

EASTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Eastford Elementary School
12 Westford Road
Eastford, CT 06242
April 10, 2025

Present: Lauren Barlow, Michael Bilica (virtual), Stephen Bowen, Terry Cote (virtual 6:04 PM), Robert Ellsworth, Adam Minor, Jessica Perry (virtual)
Also Present: Dr. Donna Leake, Superintendent; Carole McCombe, Principal; Charles Kernan, Director of Pupil Services

I. Call to Order

Chair Bowen called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bowen led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Citizens of the Trimester

Grade 4 student Peyton DeLay and grade 8 student Jaydn Rathburn were named as recipients of the Trimester Citizenship Award. The Board of Education recognizes students who exemplify the qualities of leadership, respect, support of peers and involvement in school activities. Both students were able to attend the meeting, one in person and one virtually, to be congratulated by the Board.

Ms. Cote joined the meeting at 6:04 PM

IV. CAS/CABE Student Recognition

The Board recognized the accomplishments of four Grade 8 students: Wesley DePercio, Leah Talaga, Sofia Gillett and Mitchell Norman. Wesley and Leah were selected to receive the CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) 2024-2025 Student Leadership Award and Sofia and Mitchell were selected to receive the CAS (Connecticut Association of Schools) 2024-2025 Scholar-Leader Award. Both Sofia and Mitchell will also be recognized at the CAS Scholar-Leader Banquet in May. All students were able to attend the meeting to be congratulated by the Board.

V. Citizen Participation

Ms. Dill, Grade 4 teacher, addressed the Board along with seven of her students: Rory Ball, Daniel Budd, Peyton DeLay, Corinne Ellsworth, Calan Gaudette, Jocylin Hillman, and Hayleigh Wooding (student Scarlett Haynes was unable to attend). The students recently read an article about homework, which led them to research the amount of time other schools have compared to the time they have. They presented a letter to the Board, which Calan Gaudette read aloud, requesting that the Board grant them less homework time each night.

VI. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: (Ellsworth/Minor) To approve the Board of Education minutes of the Regular Meeting on March 13, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Correspondence, Communications

- Eastford Elementary School Second Trimester Honor Roll
- Email from Christine Witter, parent, regarding CMEA Honors Band Concert

- Email from Christopher Sandford, The Woodstock Academy Head of School, announcing the new Head of School, Dr. Lawrence Filippelli

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Executive/Personnel— None.
- B. Fiscal— None.
- C. Policy— The Board received the minutes of the March 25, 2025 meeting.
- D. Woodstock Academy – None.
- E. EastConn— Ms. Cote stated that EastConn expects to be in a deficit at the end of this year and they are looking to move their insurance to the Connecticut State Partnership to save money.
- F. Long Range Facilities— None.
- G. Transportation – None.
- H. Curriculum– None.
- I. Scholarship Steering Committee – The Board received the minutes of the April 2, 2025 meeting.
- J. School Safety Committee – None.

IX. Superintendent Report

Provided the BOE with updates including:

- Highlight of the Month – *Observing the Preschool class during their Physical Education time
- Educational Leadership – *Remain current with Title I legislation and funding *Maintain regular contact with the After School grant liaison *Investigating other After School program models *Policy Committee changes based on new state and federal regulations
- Facilities - *Still some issues with the new PV system *An HVAC survey is needed, which is costly *The generator has been inspected, and repairs will be made
- Finance - *Attended the BOS meeting with Steve Bowen to present the Board of Education'
- Collaboration and Communication – *Charles Kernan working with Scotland regarding an ESY partnership *Continued meetings with Eric Protulis from EastConn *Carole McCombe working with EastConn and other districts regarding a collaboration for Readiness leadership
- Comments on selected agenda items

X. Principal Report

The Board received the Principal's report which discussed and/or provided the following information:

- Field Trips/ Virtual Field Trips
- Readiness Program/ Council Update
- Data on Student Progress
- High School Information and Updates
- Professional Development
- Upcoming Events
- Special Notes and Thanks

XI. Director of Pupil Services Report

The Board received the April report, which reflects changes from the March report.

Ms. Cote left the meeting at 6:41 PM

XII. Unfinished Business

- A. High School Discussion
Nothing currently.

XIII. New Business

- A. Annual Healthy Food Certification
MOTION: (Ellsworth/Barlow)

1. Pursuant to C.G.S. Section 10-215f, the Eastford Board of Education certifies that all food items offered for sale to students in the schools under its jurisdiction and not exempted from the Connecticut Nutrition Standards published by the Connecticut State Department of Education, will comply with the Connecticut Nutrition Standards during the period of July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026. 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 organizations and groups. **Yes** **X** **No** _____
2. The Eastford Board of Education will allow the sale to students of food items that do not meet the Connecticut Nutrition Standards and beverages not listed in Section 10-221q of the Connecticut General Statutes provided that the following conditions are met: 1) the sale is in connection with an event occurring after the end of the regular school day or on the weekend; 2) the sale is at the location of the event; and 3) the food and beverage items are not sold from a vending machine or school store. An “event” is an occurrence that involves more than just a regularly scheduled practice, meeting, or extracurricular activity. For example, soccer games, school plays, and interscholastic debates are events but soccer practices, play rehearsals, and debate team meetings are not. The “regular school day” is the period from midnight before to 30 minutes after the end of the official school day. “Location” means where the event is being held and must be the same place as the food and beverage sales. **Yes** **X** **No** _____
Motion passed unanimously.

- B. Policy 5131.911, Bullying Prevention and Intervention
MOTION: (Barlow/Minor) To repeal Policy 5131.911, Bullying Prevention and Intervention, effective July 1, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

- C. New CAFE Climate Plan Policy
The Board received the policy for first reading.

- D. New Shipman & Goodwin Climate Plan Regulations
The Board received the regulations for first reading.

- E. New Shipman & Goodwin Restorative Practices Policy
The Board received the policy for first reading.

- F. Policy 5116, Student Discipline
The Board received the policy for first reading.

- G. Policy 5152, Prohibition of Sex Discrimination Including Sex-Based Harassment (Students)
The Board received the policy for first reading.

- H. Policy 4126 4226, Prohibition of Sex Discrimination Including Sex-Based Harassment (Personnel)
The Board received the policy for first reading.

- I. Policy 1610, Pesticide Application on School Property
The Board received the policy for first reading.

J. New Pest Management Plan 2024

MOTION: (Barlow/Minor) To adopt the updated 2024 Pest Management Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

K. Policy 1250, Visitors and Observations in Schools

The Board received the policy for first reading.

L. Policy 1700, School Safety and Security

The Board received the policy for first reading.

M. Set the last day of school

MOTION: (Ellsworth/Barlow) To set the last day of school for students as June 13, 2025.

Motion passed unanimously.

N. Set date of Grade 8 graduation

MOTION: (Ellsworth/Barlow) To set the Grade 8 graduation date as June 13, 2025. Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Additional Agenda Items

Mrs. Barlow requested that the acceptance of the Scholarship Committee's recommendations for the Ethel Cushing Gardner Music Scholarship recipients be added to the agenda.

MOTION: (Barlow/Minor) To amend the Agenda to add New Business, O. To accept the recommendations of the Scholarship Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. New Business, cont.

O. Accept the Recommendations of the Scholarship Committee

MOTION: (Barlow/Bilica) To accept the recommendations of the Scholarship Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

XV. Financial Reports

A. March 2025 Disbursements--sent to BOE via email

B. Monthly Financial Summary, March 2025

The Board received and reviewed the monthly summary.

C. Budget Transfers

None.

XVI. Citizen Participation

None.

XVII. Adjournment

MOTION: (Minor/Bilica) Motion to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 6:55 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kymberli A. Gaylor, Clerk