East Haddam Board of Education
Regular Meeting Minutes
Municipal Office Complex, Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
May 13, 2026, 7:00 PM

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:	Keira Thompson, Chair Jessica Hatfield, Secretary Jim Francese Thea Jansky Sean Morrissey Stephen Trojan Melissa Ziobron (Virtually) Dr. Dan Flack Terri Garrity
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Sean Morrissey
OTHERS PRESENT:	Dr. DeBrito, Superintendent of Schools Christine Bourne, Business Manager

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. HIGH SCHOOL REPRESENTATIVES

The high school representatives were not present, however Dr. DeBrito shared their report which included the upcoming Spring Concert & Senior Night on Thursday, May 14, 2026, in the High School auditorium beginning at 7:00 PM and running until 8:30 PM. The students at Nathan Hale Ray High School participated in the AP Testing during the last two weeks. During the week of April 27, 2026, the High School hosted their last Spirit Week & Pep Rally. The Senior Class recently had their Capstone Expo where they presented projects they worked on all school year. Superintendent DeBrito shared some senior accomplishments from this school year, both athletic & academic. Awards ceremonies will begin as soon as next week as the school year winds down.

III. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Board Chair Thompson shared that spring sports are in full swing. On April 24, 2026, Chairman Thompson attended the Elementary Schools Volunteer Breakfast as a parent. On April 29, 2026, the High School hosted the Senior Expo night. She discussed the budget referendum passing on May 5, 2026, A PTO event at the Elementary School on May 8,2026 and High School graduation will be held on Thursday, June 12, 2026, while the 8th grade promotion ceremony is scheduled for Wednesday, June 17, 2026.

IV. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. DeBrito discussed the two-hour delay on Tuesday, May 12, 2026, due to a mechanical malfunction in the fire alarm causing the sprinkler system to go off. This month the staff celebrated Teacher Appreciation week. The NEASC team visited the High School last month & the Superintendent is awaiting their report. The Middle School students are visiting the High School this month. The Superintendent shared upcoming trips and celebrations. She also shared that there are many assessments at this time of year, state testing and exams.

V. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

There were no citizens who spoke.

VI. NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

The Superintendent stated that in order for East Haddam to benefit from participation in the program, the Board would need to publicly make a motion so that it is clear what the schools can and cannot do.

MOTION: Pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 10-215F, the East Haddam Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction and not exempt from the Connecticut nutritional standards published by the Connecticut Department of Education will comply with the Connecticut nutritional standards during the effective period of July 1st, 2026, through June 30th, 2027. This certification shall include all food offered for sale to students separately from reimbursable meals at all times, and from all sources, including but not limited to school stores, vending machines, school cafeterias, culinary programs, and any fundraising activities on school premises sponsored by the school or non-school organization and groups was made by Mr. Francese and seconded by Ms. Hatfield.

FAVOR: (7)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT: (1)
ABSTENTIONS:(0)

MOTION: For the school year 2026 to 2027, the East Haddam Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut nutrition standards provided the following conditions are met. One, the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of a regular school day or on the weekend. Two, the sale is at the location of the event. Three, the food items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An event is an occurrence that involves more than regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events, but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and the debate team meetings are not. The regular school day is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of a school day. Location means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food sales was made by Ms. Garrity and seconded by Mr. Trojan.

FAVOR: (7)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT: (1)
ABSTENTIONS:(0)

VII. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE 2026-2027 BUDGET

The Board discussed changes to the budget including information regarding the state of Connecticut grant, the Board of Education's non-lapsing account as well as programming changes.

MOTION: To eliminate funding for Effective School Solutions (ESS), which is $170,000, from the Board of Education 2026-2027 budget was made by Mr. Francese and seconded by Mr. Trojan.

FAVOR: (6)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT: (1)
ABSTENTIONS:(1)

MOTION: To utilize fiscal year 2025 non-lapsing funds to offset the Board of Finance reduction to the Board of Education 2026-2027 budget was made by Ms. Jansky and seconded by Mr. Trojan.

FAVOR: (4)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT: (1)
ABSTENTIONS:(3)

MOTION: To utilize the State of Connecticut Supplemental Aid Grant in the amount of $142,238.00 to offset the Board of Finance reduction to the Board of Education 2026–2027 budget was made by Mr. Francese and seconded by Ms. Garrity.

FAVOR: (7)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT: (1)
ABSTENTIONS:(0)

VIII. ACTION ON THE MINUTES

MOTION: A motion to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes on April 8, 2026, was made by Ms. Hatfield and seconded by Dr. Flack.

FAVOR: (7)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT: (1)
ABSTENTIONS:(0)

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Curriculum, Policy & Educational Programming Subcommittee Report-The committee met on Monday, May 11, 2026. Topics of discussion included the Middle School science program; there was preliminary conversation regarding legal changes as well as the district curriculum template.
b. Business & Planning Subcommittee Report-The committee met on Thursday, April 30,2026 where there was not a quorum, so no official business was conducted however, they had an informal update on the Elementary School HVAC work, a generator installation as well as the gym floor damage.
c. Personnel & Negotiations Subcommittee Report- The teachers union contract and stipend negotiations are complete. The committee is now moving on to the UPSEU contract for updates.
d. East Haddam Schools Capital Improvements Committee Liaison Report-The committee met on Thursday, April 30, 2026, where the HVAC project & gym floor project were discussed. The committee is also expecting Mr. Trojan to be voted committee liaison.
e. LEARN Liaison Report-Ms. Garrity reported that the most recent LEARN meeting minutes focused on Three Rivers College, curriculum development, as well as executive functioning skills.
f. Ray Board Liaison Report-Ms. Jansky reported that on Tuesday, May 12, 2026 the Ray Board Scholarship dinner was held. There were 3 recipients of scholarships.
g. Long Range Capital Improvements Committee Liaison Report -Chairman Thompson reported that the committee will be meeting soon. Chairman Thompson, Mr. Francese and Mr. Trojan will be the committee liaisons.
h. Safety and Security Committee Report-A meeting is scheduled for the month of June.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Acceptance of the consent agenda 1-7

1. Discipline Report
2. Enrollment Report including description on the process to gather data
3. April 2026 Warrant
4. Approve 7th grade field trip to Boston (Social Studies class to Boston Freedom Trail)
5. Approve 2026-2029 EHEA Contract
6. Approve OpenSciEd, Middle School Science Program
7. Acceptance of the following resignations/retirements:
    a. Doreen Johnson, Elementary School Special Education Teacher
    b. Bryan Topper, High School Second Shift Custodian
    c. Aisha Jandreau, Middle School Cafeteria Worker
    d. Georgiana Hodson, Accounts Payable/Finance Secretary
    e. Sylviane Tomasi, Middle School Paraeducator
    f. Jacqueline Yocher, Middle School Special Education Teacher

The Board discussed the items listed on the consent agenda.

MOTION: A motion to approve the consent agenda items 1-7 was made by Ms. Garrity and seconded by Mr. Francese.

FAVOR: (6)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT: (1)

ABSTENTIONS:(1)

XI. AUDIENCE OF CITIZENS

There were no citizens who spoke

XII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Jansky and seconded by Ms. Garrity at 8:17 PM.

FAVOR: (7)
OPPOSED: (0)
ABSENT: (1)
ABSTENTIONS:(0)

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Hatfield
Board of Education Secretary