Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 20, 2026
Community Room - 6:00pm
"EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS"

I. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by: Theodore Friend (Superintendent) at 6:00pm

Late arrival to the meeting: Courtney Langlois (Board Chair) 6:05pm

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: Heather Nickerson (Principal), Laura Smith (Clinical Supervisor), Dr. Kristen Lanzillo (Director of Special Services), Sara Howley (Business Manager), Christine Chandler (Board Clerk)

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Public Comment

No one came forward to speak.

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by C. Malo to move **NEW BUSINESS** Item A. (National Junior Honor Society Presentation) to item IV on the agenda.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Outcome: Motion Passed

IV. New Business

A. National Junior Honor Society Presentation.

Members of the National Junior Honor Society delivered a PowerPoint presentation highlighting their annual initiatives. Their efforts this year included donating food and socks to Project Pin and regions affected by Hurricane Melissa, alongside fundraising for future NJHS projects and the Washington, D.C. trip. Additionally, students volunteered at the Trunk or Treat and Holiday Bazaar, and organized the Winter Social Dance. Looking ahead, the members plan to plant flowers at the school and clean Will's Way.

V. Reports and Communications

A. **Correspondence**

B. **Consent Agenda**

1. Minutes of Meeting April 8, 2026
2. Superintendent's Report
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 J. Mossner to accept the Consent Agenda as presented.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Outcome: Motion Passed

C. **Budget and Expense Report**

S. Howley reviewed the Financial/Budget report. Her discussion included current budget projections and an approximate budget surplus amount. It was noted that the surplus is subject to final year-end reconciliations. She also noted the passing of the Board of Education Budget on Wednesday, May 13, 2026 with a vote of 78-10.

- A motion was made by C. Malo and seconded by V. Robinson-Lewis to accept the Budget and Expense Report as presented.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Outcome: Motion Passed

D. **Plainfield Board of Education Liaison**

Sterling Board members were not able to attend this month**.**

E**.** **Personnel - Resignation/Retirement**

Resignation - Victoria Huang (Middle School Social Studies)
Resignation - Kelly Huhtanen (1st Grade Teacher)
Resignation - Amanda Grimes (Paraeducator)

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by J. Mossner to accept the resignations of Victoria Huang and Kelly Huhtanen with regret.
  - Vote: All in favor
  - Outcome: Motion Passed

VI. Unfinished Business

None to review at this time.

VII. New Business

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

B. Review, discussion, and possible approval of the following Field Study trips:

- Grade 6 to Six Flags New England in Agawam, MA on June 17, 2026..
- Kindergarten to Providence Children's Museum, Providence, RI on June 5, 2026.
- National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) to R1 Indoor Karting Entertainment Center on June 3, 2026.

- A motion was made by C. Malo and seconded by V. Robinson- Lewis approve the following field study trips:
  - Grade 6 to Six Flags New England in Agawam, MA on June 17, 2026.
  - Kindergarten to Providence Children's Museum, Providence, RI on June 5, 2026.
  - National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) to R1 Indoor Karting Entertainment Center on June 3, 2026.

  - Vote: All in favor
  - Outcome: Motion Passed

VIII. Committee Updates

A. Policy
B. Budget - 26/27 Budget passed by a vote of 78-10 on May 13, 2026.
C. Negotiations

IX. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

C.Chandler asked if any Board member had anything else that they wanted to add to the Tri-Board Mtg. Agenda for the meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 27, 2026. No one had anything to add at this time.

X. Public Comment

No one came forward to speak.

XI. Executive Session

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by B. Johnston to enter into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter and to invite Mr. Friend to attend.
    - Vote: All in favor
    - Outcome: Motion Passed
    - Entered Executive Session: 6:41pm
    - Exited Executive Session: 6:46pm

XII. Adjournment

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by J. Mossner to adjourn the meeting.
    - Vote: All in favor
    - Outcome: Motion Passed

- The meeting adjourned at 6:47pm.