Sterling Board of Education

Minutes of Special Meeting
September 16, 2026 - Community Room - 4:30 pm
"EXCELLENCE WITH KINDNESS"

I. Call to Order
The meeting was called to order by: Courtney Langlois (Board Chair) at 4:35 PM

Board Members Present: Victoria Robinson-Lewis (Treasurer), John Brady (Vice Treasurer), Catherine Malo (Board Member)

Administrators/Staff Present: Theodore Friend (Superintendent), Heather Nickerson (Principal), Christine Chandler (Board Clerk)

Also Present: Daniel Murphy (Kainen, Escalera & McHale, PC); Christine Chinni (Chinni & Assoc. LLC)

Absent from the meeting: Jennifer Mossner (Vice Chair); Benjamin Johnston (Board Member)

II. Pledge of Allegiance
The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. Discussion and possible action regarding teacher grievance.
(Executive Session anticipated)

- A motion was made by Victoria Robinson-Lewis and seconded by Catherine Malo to enter into Executive Session to discuss a matter that would result in the disclosure of public records or the information contained therein as described in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-210(b)(4) and (11). Further, that the Board invite the following individuals to attend the Executive Session:
    - Dawn Darche, Grievant
    - Patrick Cumpstone, CEA Representative
    - Theodore Friend, Superintendent of Schools
    - Christine Chinni, Counsel for Administration
    - Daniel Murphy, Counsel for the Board
    - Heather Nickerson, School Principal
    - Susan Rizer, SEA Union President
        - Vote: All in favor
        - Motion: Passed
        - Entered into Executive Session: 4:37 PM

IV. Executive Session

- Exited Executive Session: 5:17 PM

- A motion was made by Victoria Robinson-Lewis and seconded by Catherine Malo that the Sterling Board of Education deny the grievance discussed in Executive Session for the reasons presented by the administration in this matter and authorize the Board Chair and Attorney Daniel Murphy to memorialize the Board's decision in writing.
    - Vote: All in favor
    - Motion: Passed

V. Adjournment

- A motion was made by Victoria Robinson-Lewis and seconded by Catherine Malo to adjourn the meeting.
    - Vote: All in favor
    - Motion: Passed
    - Adjourned: 5:20 PM