Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
March 18, 2026
Community Room - 6:00pm
"EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS"

I. Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Courtney Langlois, Board Chair

Present at the meeting: Jennifer Mossner, Vice Chair; Victoria Robinson-Lewis, Treasurer; John Brady, Vice Treasurer; Catherine Malo, Board Member; Benjamin Johnston, Board Member

Also present at the meeting: Theodore Friend, Superintendent; Heather Nickerson, Principal; Sara Howley, Business Manager; Christine Chandler, Board Clerk; Courtney Haines and Paula Hanlon, EASTCONN Food Service

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Public Comment

No one came forward to speak.

At this time in honor of Board Appreciation week a slide show of students and teachers thanking the Board for their service was presented.

- A motion was made by J. Brady and seconded by J. Mossner to move **New Business** Item D (Introduction of the 2025-2026 CAPSS award recipients) to Item IV on the agenda.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Outcome: Motion Passed

IV. New Business

D. Introduction of the 2025-2026 CAPSS award recipients, Madison San Souci and Gavin Bessette.

Madison and Gavin were introduced to the Board members. H. Nickerson read the biographies included in the CAPSS award ceremony program that was held at Plainfield High School on March 10th. The Board congratulated the students. Each student was presented with a gift from the Board.

V. Reports and Communications

A. **Correspondence**

B. **Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes of Meeting February 18, 2026
2. Superintendent's Report
   T. Friend noted that the school would be participating in the "All Kids Bike Program" for PreK and Kindergarten students and that he is also collaborating with the Killingly school district on shared student transportation. .
3. Special Education Director's Report
4. Principal's Report
5. Clinical Supervisor's Report
6. Monthly Check Register

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by C. Malo to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Outcome: Motion Passed

C. **Budget and Expense Report**

S. Howley presented Financial/Budget Report Review and informed the Board of upcoming meeting dates.

March 25 - Audit Presentation & BOF Presentation 7pm
April 8 - BOE Meeting 6pm, BOF Vote 7pm
April 29 - Public Hearing 6:30pm
May 13 - Town Vote 6:30pm
May 20 - BOE Meeting 6pm
May 27 - Tri-Board Meeting 6:30pm

- A motion was made by J. Mossner and seconded by C. Malo to approve the Budget and Expense Report as presented.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Outcome: Motion Passed

D. **Plainfield Board of Education Liaison**
No one was able to attend Plainfield's BOE meeting this month.
The board remains informed of Plainfield's activities via ParentSquare communications distributed by C. Chandler.

E. **Personnel - Resignation/Retirement**
None to report at this time.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Presentation by Courtney Haines - **EASTCONN** Food Service.
Courtney Haines presented a slideshow on the EASTCONN food service program, which provides free breakfast and lunch to all students. She highlighted "farm-to-table" initiatives using local produce and noted the cafeteria's shift toward "from-scratch" cooking over processed foods.

VII. New Business

A. Review, discussion and possible approval of the **26/27 Budget Proposal**.
The budget was previously presented at the February meeting.

- A motion was made by C. Malo and seconded by J. Mossner to approve the 26/27 to approve the total of $8,672,351.00 for the projected budget and move it to the Board of Finance for their review with the contingency that the business office may make adjustments to the changes in tuitions based on high school acceptances or changes in revenue but not to go over the 2.28% overall increase.
    - Vote: All in favor
    - Outcome: Motion Passed

B. Review, discussion and possible approval of the **26/27 School Calendar**.
T. Friend noted that area town calendars were considered during the creation of this calendar.

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by J. Mossner to approve the 26/27 School Calendar as presented.
    - Vote: All in favor
    - Outcome: Motion Passed

C. Review, discussion, and possible approval of the transfer of $86,406 from the 24/25 Fiscal Year Budget to the 10-248A 2% Non-Lapsing Account.

- A motion was made by V. Lewis and seconded by C. Malo to approve the transfer of $86,406 from the 24/25 Fiscal Year Budget to the 10-248A 2% Non-Lapsing Account.
  Vote: All in favor
  Outcome: Motion Passed

D. Moved item **D** to **Section IV** on the agenda after the Public Comment under the motion that was passed.

E. Review, discussion and possible approval of the 3rd grade field study to Southwick Zoo in Mendon, MA on June 2, 2026. Rain date of June 3, 2026.

- A motion was made by J. Brady and seconded by J. Mossner to add the 2nd grade field study trip to Roger Williams, Providence RI (June 5, 2026) and a middle school field study trip to Roger Williams, RI (May 20, 2026) to the agenda.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Outcome: Motion Passed

- A motion was made by J. Brady and seconded by J. Mossner to approve the following field study trips:
  - 3rd Grade: Southwick Zoo, Mendon, MA (June 2, 2026; Rain date June 3).
  - 2nd Grade: Roger Williams Zoo, Providence, RI (June 5, 2026).
  - Middle School: Roger Williams Zoo, Providence, RI (May 20, 2026).

  - Vote: All in favor
  - Outcome: Motion Passed

F. Review and Discussion of the following Policies/Regulations - 1st Reading

Policy #4152.6/4252.6 Personnel - Certified/Non-Certified - Family Medical Leave Act
Regulation #4152.6/4252.6 Personnel-Certified/Non-Certified - Family Medical Leave Act
Policy #0521 - Mission-Goals-Objectives - Nondiscrimination
Policy #6161.12/1312.3 - Instruction/Community Relations - Library Material Review and Reconsideration Policy
Policy #6161.13/1312.4 - Instruction/Community Relations - Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy

Regulation #6161.13/1312.4 - Instruction/Community Relations - Library Collection Development and Maintenance Policy
Policy #6161.14/1312.5 - Instruction/Community Relations - Library Display and Program Policy

VIII. Committee Updates

A. Policy
B. Budget
C. Negotiations - 26/27 **UPSEU** - Non-Certified Contract

IX. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

None at this time

X. Public Comment

No one came forward to speak.

XI. Executive Session

Not needed at this time.

XII. Adjournment

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by C. Malo to adjourn the meeting.
    - Vote: All in favor
    - Outcome: Motion Passed
    - Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.