

X. Executive Session

There was no need for an executive session.

XI. Adjournment

The regular meeting adjourned at 8:46p.m. upon a motion by Mr. Lowry and a second by Mrs. Shyloski.

Respectfully submitted,

Gavin Lodge, Secretary

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2027-2028 BUDGET PROCESS TIMELINE

All budget meetings are open to the public.

The majority of meetings will take place in the Board of Ed Conference Room at Center School

October	Preliminary data gathering and projections. Enrollment projections and staffing proposals are prepared. Committees and administrators work to identify needs and major drivers that will impact the budget.
November 4	[6:00 pm] Special Board of Education Meeting with BOE, BOS, BOF, School Administrators and Parent Leadership Review and discuss needs and drivers as prepared by administrators and committees.
November 4	[7:00 pm] Regular Board of Education Meeting
Nov – Dec	Administrators prepare budget according to parameters set forth by the Board of Education. Budgets are reviewed with the superintendent.
January 6	[6:30 pm] Regular Board of Education
January 13	[6:30 pm] Special Board of Education Meeting Workshop 1: Elementary, Middle, High School and Curriculum Budget Presentations.
January 20	[6:30 pm] Special Board of Education Meeting Workshop 2: Special Education, Facilities, Technology, Operations and Central Services Budget Presentations.
January 27	[6:30 p.m.] Special Board of Education Meeting (meeting if needed) Board reviews budget as it will be presented at budget forum.
February 3	[6:30 pm] Budget Forum
February 3	[7:00 pm] Regular Board of Education Meeting Budget adoption by Board of Education.
February	Communication Committee prepares budget edition of <i>Focus on Education</i> .
Feb - March	Central Office prepares budget books.
March-April	Presentation of budgets to Boards of Finance (both communities). Mailing of special edition of <i>Focus on Education</i> . Presentation of budget to community groups.
April 5	[6:30 pm] District Budget Hearing
April	Reminder Post Cards to Vote.
May 3	[6:30 pm] District Budget Meeting
May 4	Anticipated Date for Budget Referendum Vote.

Lyme-Old Lyme Schools
2026–27 District Goal Action Plan

Goal: *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.*

Oct.–Nov. 2026	Organize and review. Review existing policies, handbooks, technology practices, student device expectations, AI guidance, accommodations, and communication procedures.
Nov.–Dec. 2026	Assess current technology use. Review how district devices, applications, platforms, and instructional screen time are currently used across grade levels, with attention to instructional purpose and opportunities for hands-on and face-to-face learning.
Nov. 2026– Jan. 2027	Gather stakeholder input. Seek feedback from educators, families, and students through surveys, focus groups, and building-level discussions.
Jan.–Feb. 2027	Develop guiding principles. Establish developmentally appropriate PK–5, 6–8, and 9–12 guidelines for personal devices, instructional technology, screen-free experiences, digital citizenship, AI, and increasing student responsibility.
Feb.–March 2027	Develop policy recommendations. Determine expectations for personal devices and purposeful screen use, including exceptions, family communication, emergency procedures, consequences, and accommodations.
March–April 2027	Draft policy. Prepare a Board policy; identify related policies, handbooks, and Codes of Conduct requiring revision.
April–May 2027	Review and revise. Share the draft with stakeholder groups for feedback regarding clarity, consistency, and implementation.
May–June 2027	Board consideration and adoption. Present the proposed policy to the Board of Education and make revisions as appropriate.

June–August 2027	Finalize and launch implementation. Train administrators and staff, communicate expectations to families and students, revise handbooks and related materials, and establish the process for monitoring implementation during the 2027–28 school year.
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Measure of Successful Completion:

By August 2027, the District will have developed and adopted a districtwide Personal Technology Use and Purposeful Screen Time Policy, developmentally appropriate grade-band guidelines, and an implementation plan for the 2027–28 school year.

Regional School District Eighteen

October 2026 Enrollment Report

Breakdown by School

Grade	Center	MC	Lyme	Middle	High	Total
PreK (3)	22					22 (+1)
PreK (4)	65					65
K		44	37			81
1st		31	18			49
2nd		66	34			100
3rd		53	33			86
4th		51	37			88 (-1)
5th		65	32			97
6th				84		84
7th				97		97
8th				84		84
9th					99	99
10th					89	89
11th					84	84
12th					94	94 (+1)
Totals	87	310	191	265	366	1219 (+1)

Breakdown by Town

Grade	Old Lyme	Lyme	Tuition	Total
PreK (3)	19	3	0	22
PreK (4)	57	7	1	65
K	60	20	1	81
1	38	10	1	49
2	80	19	1	100
3rd	71	15	0	86
4th	68	20	0	88
5th	86	11	0	97
6th	64	18	2	84
7th	82	13	2	97
8th	71	13	0	84
9th	81	16	2	99
10th	73	15	1	89
11th	64	17	3	84
12th	69	23	2	94
Totals	983	220	16	1219

Special Education (various facilities)	7
Grasso Tech	4
Marine Science Magnet School of SE CT	7
New London STEM Magnet School	1
New London Visual and Performing Arts Magnet Pathway	1
Sound School	1
Three Rivers Middle College High School	0
Interdistrict School for Arts and Communication	1
Total Out of District	22
GRAND TOTAL	1241

Out of District	17	5	0	22
TOTAL	1000	225	16	1241

Impact to Towns

	Old Lyme	Lyme
10/1/2026	1225	225
% of total census	81.6%	18.4%

All special education including prek and out of district = 194