

**REGIONAL DISTRICT ELEVEN
BOARD OF EDUCATION
Parish Hill Middle/High School Library
Chaplin, Connecticut
February 17, 2026
7:00PM**

Meeting Minutes

1. Call to Order at 7:01pm by Cassidy Martin and Pledge of Allegiance

Members in attendance: Michael Smardon, Cassidy Martin, Joy Becker, Hayley Albert, Ellen Gillon,

Also Present: Superintendent Andrew Skarzynski

Members not in attendance: Stacy Foster, Steph Bayne, Camden Kammer, Susan Lovegreen

2. Communication with the Audience

Jeff Sprague of Hampton, CT. Wondering if his son, who is currently homeschooling would be able to play on the school baseball team.

3. Written Communications to the Board

No written communication received.

4. Approval of January 20, 2026, Region 11 BOE Minutes

Motion by Michael Smardon, 2nd by Ellen Gillon. Unanimous approval.

5. Approval of Financial Statements – January 2026

- i. Budget Forecast—FY 25-26 -Jobina Miller

Motion by Michael Smardon, 2nd by Joy Becker. Unanimous approval.

Jobina is watching the heating and plowing numbers because we have had significant weather this season, but unfilled positions will help cushion this.

6. Administrative Reports/Administrative Requests for Board Action

- A. Student –

Allison Butts, Junior and Chloe Reid, Senior provided reports on upcoming events and sports. Yearbook is in progress. Class meeting rescheduled.

- B. Teacher –

Prentice Tracy provided a brief presentation of the manufacturing class and its partnership with the Eastern Workforce Investment Board, to prepare students for

entry level positions in manufacturing jobs. Students learn to read a blueprint, utilize machinery commonly used in manufacturing, and create projects to help the school such as modifying a snow plow and heating and cooling duct. Electric Boat will be providing a 6 hour training at Grasso. Students attending the training will leave with an OSHA 10 certificate, \$750 and skills many jobs require.

C. Principal –

Superintendent Skarzynski provided the report on behalf of Principal McKenna. Bronze Medal as part of AP Recognition. Empty Bowl Night is approaching. Open studio through March 7th, 2026 on Saturdays. School Dance held recently.

D. Superintendent –

Report provided by Superintendent Skarzynski. Monitoring Legislation for changes to mandates during this legislative session. CSDE is hosting webinars regarding testing. Parish Hill is in course selection process and monitoring for changes needed. Conducted Facility Assessment recently. Assessed for a few projects that need to be completed sooner rather than later. The roof will need to be replaced.

8. Old Business/New Business

A. Report by PHACT/PTSA

Joy Becker provided a report. Nominating for Outstanding Educator Awards. Two students are progressing to state level for Reflections. Spring Fling May 2nd from 12 to 4.

B. Final Approval on 2026-2027 SY Calendar

Motion by Michael Smardon, 2nd by Joy Becker. Unanimous approval.

C. Budget Presentation

Superintendent Skarzynski provided a preliminary budget presentation for consideration. The plan is to request \$7,507,792 for the 2026 or a 3.19% increase over last year. In dollars, this increase is for \$231,910. Many districts are requesting around 5% increases. Main drivers include increases in contractually obligated salary for certified staff, anticipated Secretary and Paraprofessional contracts, benefits renewal cost, vacancies that require contracted work such as school psychologist, critical maintenance needs, and a required unfunded HVAC inspection. There is an increase in tuition students which helps reduce budgetary responsibility of each town. Special Education rates have reduced slightly. Special Education costs are approximately 23.3% of the budget. 90% of the budget increase is salary increases.

D. Discussion and Possible Action on Initial Budget

Motion to approve made by Michael Smardon. 2nd by Joy Becker. Unanimous approval.

E. Discussion and Possible Action on Graduation Date

Friday June 12th, 2026 was suggested. Motion to approve made by Michael Smardon. 2nd by Joy Becker. Unanimous approval.

F. Final Approval of Board policies:

i. 1312.3/6161.12 Library Material Review & Reconsideration

Motion to approve made by Michael Smardon. 2nd by Ellen Gillon. Unanimous Approval.

ii. 1312.4/6161.13 Library Collection Development and Maintenance

Motion to approve made by Michael Smardon. 2nd by Ellen Gillon. Unanimous Approval.

iii. 1312.5/6161.14 Library Display and Program

Motion to approve made by Michael Smardon. 2nd by Ellen Gillon. Unanimous Approval.

iv. 6172.4/6161.31 Title I Parental and Family Engagement Policy

Motion to approve made by Michael Smardon. 2nd by Ellen Gillon. Unanimous Approval.

9. Committee Reports/Requests for Board Action

A. Fiscal & Plant

Did not meet

B. Educational and Board Policies

Scheduled to meet last week, but cancelled.

C. Central Office

Meeting next week

D. Technology/Website

Needs to meet

E. Personnel and Supervision

Meeting tomorrow via zoom.

F. Newsletter

Picking dates.

G. CABE/EASTCONN

Focusing on advocacy.

10. Second Audience for Citizens

Kathy Donahue requested a copy of the budget and letter to share with the Board of Finance.

11. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

None identified.

12. Adjournment at 7:51pm.

Motion by Michael Smardon, 2nd by Joy Becker. Unanimous approval.