Board of Education
Town of Windsor Locks
Regular Meeting - October 22, 2026 6:00 pm

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting

Members Present: Alba Osorio, Greg Guyette, Lindsay Cutler, & Amber Mortensen-Hurdle

Member(s) Absent: Dennis Gragnolati

Administrators Present: Shawn Parkhurst, Rebecca Bissonnette & Andrew Goodwin

Call to Order: Chairwoman Osorio called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm in the Windsor Locks High School Library Media Center.

Roll Call: Superintendent Parkhurst conducted roll call with four (4) Board members present.

Pledge of Allegiance: All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Board of Education and Superintendent Communications:

Lindsay Cutler congratulated the WLMS Boys Cross Country Team on their 2nd place finish in the Conference Championship. Amber Mortensen-Hurdle commented on her attendance at the Volleyball Senior Night which was filled with great energy. Greg Guyette shared the successful Long-Range Planning meeting that was recently held that he attended. Alba Osorio commented on her attendance at a Girl's Soccer game, Swimming Senior Night, Literacy Night at NSS; Hartford Foundation for Public Giving night and learned about how they can support us, and shared she received two communications from Mr. Kervick which will be added to these minutes. Superintendent Parkhurst further congratulated the WLMS Boys Cross Country team, Jenna Naughton on her 5th place finish in the NCCC Conference Championship, and reminded folks about the upcoming Trunk or Treat to be held on Wednesday, October 28, 2026.

Student Board Representative(s): None present at this time

Public Audience (only on Agenda items): None at this time

Approval of Minutes:

October 8, 2026 Regular Meeting: A motion was made by Lindsay Cutler; seconded by Greg Guyette; passed 4-0.

Human Resources Report: This item was tabled until a future meeting.

School Calendar Change:

October 29, 2026 and April April 29, 2027 for RISE only will be a full day of school; motion was made by Greg Guyette; seconded by Amber Mortensen-Hurdle; passed 4-0.

Finance Report:

October 7, 2026 Minutes: Motion was made by Greg Guyette, seconded by Lindsay Cutler; passed 4-0.

Curriculum SubCommittee Report:

October 22, 2026 meeting covered looking at PSAT scores; trends in scores and curriculum writing.

November 3, 2026 Professional Development Day:

Dr. Bissonnette shared an overview of the day with details provided in the packet.

Old Business

Community Wellness and Athletic Complex

Greg Guyette provided an update on the meeting held on October 15, 2026 and shared the discussion related to bathrooms, bleachers and concession stand.

Long Range Planning Task Force

Greg Guyette reported on the recent meeting where five (5) scenarios were presented for discussion; the task force narrowed the scenarios to three (3) with one likely being eliminated. He further commented that this may not impact FY28 budget.

Public Audience: None at this time

Adjournment: Lindsay Cutler made a motion to adjourn at 6:27 pm; seconded by Amber Mortensen-Hurdle; passed 4-0 with meeting adjourned at 6:27 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn Parkhurst
Superintendent of Schools

Outlook

Fw: DRG 7 Elementary School Rankings-Final Report

From Dan <dkerv@aol.com>
Date Thu 10/22/2026 9:05 AM
To Osorio, Alba <aosorio@wlps.org>; PATTY MURPHY <pmurphy@wlocks.com>; Jon Savino <jsavino@wlocks.com>; Mark Whitten <mwhitten@wlocks.com>; James E. Cannon III <jcannon@wlocks.com>

1 attachment (130 KB)
DRG7_Elementary_School_Rankings_2027.pdf;

To All BOE Members
To All BOF Members

Any report has been released involving ranking school districts in the United States. It was released by US News and World Report and the report ranks 46,000 elementary schools

I checked Connecticut and didn't find Windsor Locks in the Top 100. I then checked the Windsor Locks reference group and whiles at least Windsor Locks does not rank last as in some other studies this report ranks Windsor Locks 11th of the 17 school districts in its reference group. Still not anything to write home about

It was interesting to see Wolcott, a school district in DR7, the reference group of Windsor Locks as the 17th ranked elementary school in Connecticut.

I am forwarding the attached report for your examiation

Respectfully

Dan Kervick

----- Forwarded Message -----
From: Dan <dkerv@aol.com>
To: Dkerv@aol.com <Dkerv@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, October 21, 2026 at 02:09:17 PM EDT
Subject: DRG 7 Elementary School Rankings-Final Report

Selected Elementary School Rankings in DRG 7

U.S. News & World Report 2027 rankings

Compiled by Daniel J. Kervick | October 21, 2026

This report presents selected elementary school rankings for the 17 districts in the DRG 7 comparison group. It includes 18 school entries across 16 districts; Regional District 11 has no elementary school. The figures describe individual schools, not overall district performance.

District	School	CT rank or status
Wolcott	Frisbie School	17
Voluntown	Voluntown Elementary	95
Plainville	Toffolon	143
Montville	Mohegan	181
Seymour	Bungay	261
Thompson	Mary R. Fisher Elementary	273
Enfield	Whitney	283
Enfield	Crandall	286
Enfield	Parkman	302
East Windsor	Broad Brook Elementary	322
Windsor Locks	South Elementary	369
Stafford	Stafford Elementary	379
Canterbury	Canterbury Elementary	396
Sprague	Sayles	398
Griswold	Griswold Elementary	398–531
Plymouth	Harry S. Fisher	398–531
Sterling	Sterling Community School	398–531
North Canaan	North Canaan Elementary	Unranked
Regional District 11	No elementary school	Not applicable

Schools with individual ranks appear in ascending order, followed by the reported range and the remaining status entries. See the source and interpretation notes on page 2.

Sources and interpretation

Purpose and coverage

This is a factual comparison for readers interested in Windsor Locks and its DRG 7 peers. It makes no recommendations. The table accounts for each district in the comparison group but is not an inventory of every elementary school in those districts. Enfield has three schools listed; the other participating districts each have one school entry.

How to read the table

The rank column records Connecticut elementary school rankings, not positions within DRG 7. Windsor Locks South Elementary is listed at 369. Differences between rank numbers do not measure differences in test scores or the size of an educational performance gap.

Griswold Elementary, Harry S. Fisher in Plymouth, and Sterling are recorded as 398–531, preserving the range reported in the research notes. No separate rank is assigned within that range. Sayles in Sprague remains listed at 398, which Daniel Kervick double-checked.

In correspondence relayed by Daniel Kervick, U.S. News explained: "They all must have scored the same in our metrics; our rankings system does include ties." This confirms that ties are possible; it does not supply individual scores for the three schools.

North Canaan Elementary is designated Unranked. U.S. News explained to Daniel Kervick that it uses this designation for schools whose scores fall below a certain threshold. No numerical threshold was provided in the correspondence quoted for this report. Regional District 11 is marked Not applicable because it has no elementary school.

Source record

Ranking figures and status designations: Daniel Kervick's transcriptions of U.S. News & World Report school listings, collected October 20–21, 2026, together with his correspondence with the U.S. News webmaster. These figures have not all been independently rechecked for this report.

Ranking edition and Wolcott identification: Patch, "These Are The 100 Best Elementary Schools in Connecticut," October 20, 2026. The article identifies the edition as 2027 and lists Frisbie School in Wolcott at 17.

https://patch.com/connecticut/across-ct/these-are-100-best-elementary-schools-connecticut-u-s-news

School names were supplemented from Canterbury Public Schools, East Windsor Public Schools, Stafford Public Schools, Sterling School District, and Thompson Public Schools. Those district sources establish school names, not the U.S. News ranking figures.

District sources: canterburypublicschools.org/ces/; eastwindsork12.org; stafford.k12.ct.us; sterlingpsct.gov; mrfes.thompsonk12.org.

Outlook

Windsor Locks--Dan Kervick

From Dan <dkerv@aol.com>
Date Fri 10/16/2026 7:59 PM
To Osorio, Alba <aosorio@wlps.org>; PATTY MURPHY <pmurphy@wlocks.com>; Jon Savino <jsavino@wlocks.com>; James E. Cannon III <jcannon@wlocks.com>; Mark Whitten <mwhitten@wlocks.com>

To All BOE Members

All BOF Members

Good Evening

I have been waiting and waiting to send this as I continued to hold out hope that I would hear or read that somebody finally came to their senses and urged the BOE to rescind a recent policy adopted during the recent budget fiasco and subsequent referendum but today I did some following up on the school study that I completed in July and I am prompted to wait no longer.

In this email I want to address two issues

1. The unbelievable, unreal and insensitive policy of pay for Drama.

2. A serious problem that all of you should be aware of and working as a group to see what you can do about the current school population today and in the future

For decades the Windsor Locks senior class has produced and participated in a senior class play. A play that year after year has proven to be the highlight of the school year. Some students have participated in a play and launched a career because of that. Others have demonstrated extraordinary skills in working behind the scenes in constructing real like sets worthy of any Broadway show. Others have participated in a play enabling them to feel part of the senior class as they had not participated in any extracurricular activities in any prior years. The togetherness brought about by their senior class play was noteworthy.

And what has our current administration and BOE done to recognize that? Tell the kids "you want to be in the senior class play?" Pay us 50 bucks and go for it. Go work at McDonalds, earn 50 bucks and give it to us to allow you the privilege of becoming a true part of the senior class

What an egregious abuse of student/school relationship!!!!

I thought schools were supposed to encourage participation in the entire school journey, not discourage it.

What can you all be possibly thinking when you came up with such an idea? Just because you have instituted an equally disgusting policy of pay for sports shouldn't have made you think--"Let's go for drama next!! What will you come up with next? Make a kid if he or she plays baseball or softball you have to bring your own bat and ball.? Or maybe if you want to help out in constructing the set for the next drama production, bring your own lumber and nails??

And please don't tell me your decision was budget related . You cant possibly think seriously that maybe $5000 is going to make an impact on a $50,000, 00 budget!

All of you seem to have forgotten that the Windsor Locks School District is a public school system, not a private institution.

I shouldn't be surprised by this action because in my opinion the student has been ignored for years while empires are being built. I pray for the day when the student truly becomes first and the school district ends being more geared to a great place to work.

My second comment has to do with the current student population.

When I completed my several years of studying the WL school system in July this year I had used a figure of 1448 students. That figure was a sharp drop in just ten years from 1687 students. Today I learned that the number is 1356. That is staggering. That is concerning. It is no longer, In my humble opinion, a BOE problem. It is a Town Wide problem>

What is causing such a decline? Does anyone know? Does anyone care? I wont get into the increase in teacher staff all the while student population was declining. That is a separate subject all by itself.

I know that there is currently a facilities and planning task force that is active. I also noted that there is one member of the BOF on that task force> Far too few in my judgment. And the Town can no longer have a lone voice on the BOF trying to point out year after year that something needs to be done about the Windsor Locks School system.
All of you should be extremely concerned about this issue. Some of you can no longer turn your cheek and say "Its not my problem" As I said it is a Town problem Everyone should be working together to consider all options as the Town moves forward? And a particular concern of mine is that the ratio of teacher to student % is at an all time best. And yet WL is a non performing school district. What happened to the civic pride?

And now I hear about a plan being worked on where Town employees may work less hours when in fact you all should be trying to figure out how to work more hours to solve the enormous problems that you can no longer ignore

The time for action is now--You are the elected leaders of the great Town of Windsor Locks--

Respectfuly

Daniel Kervick