LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience ***in a Public School Setting***

Special Board of Education Meeting
November 4, 2026

Board Present: Jason Kemp, Chair; Anna James, Vice Chair; Xander Lowry; Sheryl Shyloski; Michael Hansen; Marianne DeBruyn; Devin Berke

Absent by Previous Arrangement: Cynthia McCollum

Administration Present: Ian Neviaser, Superintendent of Schools; Michelle Dean, Director of Curriculum; Melissa Dougherty, Director of Special Services; Kelly Enoch, Principal of Mile Creek School; Allison Hine, Principal of Lyme Consolidated School; Sean Kennedy, Assistant Principal of Mile Creek School; 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; Tom Bushnell, Assistant Principal of Lyme-Old Lyme High School

Others Present: Seven community members from Lyme-Old Lyme; various members of the Boards of Finance and Selectmen; and representatives of Parent Leadership.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jason Kemp at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of the meeting was to hold a budget workshop to present and discuss budget needs and drivers with the boards of finance and selectmen from both towns, school administrators, and parent leadership. Mr. Neviaser gave a PowerPoint presentation which detailed the purposes of the workshop and some of the notable influences on the budget that are likely to increase or decrease expenditures. A summary of this presentation is attached to these minutes for informational purposes.

At the conclusion of the presentation, input was gathered from the participants. The following is a summary of the comments and observations made on the 2027-2028 budget planning:

- Partner with town to reduce paving, oil, and electricity costs.
- Maintain extracurricular activities with less staff at High School
- Maintain low class sizes
- Consider how town development and sewer expansion in beach communities may impact enrollment
- Health insurance costs and explore additional options, including national options
- Consider reallocating advertising funds to reach communities outside Old Lyme to increase enrollment and diversity by attracting more students with scholarships and tuition options
- Possible electronic distribution to parents instead of mailings

LYME-OLD LYME SCHOOLS

Regional School District #18

A Private School Experience ***in a Public School Setting***

- Consider how to attract and retain Instructional Assistants and Substitutes
- Impact of technology use changes
- Impact of oil and heating
- Healthy food option for all students
- Opportunity for Specialized programs
- Co-op programs to increase enrollment
- MTSS program-intervention to reduce referrals
- Bussing
- Playground equipment
- Cost of supplies
- Partnering with a before and aftercare program for students
- Covered solar parking
- Field trips at middle school and high school costs

There being no other comments or questions, the meeting ended at 6:48 p.m.

2027-28 Budget Workshop

NOVEMBER 4, 2026

Purposes of Session

- To present information about prime drivers that will influence the 2027-28 budget.
- To gather and share input from school and community leaders.

Process



- Introductions
- Presentation of budget drivers
- Break out group(s) to gather questions, observations, and comments
- Reporting out on questions, observations, and comments.

In House Enrollment

Level	2024	2025	2026	2027 Projected (Roll-ups)
Elementary	639	613	588	556-577 (563)
Middle	271	278	265	261-276 (278)
High	368	357	366	352-359 (356)
TOTAL	1278	1248	1219	1184-1215 (1197)

- Change in K/ PK4 start date will continue to impact enrollment/ staffing.
- Over the next five years enrollment is projected to remain in this range with a slight loss in numbers and little to no growth.

Special Education

Year	# of K-12 Students	% of Population
2021	159	12.2
2022	161	13.2
2023	173	14.3
2024	180	14.8
2025	181	15.7
2026	182	16.1

- Increase in level of services needed to support IEP implementation
- Outplacement uncertainty
- Tuition for special education students at magnet schools
- Impact of legislation (e.g., requirement to educate students beyond the age of 22, requests for IEE's, burden of proof, mandated training)
- Increasing costs

Financial Considerations

- Debt service
- Contractual obligations
- Health insurance rates
- Energy Costs

Long Term Financial Considerations

- Long term projects/ debt
- Ten Year Facilities Plan
- Undesignated fund balance to support larger projects (storage/ parking/ paving)
- Unfunded mandates

Break Out Group Task

- Create equal groups with representation from the following constituencies: parents, towns, BOE, and administration
- Facilitator will record questions, comments, observations—do not judge or answer. (15 minutes)
- Report out on questions, comments, and observations.

Budget presentations will incorporate the input received today.

