

EASTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING

Eastford Elementary School
12 Westford Road
Eastford, CT 06242
June 11, 2026

Present: Lauren Barlow, Michael Bilica, Stephen Bowen, Terry Cote, Robert Ellsworth, Adam Minor, Michele Palulis

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 6:03 PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

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

III. Citizens of the Trimester

Hope McGurl, grade 4 student, and Owen Barlow, grade 6 student, were named 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 and be congratulated by the Board.

IV. Grades 7&8 – Washington D.C. trip presentation

Grade 7 students Georgia Barlow, Chloe Minor and McKenna Tacy read essays they wrote and presented a slide show of the recent seventh and eighth grade trip to Washington, D.C. Teacher/chaperone Jennifer Barlow thanked the Board for allowing the classes the opportunity to travel to D.C.

V. Citizen Participation

None.

VI. Approval of Minutes

MOTION: (Ellsworth/Bilica) To approve the Board of Education minutes of the Regular Meeting on May 14, 2026. Motion passed unanimously.

VII. Correspondence, Communication

- Minutes from May 21, 2026 Ad Hoc High School Committee meeting
- Email to Dr. Leake from paraeducator Alaina Cody

VIII. Committee Reports

- A. Executive/Personnel— The Executive Committee met prior to this meeting.
- B. Fiscal— None.
- C. Policy— The Board received the minutes of the June 2, 2026 meeting.
- D. Woodstock Academy – None.
- E. EastConn— None.
- F. Long Range Facilities— None.
- G. Transportation – None.
- H. Curriculum– None.
- I. Scholarship Steering Committee – None.

J. School Safety Committee – None.

IX. Superintendent Report

Provided the BOE with updates including:

- Highlight of the Month – *Thank you to the administrative team
- Educational Leadership – *Meet with EastConn consultant on strategic goals *Participate in Early Start Collaborative *Legislative actions and policy updates
- Facilities - *Sunwealth surveying solar panels *Scheduling repairs to the building *Gym painting and possible floor replacement *New basketball backboards donated
- Finances - *Follow up on Security grant reimbursement *Additional funding received for preschool program *Ending fiscal year 2026 spending
- Collaboration and Communication – *Support from the Town on school roof repair and water filtration *ECS funds *Regional BOE Advocacy Committee *Collaboration with other districts
- 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
- Eastford Preschool Program/ Early Start CT and Local Governance Partnership (LGP)
- Data on Student Progress
- High School Information
- Professional Development
- Upcoming Events
- Special Thanks and Recognition

XI. Director of Pupil Services Report

The Board received the June report, which shows changes from the May report.

XII. Unfinished Business

None.

XIII. New Business

A. Committee Appointments

Chair Bowen appointed Michele Palulis to the Policy Committee.

B. through J.

Policies **3440**, Inventories; **3450**, Depository; **3454**, Money in school Buildings; **3510**, Operation and Maintenance of Plant; **3514**, Use of School Equipment or Property; **3516**, Safety; **3518**, Accident Prevention and Reporting; **3532**, Insurance and **3534**, Employee Officer Bonds

MOTION: (Bilica/Cote) To repeal Policies **3440**, Inventories; **3450**, Depository; **3454**, Money in school Buildings; **3510**, Operation and Maintenance of Plant; **3514**, Use of School Equipment or Property; **3516**, Safety; **3518**, Accident Prevention and Reporting; **3532**, Insurance and **3534**, Employee Officer Bonds. Motion passed unanimously.

K. Policy 5105, Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age 5

MOTION: (Bilica/Cote) To repeal Policy 5105, Admission to the Public Schools at or Before Age 5. Motion passed unanimously.

L. Formation of Negotiations Committee(s)

The Executive Committee of the Board will serve on the Negotiations Committees for both the certified and non-certified union contract renewals.

M. Non-Affiliated Salaries

MOTION: (Bilica/Barlow) To set the 2026-2027 salaries of non-affiliated employees according to the recommendations of the Executive Committee. Motion passed unanimously.

N. Set Tuition Rate for the 2026-2027 School Year

MOTION: (Ellsworth/Bilica) To set the tuition rate for 2026-2027 at \$17,797.20 per pupil. Motion passed unanimously.

XIV. Additional Agenda Items

None.

XV. Financial Reports

A. May 2026 Disbursements—sent to BOE via email

B. Monthly Financial Summary, May 2026

The Board received and reviewed the monthly summary.

C. Budget Transfers

D. End of Year Budget Transfers, Purchases and Unexpended Funds

MOTION: (Bilica/Barlow) To authorize the Superintendent to make year-end transfers within the FY 2026 budget to bring all accounts into balance and, after all unencumbered bills are paid, internally encumber up to up to \$95,883.58 (2%) of the 2025-2026 budget for the Town of Eastford's Municipal Reserve Fund for educational expenditures. Motion passed unanimously.

XVI. Citizen Participation

Mrs. Barlow spoke to the meeting of the high school Ad Hoc Committee with a CABE representative. She asked the Board when they may like to hold a Community Conversation on the designated high school choices, and the Board requested September 24, 2026.

Mr. Bowen expressed the Board's thanks to the staff and parent volunteers for another successful school year.

XVII. Adjournment

MOTION: (Minor/Ellsworth) Motion to adjourn the Board of Education meeting at 6:44 PM. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Kymerli A. Gaylor, Clerk