East Haddam Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
Municipal Office Complex, Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
June 10, 2026, 7:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Keira Thompson, Chair
Jessica Hatfield, Secretary
Jim Francese
Thea Jansky
Stephen Trojan
Melissa Ziobron
Terri Garrity

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sean Morrissey
Dr. Dan Flack

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. DeBrito, Superintendent of Schools
Christine Bourne, Business Manager
Wendy McCabe, Pupil Services Director
Catherine Marino, Math Specialist at East Haddam Elementary School

I. CALL TO ORDER

a. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited
b. Exit announcement was made

II. TEACHER EVALUATION PRESENTATION (PDEC)

Pupil Services Director Wendy McCabe and teacher Cathy Marino presented an update on the Professional Development and Evaluation Committee's (PDEC) progress in revising the certified staff evaluation process for East Haddam Public Schools. The presenters outlined several key changes to the district guidelines, including the implementation of a single-point rubric, the integration of parent and student feedback, updates to the observation schedule, and the introduction of a tiered support system. Notably, the updated evaluation framework shifts away from a traditional scoring formula, moving instead toward a goal-focused model centered on high-leverage areas designed to guide meaningful professional learning.

III. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING TEVAL

MOTION: To approve the East Haddam Public Schools Educator Evaluation and Support Programs as presented was made by Ms. Garrity and seconded by Ms. Jansky.

FAVOR: (5)
OPPOSED:(0)
ABSENT: (2)
ABSTENTIONS:(1)

IV. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

Denise Dalton spoke asking board members to look into staff who resign their positions before the end of the school year. Sarah Anderson spoke to the board to request information regarding an investigation; she inquired about her communication with district officials as well as the new transportation contract.

V. HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

The High School Student Representatives reported on end-of-year activities, academic achievements, and athletic honors for the senior class. Notably, the upcoming commencement ceremony on Friday, June 12, 2026, will celebrate the 100th graduating class from Nathan Hale-Ray High School. The representatives recognized Sara Evans as the Class of 2026 Valedictorian and Ethan Robinson as the Salutatorian.
Recent milestone events for the seniors included the Senior Prom, which was held on Friday, May 30, 2026, at The Riverhouse with the theme "A Night in Hollywood," followed by the Senior Awards on June 4 and the Senior Music Banquet on Monday, June 8. Additionally, the representatives celebrated the athletic accomplishments of the baseball and softball players who recently earned All-State, First-Team Shoreline, and Honorable Mention distinctions.

VI. CHAIRMANS REPORT

Chairman Thompson provided an update on recent district events and activities. Throughout May and June, Chairman Thompson attended the Middle School Expo Night (5/18), the CABE Roles and Responsibilities Night at the Municipal Offices (5/20), and the CABE Check-In (5/21). On May 28, she accompanied the second-grade class on their field trip to the Disc Golf Course as a parent volunteer. June events included the 5th and 6th Grade Band and Chorus Night (6/3), High School Awards Night (6/4), and the retirement celebration for Doreen Johnson (6/10), which was held alongside the District Recognitions Night prior to the 7:00 PM Regular Board Meeting. Looking ahead, Chairman Thompson highlighted several key dates for the remainder of the school year. High School Graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 12, followed by the 8th-Grade Promotion Night on Wednesday, June 17. The final day of classes for students will be an early dismissal on Thursday, June 18, 2026. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is scheduled for Wednesday, August 12, 2026.
Ms. Hatfield added that on June 2, 2026, the 4th grade held their wax museum night, and she was very impressed. Later that night was the 7th and 8th grade spring band concert. She reported that both events were amazing and a great experience.

VII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent DeBrito spoke regarding the successful conclusion of the school year, highlighting various year-end activities across the district, including field trips, field days, graduations, and promotion ceremonies. Additionally, Superintendent DeBrito extended her sincere gratitude to the entire district faculty and staff, commending their hard work and dedication to the students throughout the academic year.

VIII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE 2026-2027 BUDGET

a. Discussion and possible action to use 2025 non-lapsing funds to offset the 2026-2027 budget

MOTION: To use 2025 non-lapsing funds to offset the 2026-2027 budget was made by Mr. Francese and seconded by Mr. Trojan.

FAVOR: (5)
OPPOSED: (1)
ABSENT:(2)
ABSTENTIONS: (0)

b. Discussion and possible action to use Supplemental Aid to offset 2026-2027 budget:
The law states that supplemental aid funding "shall be expended for educational purposes only and shall be expended upon the authorization of the local or regional board of education."
This language appears in Public Act 26-130, Sections 13 and 14.

MOTION: To use Supplemental Aid to offset 2026-2027 budget was made by Mr. Francese and seconded by Ms. Hatfield.

FAVOR: (5)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT:(2)
ABSTENTIONS: (1)

c. Discussion and possible action to reduce the 2026-2027 budget by $170,000 (ESS Program)

MOTION: To reduce the 2026-2027 budget by $170,000 by removing the ESS Program was made by Ms. Hatfield and seconded by Ms. Jansky.

FAVOR: (6)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT:(2)
ABSTENTIONS: (0)

IX. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE ACTION TO APPROVE TRANSFER OF 2025 BUDGET FROM HEALTH INSURANCE LINE (ACCOUNT NUMBER 59100339-52800) TO FOOD PURCHASE SERVICES LINE (ACCOUNT NUMBER 59100579-53010) TO COVER CAFETERIA DEBT OF $210,000

MOTION: To transfer of 2025 budget from health insurance line (Account Number 59100339-52800) to food purchase services line (Account Number 59100579-53010) to cover cafeteria debt of $210,000 was made by Ms. Jansky and seconded by Ms. Garrity.

FAVOR: (6)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT:(2)
ABSTENTIONS: (0)

X. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING INCREASING STUDENT LUNCH PRICES: EAST HADDAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TO $4.00, NATHAN HALE-RAY MIDDLE SCHOOL TO $4.25, NATHAN HALE-RAY HIGH SCHOOL TO $4.25

MOTION: To increase student lunch prices: East Haddam Elementary School to $4.00, Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School to $4.25, Nathan Hale-Ray High School to $4.25 was made by Ms. Hatfield and seconded by Mr. Francese.

FAVOR: (6)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT:(2)
ABSTENTIONS: (0)

XI. ACTION ON THE MINUTES

a. Motion to approve the Regular Meeting minutes, May 13, 2026

MOTION: To approve the Regular Meeting minutes from May 13, 2026, was made by Ms. Garrity and seconded by Mr. Trojan.

FAVOR: (6)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT:(2)
ABSTENTIONS: (0)

XII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum, Policy & Educational Programming Subcommittee Report – The committee met twice in May. The committee has brought 4 policies to the full board for discussion and possible action.
b. Business & Planning Subcommittee Report- The committee discussed the facilities report from the June meeting in addition to the May warrant
c. Personnel & Negotiations Subcommittee Report- The committee reported the UPSEU contract is on the consent agenda for discussion
d. East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Committee Report- This committee did not meet in May however Mr. Trojan is now a member of this committee.
e. LEARN Liaison Report -The committee liaison discussed LEARN's budget realignment strategies, which moves specific items directly into individual school budgets to ensure more accurate financial reporting. Updates were also provided on the development of the new Early Learning Magnet School project. Additionally, the liaison noted recent state budget actions that will provide increased funding and support for Regional Educational Service Center (RESC) magnet schools.
f. Ray Board Liaison Report- The committee had nothing to report
g. Long Range Capital Improvements Committee Liaison Report- The committee had nothing to report
h. Safety & Security Report- The committee met on Monday to review district safety and operational procedures. Discussions focused on current emergency drills and protocols, as well as updates regarding upcoming training sessions for district administrators. Chairman Thompson also reported that the Director of Operations completed several updates to the school grounds and purchased new "School Zone" signage to enhance safety across the district.

XIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Discussion and possible action to include waiving the second reading for the following policies:
1. 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect, and Sexual Assault
2. 3326 Paying for Goods and Services
3. 9040 Board-Related Responsibilities
4. 9271 Code of Ethics

MOTION: To approve, including waiving of the second reading, Policy 5141.4 5141.4 Reporting of Child Abuse, Neglect, and Sexual Assault, was made by Mr. Francese and seconded by Ms. Jansky.

FAVOR: (6)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT:(2)
ABSTENTIONS: (0)

MOTION To approve the second reading including the waiving of the second reading for 3326 Paying for Goods and Services was made by Mr. Francese and seconded by Ms. Garrity.

FAVOR: (5)
OPPOSED: (1)
ABSENT:(2)
ABSTENTIONS: (0)

Policy 9040 Board-Related Responsibilities was brought before the Board for consideration of approval. The chairman asked to table this for further review.

MOTION To approve the second reading including the waiving of the second reading for 9271 Code of Ethics was made by Mr. Trojan and seconded by Ms. Jansky.

FAVOR: (5)
OPPOSED: (1)
ABSENT:(2)
ABSTENTIONS: (0)

b. Acceptance of the consent agenda 1-6
1. UPSEU Contract
2. Discipline Report
3. Enrollment Report
4. May 2026 Warrant
5. Acceptance of the following appointments:
   i. Rosalia Gutierrez, Food Service
6. Acceptance of the following resignation:
   i. Veronica Pytlik, Nathan Hale-Ray Middle School Fifth Grade Teacher
   ii. Jenna Lentini, District C.O.T.A.

MOTION To approve consent agenda items 1 through 6 was made by Mr. Francese and seconded by Ms. Jansky.

FAVOR: (5)
OPPOSED: (1)
ABSENT:(2)
ABSTENTIONS: (0)

XIV. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

There were no citizens who wished to speak.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION To approve adjourn was made by Ms. Garrity and seconded by Ms. Jansky.

Favor (6)
Opposed (0)
Absent (2)
Abstentions (0)