

**South Kingstown School Committee
Executive Session and Special Meeting
South Kingstown High School Cafeteria
215 Columbia Street
Wakefield, RI 02879
Tuesday, August 25, 2026**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vetter called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM.

B. Roll Call

Ms. Vetter led the roll call.

Members present: Carol Vetter, James Restivo, Michelle Brousseau, Paula Whitford, Kate Macinanti

Members absent: Stewart Lander

Others present: Michael Podraza, Superintendent, Dan Seger, Assistant Superintendent

2. Executive Session

Ms. Vetter asked for a motion to convene into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under RIGL 42-46-4 and A: Discussion/Action: Personnel/Job Performance - Interim Chief Financial Officer Contract (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1) and B: Discussion/Action: Personnel/Job Performance - Superintendent Annual Evaluation (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)).

MSV(1) – Motion made to recess into Executive Session

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Kate Macinanti

Motion passes 5-0

MSV(2) – Motion made to adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Open Session

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Kate Macinanti

Motion passes 5-0

3. Open Meeting/Roll Call

A. Roll Call

Ms. Vetter called the open session to order at 6:02 PM and led the roll call.

Members present: Carol Vetter, James Restivo, Michelle Brousseau, Paula Whitford, Kate Macinanti

Members absent: Stewart Lander

Others present: Michael Podraza, Superintendent, Daniel Seger, Assistant Superintendent, Anthony Ferrucci, Interim Chief Financial Officer

B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Ms. Vetter led the Pledge of Allegiance.

C. Motion to Seal the Minutes of Executive Session

MSV(3) – Motion made to Seal the Minutes of the Executive Session

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 5-0

D. Disclosure of Votes Taken in Executive Session

Ms. Vetter stated there were no votes taken in Executive Session.

4. Comments from the Community

A. Comments from the Community

There were no comments from community members.

5. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes - 7/28/2026; 8/14/2026**
- B. Approval of Open Session Minutes - 7/28/2026; 8/14/2026**
- C. Approval of Purchase Orders Over \$10,350: (3766) RENAISSANCE LEARNING(8912) ECA EDUCATIONAL SERVICES INC(8912) ECA EDUCATIONAL SERVICES INC(8912) ECA EDUCATIONAL SERVICES INC(8455) RELAYHUB(9262) UTJ HOLDCO INC(6505) HENNEOUS CARROLL LOMBARDO LLC(3791) RHODE ISLAND INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT TRUST(3791) RHODE ISLAND INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT TRUST(3791) RHODE ISLAND INTERLOCAL RISK MANAGEMENT TRUST(9590) COX LAHC, INC(3817) RIET(8791) NRG BUSINESS MARKETING(4710) SKYWARD ACCOUNTING DEPARTMENT(5084) SHI INTERNATIONAL CORP(4052) CNB COMPUTERS USA(3632) OSHEAN(2521) AT&T(2785) COX COMMUNICATIONS(6565) WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEASING(4052) CNB COMPUTERS USA(6565) WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEASING(3526) RHODE ISLAND ENERGY - GAS(7739) KEY CORPORATION(2543) AUTOMATIC TEMPERATURE CONTROLS**
- D. Approval of Homeschool Requests - SY 2026-2027 (Student 25-50)**
- E. Approval of Fundraiser - SKHS Football - Discount Card - Adrenaline Fundraising**

MSV(4) – Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 5-0

6. Superintendent's Report

- A. Personnel Actions - Non-Exempt/At Will Employee Updates: Leave of Absence (Full Year) - Teacher Assistant; Leave of Absence - World Language Teacher; Leave of Absence - Administrative Specialist; Retirement - Music Teacher; Resignation - School Nurse; Resignation - Social Worker; Resignation - Social Worker; Appointments - Social Worker, Music Teacher, Reading Specialist, Special Education Coordinator, Special Education Teacher, Special Education Teacher, Social Studies Teacher, Science Teacher, Social Worker, CTE-Construction Technology, Teacher Assistant, Teacher Assistant, 1:1 Teacher Assistant; 1:1 Teacher Assistant (For Information Only; No Board Action Required)**
- B. Welcome New Faculty, Staff and Administration**
- C. Memo from Rhode Island Department of Education regarding CTE Tuition Calculations for SY 2026-2027**

Mr. Podraza presented his Superintendent's Report. The following items were reviewed and discussed:

- Personnel Actions - Mr. Podraza reviewed the Personnel Actions for the district (Leave of Absence (3); Retirement (1); Resignation (3); New Hires (14)).
- Welcome New Faculty, Staff and Administration - Mr. Podraza announced the new faculty, staff, and Administration.
- Memo from Rhode Island Department of Education regarding CTE Tuition Calculations for SY 2026-2027 - Mr. Podraza reported on the latest guidance from the Rhode Island Department of Education regarding CTE Tuition Calculation. LEAs should use the FY 2025 Per-Pupil Expenditure table to calculate CTE out-of-district tuition. The average of the sending and receiving LEAs' rates should be the invoice amount. Poverty status is not considered with respect to per-pupil expenditures.

MSV(5) – Motion made to accept the Superintendent's Report.

Motion made by Paula Whitford

Motion seconded by Kate Macinanti

Motion passes 5-0

7. School Committee Business

A. Discussion/Action: Approval of Interim Chief Financial Officer Contract

MSV(6) – Motion made to approve the Interim Chief Financial Officer Contract.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 5-0

B. Discussion/Action: Fiscal Year 2027 Recommended Plan to Meet State Financial Reporting Requirements

Mr. Ferrucci presented his FY 2027 Recommended Plan to Meet State Financial Reporting Requirements. Requirements to be met are as follows: District Budget Monitoring; Monthly Monitoring; Budget to Actual Reporting; Annual Reporting-Budget Reporting and 5 Year

Forecasts; RIDE UCOA Submissions; Final Audits. After review with the Town Finance Director, there is consensus on how monthly fiscal reports will be issued each month to the School Committee so that the School Department will be compliant with RI General Laws concerning timely financial reporting throughout the fiscal year. Templates are now being created for this process.

MSV(7) – Motion made to accept recommendation from Mr. Ferrucci regarding FY 2027 Budget to Actual Monthly Reporting.
Motion made by Michelle Brousseau
Motion seconded by James Restivo
Motion passes 5-0

C. Discussion/Action: Fiscal Year 2027 - Memo from Anthony Ferrucci, Financial Consultant re: FY 2027 Budget to Actual Monthly Report (8/21/2026)

Mr. Ferrucci presented his FY 2027 Budget to Actual Monthly Report. Items reviewed and discussed as follows:

- 0110 General Fund - Revenue
- 0429 Capital Reserve - Revenue
- 0720 School Lunch - Revenue
- 0110 General Fund - Expenses
- 0429 Capital Reserve - Expenses
- 0720 School Lunch - Expenses

Committee discussion regarding the expectation that the School Committee will receive and review these reports first, using the comments section to surface any missing or unclear items. These reports will be combined with planned November and February year-end projections to detect potential deficits early and maintain credibility and transparency in the budget process.

No vote was taken on this item.

D. Discussion/Action: Fiscal Year 2026 - District End of Year - Revenue, Expenses and Fund Balance

Mr. Ferrucci presented his FY 2026 Fiscal Year End - Revenue, Expenses and Fund Balance report. Mr. Ferrucci highlighted that the district finished FY2026 in a notably positive financial position, driven by both higher-than-expected revenues and underspent appropriations. The business office had previously changed how net metering for electricity was processed, which affected how expenses were reported; this was clarified as part of the year-end review. The district recorded income in excess of approximately \$898,000, with strong contributions from Medicaid billing, tuition, and investment earnings. On the expenditure side, the General Fund came in under budget by about \$840,000, largely due to savings in fringe benefits and retiree-paid benefits. Mr. Ferrucci reported that the capital fund's revenues and expenses were essentially balanced, with about \$1.095 million transferred to the general fund to support building-related activities. Overall, the district ended with a fund balance of about \$4.1 million, of which roughly \$1.2 million was restricted for specific purposes. Discussion ensued regarding the importance of clearly explaining these results—especially the drivers of surplus and the handling of capital transfers—to maintain transparency and credibility with both the Town and the wider community, and to inform decisions about the FY2027 budget and capital planning. Committee members emphasized that the strong FY 2026 close (surplus and fund balance) must be paired with clear public explanation so that it is not perceived as mismanagement. Transparency to the Town and community is necessary at all times.

No vote was taken on this item.

E. Discussion/Action: Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update - Fiscal Year 2027 and Impact on Five Year Plan

Mr. Ferrucci presented his Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update - FY 2027 and Impact on Five Year Plan. He announced that a new Capital Improvements administrative team (including fiscal, facilities, and instructional representatives, with input from Town officials) is reviewing and validating the State Facilities Report for the Middle School and the three Elementary schools, while the new High School is not expected to need near-term work. The team is building a practical, reimbursement-eligible plan that prioritizes projects that can be completed in the next 1–2 years, with an 18-month state application timeline and a goal of finishing key projects by December 2027 to secure housing aid. For FY 2027 and beyond, the district aims to align with the town's 2% capital requirement (over \$2M annually), target roughly \$1M per year in actual projects (plus debt/interest), and focus major construction in summers 2027 and 2028. Committee members stressed the importance of coordination with Town leadership, community participation, and producing a clear, State-compliant five-year CIP that is transparent and understandable to the public.

No vote was taken on this item.

F. Discussion: School Building Committee - Status Update of New South Kingstown High School and Athletic Field/Stadium Complex at Curtis Corner

Ms. Macinanti reported that construction on the new high school is progressing, with brickwork on the academic tower advancing so the building is beginning to look like a completed school. There is a delay in the demolition of Curtis Corner Middle School due to Rhode Island Energy's schedule for disconnects, which affects the timing of site work for fields and circulation. A small working group,

including the Town Manager, Police Chief, and School/District Administrators, is being formed to design detailed traffic flow and parking plans for the 2027–2028 school year, when the new campus configuration will be fully in use. For now, traffic patterns will remain the same for 2026–2027, with planning work underway to ensure a smooth transition the following year and avoid late decision-making that could slow the project.

5. Adjournment

A. Adjourn

MSV(8) – Motion made to adjourn

Motion made by Kate Macinanti

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 5-0

Meeting is adjourned at 8:05 PM.