

Superintendent's Report: June 2026

Highlight of the Month: As we reach the end of another successful school year, I would be remiss to not extend a sincere THANK YOU and public acknowledgement of appreciation to my amazing administrative team: Carole McCombe, Charles Kernan, Kymberli Gaylor and Mary Seguire. Together, we have overcome many challenges and attained numerous accomplishments.

Educational Leadership:

- Carole and I met with Lauren Rodriguez, a consultant from Eastconn, to review progress made on attaining the 2025-26 Strategic Goals. Based on this review, we will develop the strategic goals for the 2026-27 school year. Thanks to the efforts of Carole McCombe and her staff we have made great progress in each of the goal areas. For example, the Report Card Committee is working on the development of a more informative student progress reporting system. The Report Card Committee will continue their work with Lauren during the week of June 22. Carole will be highlighting other accomplishments in her future reports.
- I continue to participate in the Eastern CT Early Start Collaborative. The focus of recent efforts has been the collection and analysis of Family Survey Results. The overall number of survey responses, indicative of the needs of families, remains low. There also remains a need to attract more community-based representation on the Community Table.
- Recent legislative actions, including changes in homeschooling, entrance to grade K, etc., will result in the need for new or revised policies. Shipman & Goodwin will provide us with recommended model policies that address the legislative changes. In the meantime, the Policy Committee is currently up to date on addressing recommended model policies and is in the final stages of reviewing and updating the 3000 series.

Facilities:

- A technician from Sunwealth recently surveyed our roof to evaluate the replacement of the concrete bricks that are securing the solar panels on the gym roof. There is a need to clear the debris from the crumbled blocks and replace the blocks without causing damage to the roof, which is currently insured.
- I have been working with Bob Meyer, owner of Meyer Home Renovations, to replace the insulation in the grade K classroom, make needed repairs to the inside and the outside of the connecting corridor to the storage area, as well make modifications to the spaces in the special education area.
- I have been, with the assistance of Charles Kernan, seeking information regarding painting the gym as well as the future replacement of the gym floor.
- Thanks to the outreach efforts of Zach Hutchings, organizer of Frog Rock basketball and coach of our boys' basketball team, we received a donation of new backboards from M.W. Billings, Inc. Carole will provide details at the meeting.

Finances:

- Kymberli continues to follow up on the reimbursement we are supposed to receive with respect to our 2023 security grant application.
- Thanks to the efforts of Carole McCombe and Christine Kopplin, we were successful in receiving an increased amount of funding from the Office of Early Childhood needed to continue to partially support our preschool program.
- The administrative team is in the process of making end of year purchases for school and district programs. At the BOE meeting on June 11, a request will be brought forward that the BOE allow the Superintendent to balance all accounts, deposit up to 2 % of the budget into the Municipal Reserve Fund and return the remaining balance to the Town.

Collaboration:

- Town support of our request to have both the water filtration system and the new middle school roof included in our capital plan for 2026-27 allowed us to keep our DRIP money to be used for

needed building repairs. However, the use of Town funds also required the roof project to go out to bid. Deb Richards and I met to discuss the process. We also spoke to the owner of Northeast Builders Roofing to explain the complication. The company owner was very understanding and will submit a bid for the project. Discussion continues at the Town level concerning the removal, repair and/or replacement of the cupola.

- The Town did not use the additional ECS money to offset the 2026-27 budget. This action will provide us with additional dollars to improve programming. This is a one-time allocation.
- Michael Bilica continues to serve as our representative to the Regional BOE Advocacy Committee. Hopefully, Michael will continue to update us as to regional efforts to secure equitable funding for rural towns as well as explore avenues for collaborative staffing and programming among districts.
- Charles Kernan has been collaborating with other districts to determine opportunities to hire shared personnel as well develop/provide alternative placement options for students. Carole and I are involved in the beginning efforts to promote regionalization of efforts in professional development.

Comments on selected agenda items:

New Business

A. Committee Appointments

The BOE chair will make a recommendation to appoint a BOE member to the Policy Committee.

B. Policy 3440, Inventories

C. Policy 3450, Depository

D. Policy 3454, Money in School Buildings

E. Policy 3510, Operation and Maintenance of Plant

F. Policy 3514, Use of School Equipment or Property

G. Policy 3516, Safety

H. Policy 3518, Accident Prevention and Reporting

I. Policy 3532, Insurance

J. Policy 3534, Employee Officer Bonds

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

- *Based on the recommendation of our attorney and the legal representative from C.A.B.E., the Policy Committee is recommending that the BOE repeal items B-J.*
- *Based on the change in recent legislation determining the entrance age to kindergarten, the Policy Committee is recommending that the BOE repeal item K.*

L. Formation of Negotiations Committee(s)

We received the timeline for negotiations with the Eastford Teacher's Union (attachment enclosed). I have begun communication with the ETA concerning their availability to meet both formally and, hopefully also informally, to address the contract language, salaries and benefits. Next year we also need to enter negotiations with the AFSCME union. The BOE Chair will officially appoint the BOE subcommittee that will move forward with these negotiations for both the certified and non-certified unions.

M. Non-Affiliated Salaries

The Executive Committee of the BOE, following a conversation with the Superintendent, will come forward with recommendations for salary increases for employees that do not belong to either the certified or non-certified unions. These positions include members of the administrative team, the school and district support personnel and substitutes.

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

Each year a tuition rate for EES is developed based on a formula provided by the State. That is applied to the BOE operating budget dollars. The BOE needs to adopt the tuition rate for the 2026-27 school year.

Financial Reports

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

A request will be made by the Superintendent that the BOE allow the Superintendent to make the necessary transfers to balance all accounts. There will also be recommendations to deposit up to 2% of the 2025-26 budget (\$95,883.58) into the Municipal Reserve Fund and return the remaining dollars to the Town.

As always, please submit any questions or concerns regarding the financial reports prior to the meeting so the administration can prepare the needed information.