

EASTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Eastford Elementary School
12 Westford Road
Eastford, CT 06242
February 12, 2026

Present: Lauren Barlow, Michael Bilica, Stephen Bowen, Terry Cote, Robert Ellsworth, Adam Minor
Absent: Nancy Neff
Also Present: Dr. Donna Leake, Superintendent; Carole McCombe, Principal; Charles Kernan, Director of Pupil Services

I. Call to Order

Mr. Bowen called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Citizen Participation

None.

IV. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: (Bilica/Cote) To approve the Board of Education minutes of the Regular Meeting on January 8, 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

V. Correspondence, Communication

- Resignation letter from Lucy Brisson, Long Term Substitute Paraeducator
- Thank you letter from the Board of Education to Zachary Hutchings, EES Boys Basketball Coach
- TEAM (Teacher Education And Mentoring program) District Plan

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Executive/Personnel— None.
- B. Fiscal— The Board received the minutes of the January 22, 2026 meeting.
- C. Policy— The Board received the minutes of the February 5, 2026 meeting. Mrs. Barlow reminded the Board that a representative from CABE (Connecticut Association of Boards of Education) will be coming prior to the March Board meeting to review the rules and responsibilities of Boards of Education.
- D. Woodstock Academy – None.
- E. EastConn— None.
- F. Long Range Facilities— The Committee met prior to this meeting.
- G. Transportation – The Board received the minutes of the January 22, 2026 meeting.
- H. Curriculum– The Board received the minutes of the January 22, 2026 meeting.
- I. Scholarship Steering Committee – None.
- J. School Safety Committee – None.

VII. Superintendent Report

Provided the BOE with updates including:

- Highlight of the Month – *Observing middle school students in Social Studies and preschool students in gym class

- Educational Leadership – *Reaching out to colleagues and program providers *Met with Lawrence Filippelli, The Woodstock Academy Head of School *Following up with EastConn on transportation costs
- Facilities - *Continue monitoring building systems and completing required inspections
- Finances - *Town/School audit of fiscal year 2025 is complete *Fiscal Committee drafted a 2026-2027 school budget
- Collaboration and Communication – *Continue looking for shared resources/staffing *Town and District working together
- Comments on selected agenda items

VIII. Principal Report

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

- Field Trips/ Virtual Field Trips
- Eastford Preschool Program/ Early Start CT and Local Governance Partnership (LGP)
- Data on Student Progress
- High School Information
- Upcoming Events
- Special Thanks

IX. Director of Pupil Services Report

The Board received the February report, which shows no changes from the January report.

X. Unfinished Business

A. Policy 3150, Board Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers

MOTION: (Barlow/Bilica) To accept the revisions to Policy 3150, Board Budget Procedures and Line Item Transfers, consistent with the Shipman & Goodwin model policy dated 01/05/2026. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. New Business

A. through C.

Policy 6144.1, Curricular Exemptions; Policy 4118.51/4218.51, Social Media and Policy 4152/4252, Family & Medical Leave

MOTION: (Barlow/Bilica) To accept the revisions to Policy 6144.1, Curricular Exemptions (dated 09/05/2025); Policy 4118.51/4218.51, Social Media (dated 09/05/2025) and Policy 4152/4252, Family & Medical Leave (dated 09/17/2025), consistent with the Shipman & Goodwin model policies. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Approve the purchase of comprehensive text for new Health curriculum

MOTION: (Bilica/Minor) To approve the purchase of comprehensive text, Health Skills for Middle School, 4th Edition, for new Health curriculum. Motion passed unanimously.

E. 2026-2027 School Calendar, Discussion and Possible Action

MOTION: (Bilica/Minor) To approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar. Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ellsworth left the meeting at 6:25 PM.

F. Long Term Capital Improvement Plan, Discussion and Possible Action

As the Facilities Committee has made some changes to the drafted Capital Plan, Mr. Bowen tabled this discussion for the March Board meeting.

G. Budget 2026-2027, Discussion and Possible Action

MOTION: (Cote/Bilica) To accept the 2026-2027 budget of \$4,982,089, which represents a 3.99% increase, and send it to the Board of Selectmen. Motion passed unanimously.

XII. Additional Agenda Items

MOTION: (Minor/Barlow) To add to the Agenda New Business, XI. H., TEAM (Teacher Education and Mentoring program) District Plan revision. Motion passed unanimously.

XI. New Business, cont.

H. MOTION: (Barlow/Bilica) To accept the revised TEAM (Teacher Education and Mentoring program) District Plan. Motion passed unanimously.

XIII. Financial Reports

A. January 2026 Disbursements—sent to BOE via email

B. Monthly Financial Summary, January 2026

The Board received and reviewed the monthly summary.

C. Budget Transfers

None.

XIV. Citizen Participation

None.

XV. Adjournment

MOTION: (Bilica/Minor) Motion to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 6:33 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

KyMBERLI A. GAYLOR, Clerk