

**Windsor Locks Board of Education  
58 South Elm Street  
Windsor Locks, CT 06096**

**MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING  
January 23, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

These minutes are not official until approved at a subsequent meeting.

Members Present:	K. Christianson, D. Gragnolati, L. Cutler, A. Osorio, and G. Guyette
Members Absent:	None
Administrators:	S. Parkhurst, R. Stacy, P. Proctor, R. Bissonnette, K. Krupa, J. Robinson, G. Testani, M. Briggs, M. Warner, C. Domler, M. Parrette, G. Weigert, and A. Goodwin
Student Representatives:	None
Students:	None
Staff:	J. Garcia, J. Long, M. Sigall, and N. Saavedra
Others:	A few members of the public and some participating on Zoom
Press:	None

**I. Call to Order**

Chairwoman Ms. Kylee Christianson called the Regular Meeting to Order at 6:04 p.m. held at the Windsor Locks High School Media Center and via Zoom.

**A. Roll Call for Quorum**

All Board Members were present other than Mr. Gragnolati, who arrived at 6:26 p.m.)

**B. Pledge of Allegiance**

All stood up and pledged allegiance to the flag.

**II. Board of Education and Superintendent Communications**

Chairwoman Ms. Christianson commented on Tuesday, she and Board Members, Mr. Guyette and Ms. Osorio along with Mr. Parkhurst attended the staff appreciation at the middle school and Windsor Locks Middle School girls' basketball game. It was a fun night, a great group of kids on the team.

Mr. Shawn Parkhurst, Superintendent of Schools, addressed the Board. He gave a shout-out to Ms. Abby Wrinn and all of the staff who stayed to support the athletes. He noted the Windsor Locks Middle School boys' team won their first game in front of a good crowd! He reminded everyone of the upcoming Windsor Locks Middle School Theater Club performance of the *Wizard of Oz* on Friday and Saturday night. He noted there are many athletic events and appreciate nights listed in his "Thank Goodness It's Monday" blog.

**III. Student Board Representative(s) Report**

None.

**IV. Public Audience (only Agenda Items)**

None.

**V. Awarding of AED Device**

Mr. Parkhurst announced two staff members Nicole Saavedra and Kate Ainsworth recently collaborated to enter a contest through the In a Heartbeat Foundation for a chance to win an AED Device for the district. Their efforts were successful and the district will receive the new device, valued at approximately \$1,400, sometime in January. The In a Heartbeat Foundation was founded by Mike Papale to raise money and awareness for sudden cardiac arrest and hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. Mike suffered a cardiac event as a high school athlete and has

since worked to donate and train schools and businesses in CPR and AED use. Mr. Parkhurst recognized Ms. Saavedra and Ms. Ainsworth for their efforts. Ms. Saavedra spoke to the Board giving more details about the AED device.

## **VI. Superintendent's FY25-26 Budget**

Mr. Parkhurst gave an overview of the recommended FY26 budget of \$39,120,214.38 or an increase of \$5,069,028.34 or 14.89% increase over FY25 budget. He noted the increase of \$5.Million dollars includes the \$2.5 Million dollars cost of insurance and 25% additional increase of insurance or a total of \$3 Million dollars. The increase without the cost of the medical insurance would be a 4.63%. He went through slides from his presentation showing what is in the budget and what has been reduced. He compared FY25 approved budget and FY 26 proposed budget showing the breakdown of each department, noting a complete reduction in the costs of RISE Transition Academy. He discussed the capital requests for Grade 3 and Grade 8 Chromebook replacements and protective clamshells for \$61,712.20. He discussed the capital project request of updating the Windsor Locks High School Track and Football Field, bleacher replacements and new concession building for \$8,025,300.00. The budget is due to the Town on February 1, 2025 and the Board will be presenting to the Board of Finance on February 19, 2025.

Vice-Chair Mr. Gragnolati entered the meeting at 6:26 p.m.

A lengthy discussion was held

It was **MOVED** (Guyette) and **SECONDED** (Cutler) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Education approves the recommended budget for FY26 of \$39,120,214.38 or an increase of \$5,059,028.34 or a 14.88% increase as presented.

It was **MOVED** (Cutler) and **SECONDED** (Osorio) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Education approves the recommended capital improvement budget for FY26 as presented.

## **VII. Board and Superintendent Comment**

Mr. Parkhurst encouraged everyone to stay involved with the budget process, the presentation at the Board of Finance on February 19, 2025 and any possible appeals on March 25, 2025.

Chairwoman Ms. Christianson also encouraged the public if they had questions about the budget, they could reach out to her or Mr. Parkhurst.

## **VIII. Public Audience (General)**

Ms. Jennifer Long, Art teacher at the North Street School and South Elementary School addressed the Board. She understands the hard challenges the Board has during the budget cycle, but all she is asking for is being able to provide all children with a well-rounded education and not to forget art. It is difficult for her to provide art classes in two schools, but she does not want the children to lose access to art and libraries. She hopes for a change in the future.

## **IX. Adjournment**

It was **MOVED** (Osorio) and **SECONDED** (Cutler) and **PASSED** (U) that the Board of Education adjourn the Regular Meeting of January 23, 2025 at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise M. Piotrowicz  
Recording Secretary