

**WALLINGFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
BOARD OF EDUCATION CONFERENCE ROOM
4 FAIRFIELD BOULEVARD, SUITE 2, WALLINGFORD
MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 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

Michael J. Votto, 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, PASSARETTI, REED, REGAN, ROSCOE, VOTTO

Passaretti Participated Via Google Meet

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT

RAYNIS

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.

MOTION TO ADD DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO THE AGENDA TO REVISIT THE EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED ONE NEW WALLINGFORD HIGH SCHOOL SINCE WE ARE GETTING AN UPDATE ON BUDGETING AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES

MOTION: REGAN SECOND BY REED

VOTE: Affirmative - CRAIG, DOERING, PASSARETTI, REED, REGAN, ROSCOE, VOTTO
 Negative - DOERR,
 Abstained - NONE
Motion Passed - 7 Affirmative Votes

1 Negative Votes

Motion Passed - Approval to add Discussion and Possible Action to the Agenda to Revisit the Educational Specifications for the Proposed One New Wallingford High School Since we are getting an Update on Budgeting and Reimbursement Rates.

PRESENTATION

UPDATE REGARDING FISCAL YEAR 2027 STATE OF CONNECTICUT SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION REIMBURSEMENT RATES AND ESTIMATED BUDGET SUMMARY FOR THE PROPOSED NEW WALLINGFORD HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. Bellizzi shared information on the School Construction Reimbursements. In July 2026, the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) released the School Construction Reimbursement Rates for the fiscal year 2027. DAS calculates reimbursement rates annually for school construction grants based on a statutory formula. The reimbursement rate determines the maximum school construction grant amount as a percentage of the total eligible costs of a school construction project. Two different rates are calculated for each school district under the School Construction Grant Program. FY 2027 Rates for General Construction = 56.43%. FY 2027 Rates for New Construction = 52.5%

Ms. Bellizzi reviewed the School Reimbursement rates and 5 different options with the 2027 rates, which included an estimated budget summary for the Proposed New Wallingford High School project. The documents included an estimated total project cost, which included a New High School building, an ASTE building, and land/site costs along with the estimated state and town shares of the cost. Last week, Ms. Bellizzi had a meeting with Senator Paul Cicarella to discuss his help in increasing the reimbursement rate for the district. The town is still in negotiations regarding the acquisition of land. The Agreement will need to be approved by the Town Council. The Board of Education had previously voted to approve Educational Specifications for the One New Wallingford High School which included the addition of a Pool and 17 Dedicated Instructional Classrooms and it resulted in reductions to other spaces, such as faculty workrooms, faculty phone booths and seminar classrooms.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO REVISIT THE EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE PROPOSED ONE NEW WALLINGFORD HIGH SCHOOL SINCE WE ARE GETTING AN UPDATE ON BUDGETING AND REIMBURSEMENT RATES

MOTION TO RESCIND THE MOTION ALREADY MADE ON THE EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS WITH THE 17 CLASSROOMS AND THE NATATORIUM FROM 2025

MOTION: REGAN SECOND BY ROSCOE

VOTE: Affirmative - DOERING, PASSARETTI, REGAN, ROSCOE, VOTTO
 Negative - CRAIG, DOERR, REED
 Abstained - NONE
Motion Passed - 5 Affirmative Votes

3 Negative Votes

Motion Passed - Approval to Rescind the Motion already made on the Educational Specifications with 17 Classrooms and the Natatorium from 2025.

MOTION TO ACCEPT OPTION 1 - EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS WITHOUT 17 ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS AND THE NATATORIUM

MOTION: REGAN SECOND BY DOERING

MOTION TO TABLE THE MOTION TO ACCEPT OPTION 1 - EDUCATIONAL SPECIFICATIONS WITHOUT 17 ADDITIONAL CLASSROOMS AND THE NATATORIUM

MOTION: REGAN SECOND BY CRAIG

VOTE: Unanimous Approval to Table the Motion to Accept Option 1 - Educational Specifications without 17 Additional Classrooms and the Natatorium.

Motion Passed - Unanimous Approval to Table the Motion to Accept Option 1 - Educational Specifications without 17 Classrooms and the Natatorium.

There was a lengthy discussion among Board members regarding the Educational Specifications for the One New Wallingford High School Project. Board members shared their individual thoughts, opinions, and perspectives regarding the project. The Board also discussed a memorandum from the Mayor in which he expressed his opinion regarding the One New Wallingford High School Project. Board members took turns sharing their comments, questions, and perspectives on the matter.

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 Board of Education Meeting Minutes - July 27, 2026

Approval to Accept Special Board of Education Meeting Minutes - August 3, 2026

Approval to Accept **Gift** of a Miscellaneous Backpacks with School Supplies from the Republican Town Committee, % Kathy Hannafey, 28 Farm Hill Road, Wlfd donated to Wallingford Public Elementary Schools - Value of \$710.00

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. Doerr shared that the Wallingford Public Elementary Schools received a **Gift** of Miscellaneous Backpacks with School Supplies from the Republican Town Committee, % Kathy Hannafey. Mrs. Doerr thanked the donors on behalf of the Board of Education and expressed how grateful and appreciative the Board is to receive such gifts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACES Governing Board Update - Mr. Votto shared that there was not a meeting. There is a new Director at ACES who sends out a monthly report that he will share with Board members. Mr. Votto continued stating that this is a great way to keep everyone informed.

CABE Report - Mr. Doering stated there was nothing new to report.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business brought before the Board.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was not an Executive Session at this Meeting.

INSTRUCTIONAL COMMITTEE

There were no agenda items brought before the Board.

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**APPROVAL OF THE 2026 - 2027 TUITION RATES FOR OUT OF DISTRICT STUDENTS AS OUTLINED IN THE MEMO FROM MR. BARONE**

MOTION: REGAN SECOND BY REED

VOTE: Unanimous approval of the 2026 - 2027 Tuition Rates for Out of District Students as Outlined in the Memo from Mr. Barone.

Motion Passed - Unanimous approval of the 2026 - 2027 Tuition Rates for Out of District Students as outlined in the Memo from Mr. Barone.

APPROVAL OF TRANSFER OF 2% FUNDS**APPROVAL OF THE TRANSFER OF \$17,500 FROM THE 2% FUND FOR THE STORAGE CONTAINERS AT LYMAN HALL AND SHEEHAN**

MOTION: REGAN SECOND BY CRAIG

VOTE: Unanimous approval of the Transfer of \$17,500 from the 2% Fund for the Storage Containers at Lyman Hall and Sheehan

Motion Passed - Unanimous approval of the Transfer of \$17,500 from the 2% Fund for the Storage Containers at Lyman Hall and Sheehan.

DISCUSSION REGARDING ENGAGEMENT OF CARMODY, TORRANCE, SANDAK, & HENNESSEY LLP TO REPRESENT ALL DEFENDANTS NAMED IN FOIA COMPLAINT BROUGHT BY CAROLINE RAYNIS

Ms. Bellizzi explained that an FOIA complaint had recently been filed and informed the Board members that she would be going before the Town Council to request a bid waiver for representation by this firm.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

Ms. Bellizzi reported the following:

- Teachers and Staff are now back from summer break.

- New Staff met on Friday, August 21, 2026
- Teacher Professional Development Days & Teacher Meet & Greet
The sessions 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 - 8:15 a.m. -9:45 a.m. - Teacher Meet & Greet
 - Wednesday, August 26, 2026
- First Day of School
 - Thursday, August 27, 2026
- First Day of Preschool
 - Tuesday, September 1, 2026
- Most positions have been filled with a few outstanding paraeducator positions and the School Nurse position at Holy Trinity School.
- As enrollment is ongoing class sections are being reviewed and adjusted accordingly using the enrollment guidelines of 21 for Grades K-2, 23 for Grades 3-5 and 25 for Grades 6-12.

Mrs. Turner reported the following:

- The District was fortunate to receive an Educational Enhancement Grant. Funding from this Grant will be used to develop an inclusive program at Lyman Hall High School for students with autism. The District will be required to write a report every September.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Via Google Meet

Monday, September 14, 2026	Operations Committee	6:00 p.m.
Monday, September 14, 2026	Instructional Committee	6:45 p.m.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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

Monday, September 28, 2026	Board of Education
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ADJOURNMENT

The Meeting was Adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Caroline Raynis Secretary

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