REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT #10
FINANCE COMMITTEE
November 4, 2026
Central Office Conference Room

Meeting Minutes

Date: November 4, 2026

Members: Melanie Wilhelm, Susan Laone, Matt Cummings, Scott Savelle, Fran Thompson, Tom Fausel, Scott Ragaglia

Absent: Vicki Basile

I. Call to order at 5:34 pm

II. Approval of July 15, 2026, minutes. Motion by Scott Savelle, 2nd by Matt Cummings 4 were in favor and 1 abstained.

III. Business meeting:

a. As a follow-up to the joint meeting with the Finance Committee in July, the Finance and Facilities Committees met to discuss whether to recommend that the full Board pursue an Energy Performance Contract with Energia.

Reference checks were conducted with eight school districts/municipalities currently working with Energia. Responses were received from three districts: Guilford, Cheshire, and Southington. All feedback was positive, with respondents expressing satisfaction with both the process and outcomes of their projects.

Following discussion, both committees agreed to invite Energia to present to the full Board at the December Board of Education meeting for further consideration

b. The Director of Finance and Operations provided an update on projected diesel and heating oil pricing for the 2027-2028 school year. The committee reviewed current market conditions and discussed fuel purchasing strategies.

After discussion, the committee agreed that it would be prudent to continue monitoring pricing trends before locking into a contract, as there is potential for prices to decrease. Current fuel pricing for the 2026-2027 school year is $2.4953 per gallon for heating oil and $2.5322 per gallon for diesel fuel.

c. The Director of Finance and Operations provided an update regarding the upcoming transportation contract renewal. The committee was advised that a significant increase in transportation costs is anticipated due to several contributing factors.

Historically, the district's previous two transportation contracts increased by approximately 3% annually, despite periods of rising inflation. Since the most recent

contract was awarded, the transportation provider's drivers and mechanics have unionized, resulting in increased wages, benefits, and paid time off. Additionally, approximately one-half of the provider's bus fleet was replaced for the 2026-2027 school year, with the remaining fleet scheduled for replacement during the 2027-2028 school year.

The committee reviewed comparative transportation costs from neighboring districts. The current average daily rate among surrounding districts is $426 per bus, compared to Region 10's current rate of $404 per bus. For the 2027-2028 school year, the average daily rate among neighboring districts is projected to increase to $460 per bus, which represents approximately 14% more than Region 10 is currently paying.

Following extensive discussion regarding the advantages and disadvantages of issuing a new Request for Proposals, the committee directed the Director of Finance and Operations to continue negotiations with the district's current transportation provider. The committee expressed its appreciation for the provider's service, dedication, responsiveness, and long-standing partnership with the district, and indicated a desire to maintain that relationship whenever practicable and fiscally responsible.

IV. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

DRAFT