

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION CONFERENCE ROOM
4 FAIRFIELD BOULEVARD, SUITE 2, WALLINGFORD
MONDAY, JULY 27, 2026 - 6:30 P.M.**

Mission

To inspire through innovative and engaging experiences that lead all learners to pursue and discover their personal best.

Vision

Wallingford Public Schools, in partnership with our families and community, will provide a safe, healthy, and supportive environment that ignites an enduring passion for excellence in every learner, so that each becomes a lifelong contributor to the local, national and global communities.

MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Maureen Reed, Acting Chairperson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

A roll call was made by Linda Lavelle, Clerk of the Board

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

CRAIG, DOERING, DOERR, RAYNIS, REED, ROSCOE

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

PASSARETT, REGAN, VOTTO

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

BELLIZZI, LATORRE, TURNER, STACY, BARONE, HATHAWAY, VEILLEUX, DEPTULA, LAVELLE

OTHERS PRESENT

NONE

STUDENT BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

Student Board Representatives do not present during the summer.

PRESENTATION AND AWARDS

There were no awards presented at this meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no Public Comments at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA**MOTION TO ACCEPT ITEMS 7.1 - 7.4 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA**

MOTION: REED, SECOND BY CRAIG

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO ACCEPT ITEMS 7.1 - 7.4 ON THE CONSENT AGENDA AS LISTED BELOW:

Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes - June 22, 2026

Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes - June 25, 2026

Approval to Accept an In-kind **GIFT** of Masonicare Health Center's assistance and support of the Wallingford Adult Education CNA Program - Value of \$25,000.00

Approval to Accept a Monetary **GIFT** donated to the Highland Elementary School Student Activities Fund from Trail of Terror LLC, % Mr. Wayne Barneshi - Value of \$1,500.00

Motion Passed - Unanimous Approval to Accept Items 7.1 - 7.4 on the Consent Agenda.

ITEMS REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA

There were no Agenda Items Removed from the Consent Agenda.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mrs. Raynis shared that the Wallingford Adult Education CNA Program received an In-Kind Gift from Masonicare Health Center consisting of Assistance and Support for the CNA Program. The Highland Elementary School Student Activity Fund received a monetary donation from the Trail of Terror LLC, % Mr. Wayne Barneshi. The Highland Elementary School Student Activity Fund also received a monetary donation from Donna Regan. The Wallingford Public School Personnel Office received a donation from Arnold's Jewelers in North Haven of Engraving for the Administrator of the Year, Teacher of the Year and Paraeducator of the Year for 2025 and 2026. Mark T. Sheehan High School received a donation of 2 Cross Bailey Medalist Pens from Michael's Jewelers. Mark T. Sheehan High School National Honor Society received a monetary donation which was used for Bus Transportation to a Leadership Conference. This donation was received from Compass Lodge #9. Mark T. Sheehan High School also received a monetary donation from Ms. Dawn Thomas. The donation was used for a breakfast for teachers during Teacher Appreciation Week. Mrs. Raynis thanked the donors on behalf of the Board of Education and expressed how grateful and appreciative the Board is to receive such gifts. The Board of Education also received a thank you note from The Wallingford Historical Society for a Zenith Transatlantic Radio donated to them. The old radio was donated from Mark T. Sheehan High School.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES Governing Board Update - Dr. Reed shared notes given to her from Mr. Votto.

Students at WIMS have been participating in an immersive summer arts experience. They also had an administrative retreat focusing on shared language learning experience of organizational learning, accountability and organizational capacity. ACES will focus on concluding the extended school year programming. On August 26th they are holding the ACES Convention, The final fit plans - A celebration of us and the ACES AI Conference - Designing human centered learning in an AI Era.

CABE Report - Mr. Doering reported that registration for the CABE/CAPSS Convention held every year in Mystic has now opened. There are 2 other day conferences being held by CABE between now and the full conference as well.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought before the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, SECTION 1-200(6)(A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT(S) WITH SUPERINTENDENT BELLIZZI, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, BOB STACY AND BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AT 6:39 P.M.

MOTION: REED SECOND BY RAYNIS

VOTE: UNANIMOUS APPROVAL TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES, SECTION 1-200(6)(A) FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT(S) WITH SUPERINTENDENT BELLIZZI, DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES, BOB STACY AND BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS AT 6:39 P.M.

Motion Passed - Unanimous Approval to go into Executive Session Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes, section 1-200 (6)(A) for the Purpose of Discussion of Acceptance of Retirement(s) with Superintendent Bellizzi , Director of Human Resources, Bob Stacy at 6:39 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

CRAIG, DOERING, DOERR, RAYNIS, REED, ROSCOE

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

BELLIZZI, STACY

OTHERS PRESENT IN EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

The meeting reconvened at 6:45 p.m.

MOTION TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO ADD PUBLIC COMMENT BACK IN TO THE AGENDA AFTER THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE AGENDA ITEM 14

MOTION: REED SECOND BY RAYNIS

VOTE: Unanimous approval to Amend the Agenda to Add Public Comment back into the Agenda after the Operations Committee Agenda Item 14.

Motion Passed - Unanimous Approval to Amend the Agenda to Add Public Comment back into the Agenda after the Operations Committee Agenda Item 14.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE

APPROVAL OF ACCEPTANCE OF RETIREMENT OF LAURIE SAIA EFFECTIVE JULY 31, 2026.

MOTION: REED SECOND BY RAYNIS

VOTE: Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept the retirement of **Laurie Saia effective July 31, 2026.**

Laurie has been an English teacher since August 2004 for a total of 22 years in Wallingford Public Schools.

*Motion Passed - Unanimous approval that the Board of Education accept the retirement of **Laurie Saia effective July 31, 2026.***

APPROVAL OF BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS FOR FEBRUARY 2027 - JANUARY 2028

MOTION: REED SECOND BY RAYNIS

VOTE: Unanimous approval of the Board of Education Schedule of Meetings for February 2027 - January 2028.

Motion Passed - Unanimous approval of the Board of Education Schedule of Meetings for February 2027 - January 2028.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**OPERATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT**

Mr. Craig reviewed last month's Operations committee report as there was not an Operations Committee meeting in July.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PRICES FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ADULTS**APPROVAL OF SCHOOL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PRICES FOR ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND ADULTS PER THE FIGURES IN THE HANDOUT WHICH WOULD BE 10 CENTS FOR BREAKFAST, 35 CENTS FOR LUNCH AND 85 CENTS FOR ADULTS**

MOTION: CRAIG SECOND BY RAYNIS

VOTE: Unanimous approval of School Breakfast and Lunch Prices for Elementary, Middle, High School Students and Adults per the figures in the Handout which would be 10 cents for Breakfast, 35 cents for Lunch and 85 cents for Adults.

Motion Passed - Unanimous approval of School Breakfast and Lunch Prices for Elementary, Middle, High School Students and Adults per the figures in the Handout which would be 10 cents for Breakfast, 35 cents for Lunch and 85 cents for Adults.

Mr. Hathaway explained the School Year 2026-2027 Meal Price Increase Proposal. The Wallingford Schools Food service operations is proposing a .35 cent increase in the price of Lunch for the 2026-2027 school year. We are also proposing a .10 increase in breakfast pricing. Even though breakfast is free for all during the school year 2026-2027 legislation has not passed to determine if it will remain free beyond this upcoming school year.

The U.S Department of Agriculture along with the CT State Department of Education recently issued guidance to school districts for the school year 2026-2027 concerning paid lunch equity. The purpose of the Paid Lunch Equity (PLE) requirement is to "fill the gap" between the cost of production for a paid lunch and the price charged for a paid meal, without relying on federal funding designated for free and reduced-price meals. For school year 2026-2027, school districts that did not have a positive or zero balance in their school food service operation account for school year 2025-2026 must raise prices so that the average weighted paid lunch price for student lunch is \$4.16 or above.

While our food service operations did have a positive balance in school year 2025-2026, we want to be prepared for challenges in the coming years due to the following:

- The Federal Government will no longer be providing extra funding for covid or emergency feeding.
- A potential increase in labor costs due to Free Breakfast for All.
- An anticipated increase in the costs of food and milk.
- A significant reduction in commodity assistance from the Federal Government, which will result in increased food costs for national school lunch programs

Mr. Hathaway continued sharing the information on his backup document. Board members all took turns asking questions and sharing their thoughts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Keith Massimino came before the Board of Education and Central Office Staff to share safety concerns. Mr. Massimino is suggesting that we have new protocols put in place for PTO Volunteers, perhaps the district should complete background checks on volunteers. Mr. Massimino also shared that there were 2 Resource Officers working in our district that were no longer approved to work as officers in other municipalities due to previous issues/incidents that occurred but were hired to work in our school system. He shared that this was very concerning to him.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Ms. Bellizzi reported the following:

New Teacher Orientation & Professional Development Dates

Please save the dates.

- **New Teacher Orientation Date**
This will be held at 4 Fairfield Blvd from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Please click here to view the agenda.
 - Friday, August 21, 2026
- **Administrator Professional Development Days**
These meetings will be held in the BOE Conference Room. Agendas for each day will be forthcoming. These are mandatory meetings for building administrators. Please note that some sessions are full days, and some are ½ days.
 - Thursday, August 13, 2026
 - Friday, August 14, 2026
 - Monday, August 17, 2026
- **Teacher Professional Development Days**
Agendas and location assignments for each day will be forthcoming. The sessions will run from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., with a one-hour lunch break.
 - Monday, August 24, 2026
 - Tuesday, August 25, 2026
 - Wednesday, August 26, 2026
- **First Day of School**
 - Thursday, August 27, 2026
- **First Day of Preschool**
 - Tuesday, September 1, 2026

Mrs. LaTorre reported the following:

- *Enrollment is on-going and constantly being monitored and updated. Parents are encouraged to register their children at their earliest convenience. This is to ensure communication from their child's schools through ParentSquare. Central Office is located at 4 Fairfield Boulevard, Suite 2, Wlfd from 7:30 a.m. - 3:30 a.m. In August Central Office will stay open late a few days, more information will be sent at a later date.*

Mrs. Turner reported the following:

- *Reminder - Students entering 7th and 10th grades must have physicals completed during 6th and 9th*

grades.

- *The Extended School Year Program is nearing completion. There were 72 students who participated as Peer Mentors helping Special Needs students socially and academically.*
- *There will be 2 Family Days in August for the Learner and Engagement Program.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Via Google Meet

There were no announcements.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

**Board of Education
Conference Room
4 Fairfield Blvd., Suite 2
6:30 p.m.**

Monday, August 24, 2026

Board of Education

ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was Adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Caroline Raynis

Secretary

[Click here to view the meeting in its entirety on YouTube.](#)