TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
BOARD OF EDUCATION V.O.I.C.E. COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES/MOTIONS

In order to comply with Connecticut General Statutes regarding minutes of meetings, the following will be used to record information during all public meetings that take place. An original must be submitted to the Town Clerk of Rocky Hill within 48 hours of the meeting being adjourned. Motions should be complete, showing the maker and second of the motion as well as how each member voted. Unanimous votes may be listed as unanimous.

NAME OF PUBLIC BOARD OR COMMISSION	**Board of Education V.O.I.C.E. Committee**
DATE MEETING AGENDA POSTED	**October 30, 2026**
LOCATION	**GMS Media Center**
DATE OF MEETING	**November 4, 2026**
TIME MEETING STARTED	**6:04 p.m.**
PERSON PREPARING MEETING MINUTES	**Sandy Mal, Secretary to the Superintendent of Schools**
VERBATIM NOTES TAKEN	**☐ Yes ☒ No**
AUDIO, VIDEO OR LIVE TRANSMISSION OF MEETING	**☐ Yes ☒ No**

MEMBERS PRESENT AT MEETING:

Ms. Jennifer Baron-Morfea, Committee Chair	**Mr. Bryan Addy**
Ms. Jessica Loffredo Board Chair	
Also present: Dr. Mark Zito, Superintendent, Ms. Wendy Durand, Asst. Supt. for Curriculum & Instruction, Mr. Ryan Cleary, Director of Human Capital & Leadership Development, Mr. Jason Maziarz, Principal (GMS)	

NUMBER REQUIRED FOR QUORUM ___2___ QUORUM PRESENT ☒ Yes ☐ No

TEXT MOTIONS AND RESULTS VOTES

DISCUSSION

Call to Order- Ms. Jennifer Baron-Morfea called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Presentations & Discussions-Ms. Durand and Mr. Ryan Cleary presented on:

1. Fall Updates

- **Diversity Committee Meeting (Sept 2, 2026):**
  Committee Members: Wendy Durand, Ryan Cleary, Mark Zito, Cara Quinn, April Wiley, Dayna Helming, Bethany Calado, Megda O'Brien, Thomas Cassello, Jilani Scherer, Karla Harding, Elizabeth Selig, Sandra Shalvoy, Stephanie Malkin, Catherine Mader, Viviana Guzman.

  - **VOICE Framework & Assemblies:** Evaluated Phase 1 Rocky Hill Civility Framework plan and past action items. Reviewed assemblies and program options, including Dan from Empower, Leader in Me, No Place for Hate, K-12 Social Justice Standards, and Sandy Hook Love Wins—all centered on elevating student voice.
  - **Next Steps & Future Meetings:** Fall V.O.I.C.E. updates to be shared with administrators for staff meeting agendas. Upcoming meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 10, 2026, and Thursday, March 4, 2027.

- **Cricket Meeting (Sept 10, 2026):**
  Attendees: Dr. Zito, Wendy Durand, Ron Lamontagne, Dave Dubos, Craig Bowman (RH youth sports), Dan Trudeau, and Scott Nozik.

    - **Overview:** Met with community stakeholders to discuss integrating cricket into the Physical Education curriculum, equipment needs, and staff professional learning.
    - **School Status:** High School (active unit), Moser (currently teaches cricket unit), West Hill (equipment available), Stevens (equipment needed/ordered by Scott Nozik), and GMS (needs new unit written into curriculum).
    - **Next Steps:** We offered a dedicated cricket session during the October Professional Development Day; additional equipment ordered for Stevens.

- **EL/ML Education Summit Review (Sept 30, 2026):**

    - **Summit was hosted at** SCSU and attended by the RHPS Multilingual (ML) Department to collaborate on advanced frameworks for multilingual education.
    - **Key Takeaway:** Primary focus on uplifting linguistic and cultural assets, viewing multilingualism as an academic and cultural strength rather than a barrier.
    - **Next Steps:** ML teachers will replicate sessions, share findings at staff meetings, and provide professional development for system-wide alignment.

2. Culturally Responsiveness Updates

- **AS Professional Development (Weaving Connection Into District Fabric):** Organized by Marissa Cardona and Nitza Diaz
  Attendees: Paige Weaver, Sarah Sherman, Cara Quinn, John Fote, Christina Foran, Andy Basroon, Wendy Durand.
  Framework: Examined the *Three Levels of Culture* (Visible Culture: Leaves/Above Ground; Behavior & Social Expectations: Trunk/Near Surface; Deep Culture: Roots).

- **Work with Dr. Violet Sims:**

    - **Student Focus Groups (Sept 25, 2026):** Dr. Sims facilitated three focus groups at RHHS. Overall student feedback was positive, highlighting strong relationships with teachers. Identified areas for improvement included opportunity inequity, competition, curriculum relevance/representation, and a desire for more consistent follow-through on student feedback. Results were shared with building administration to develop action steps; additional focus groups are scheduled for GMS on January 25, 2027.

- **September/October Professional Development Day (Oct 9, 2026):**

    - **ML Department:** Reviewed summit learnings, discussed ML Family Night structure, and planned staff meeting presentations.
    - **Art Department:** Reviewed four distinct lenses/frameworks for examining art curriculum through a culturally responsive lens. The art department requested a follow-up session.

3. Safe School Climate Plan Updates

- **Draft Status:** All RHPS schools have drafted updated Safe School Climate Plans for the 2026–27 school year, which are currently under review by building-based Safe School Climate Committees. Finalized plans will be posted when completed.

- **Focus Areas:** Plans focus on *Environment* and *Meaningful Relationships*, incorporating proactive/reactive strategies (Restorative Practices, PBIS, reflection sheets, assemblies, PTO

partnerships) and curriculum connections (Climate surveys, RHPS Civility Framework, Second Step, CASEL Framework).

4. Collaboration with Shine Your Light

- **Initial Planning Meeting (Oct 29, 2026):** VOICE Committee members met with Meg Bard from *Shine Your Light CT* to design a School Summit for middle and high school students and caregivers.
- **Summit Goals:** Focus on celebrating differences, active bystander strategies against bullying, and exploring kindness through keynotes, breakout sessions, and team-building.
- **Next Steps:** The committee will meet again to finalize the date (tentatively May 28, 2027), design student activities, and confirm vendors.

Motion to Adjourn: Ms. Jennifer Baron-Morfea asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Bryan Addy and seconded by Ms. Jessica Loffredo. The meeting was officially closed at 6:46 p.m.

TIME MEETING ADJOURNED**: 6:46 p.m.** TIME DELIVERED TO TOWN CLERK: _____

Date of BOE Approval: _____ Signature of BOE Secretary: _____
Form revised 1/1/11