

Sterling Board of Education
Minutes of the Regular Meeting
May 21, 2025
Community Room - 6:00pm
“EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS”

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Courtney Langlois, Board Chair at 6:03pm

Present at the meeting were: Dorothy Capobianco, Treasurer; Victoria Robinson-Lewis, Vice Treasurer; John Brady, Board Member; Catherine Malo, Board Member

Also present at the meeting were: Theodore Friend, Superintendent; Heather Nickerson, Principal; Sara Howley, Business Manager; Christine Chandler, Board Clerk

Absent from the meeting: Jennifer Mossner, Vice Chair

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Public Comment

No one in attendance

IV. Reports and Communications

A. Correspondence

B. Consent Agenda

1. Minutes of Meeting April 9, 2025
2. Minutes of Special Meeting April 28, 2025
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 C. Malo to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
 - Vote: All in favor
 - Motion: Carried

C. Budget and Expense Report

S. Howley gave a Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget update. She highlighted the unexpected maintenance costs and the increased cost of electricity. She noted that we are continuing to monitor closely where we will be financially at the end of this fiscal year and looking at using remaining funds in the operating budget along with grant funds responsibly and appropriately.

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by J. Brady to approve the Budget and Expense Report as presented.
 - Vote: All in favor
 - Motion: Passed

D. Plainfield Board of Education Liaison

- No one was able to attend - Town Budget voting meeting was the same night.

E. Personnel - Resignation/Retirement

Resignation - Corrine Lewis - Special Education Teacher

- A motion was made by D. Capobianco and seconded by V. Robinson-Lewis to accept the resignation of Corrine Lewis with regret.
 - Vote: All in favor
 - Motion: Passed

Resignation - Bethanie Johnson - 6th Grade Teacher

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by J. Brady to accept the resignation of Bethanie Johnson with regret.
 - Vote: All in favor
 - Motion: Passed

V. Unfinished Business

None at this time

VI. New Business

- a. Review, discussion, and possible approval of the following field study trips:
 - 6th Grade to Six Flags, Agawam, Massachusetts (Trip is for an extended day - students will be returning at approx. 5:30pm.

- 4th Grade to Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Massachusetts.
- 2nd Grade to Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, Rhode Island
- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by C. Malo to approve the 6th Grade to Six Flags, Agawam, Massachusetts (Trip is for an extended day - students will be returning at approx. 5:30pm, 4th Grade to Old Sturbridge Village in Sturbridge, Massachusetts, and 2nd grade field study trip to Roger Williams Park Zoo, Providence, Rhode Island.
 - Vote: All in favor
 - Motion: Passed

VII. Committee Updates

- A. Policy
- B. Budget
- C. Negotiations

VIII. Recommendations, Questions and/or Comments

IX. Public Comment

X. Executive Session

- A. Review, discussion, and possible approval of employee contracts
 - 1. Theodore Friend, Superintendent
 - 2. Heather Nickerson, Principal
 - 3. Laura Smith, Clinical Supervisor
 - 4. Kristen Lanzillo, Direct of Special Education/School Psychologist
 - 5. Sara Howley, Business Manager
 - 6. Cory Luba, IT Director and Shared Town Agreement
 - 7. Casey Brown, Computer Technician and Shared Town Agreement
 - 8. Christine Chandler, Executive Assistant/Board of Education Clerk

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by C. Malo to enter into Executive Session with T. Friend to review, discuss, and possibly approve employee contracts for Theodore Friend, Heather Nickerson, Laura Smith, Kristen Lanzillo, Sara Howley, Cory Luba, Casey Brown, Christine Chandler.
 - Vote: All in favor
 - Motion: Passed
- Entered into Executive Session: 6:18pm
- Exited Executive Session: 6:33pm

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by J. Brady to accept and approve the employee contracts for Ted Friend, Heather Nickerson, Laura Smith, Kristen Lanzillo, Sara Howley, Cory Luba, Casey Brown, and Christine Chandler
 - Vote: All in favor
 - Motion: Passed

XI. Adjournment

- A motion was made by V. Robinson-Lewis and seconded by C. Malo to adjourn the meeting.
 - Vote: All in favor
 - Motion: Passed
 - Meeting Adjourned at 6:36pm