



Board of Education Regular Meeting

Tuesday, January 20, 2026 7:00 PM

Board Meeting Room
Administrative Offices
137 B Glenwood Road
Clinton, CT 06413

Attendance Taken at 7:06 PM.

Thomas Danehy: Absent

Jason Feeney: Present

Erica Gelven: Present

Matthew Guarnieri: Present

Lawrence Pilcher: Present

Alan Samet: Present

Catherine Staunton: Present

1. Opening Exercises

A. Roll call

Also in attendance were Superintendent Maryann O'Donnell, Assistant Superintendent Marco Famiglietti, and Business Manager Charles Carey.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

All participants stood and recited the pledge.

2. Public participation/recognition

3. Minutes - Approval - Regular Meeting of January 5, 2026

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the regular meeting of January 5, 2026. Carried with a motion by Lawrence Pilcher and a second by Alan Samet.

Thomas Danehy: Absent

Jason Feeney: Yea

Erica Gelven: Yea

Matthew Guarnieri: Yea

Lawrence Pilcher: Yea

Alan Samet: Yea

Catherine Staunton: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

4. Superintendent's Proposed 2026-2027 Budget

M. O'Donnell presented the proposed 2026-27 operating budget in the amount of \$41,444,732, which is an increase of 5.62%. She relayed that the mission statement and strategic objectives guided this budget development and that inflationary pressures include health insurance costs, contracted salary increases, in-district specialized program needs, out-of-district tuition increases, and utility costs. Of the proposed 5.62% increase, the salaries, benefits and tuition objects account for the entire proposed increase, with all other objects collectively decreasing. Salaries are the biggest area of increase based on contractual obligations, and it was noted that the nursing and occupational therapy staff were previously contracted out and part of professional services, but have been moved in this proposed budget to non-certified salaries to accurately reflect the Board's direct employment of these staff. M. O'Donnell highlighted notable areas of increase and decrease and stressed that she worked hard to control operational costs in areas where possible while preserving and supporting staff, programming, and the student experience.

The previously approved Capital Budget and Debt Service obligations were also reviewed. The total of the Superintendent's proposed operating, capital and debt service budget for 2026-27 is \$45,358,239, which is an increase of \$2,491,743 or 5.81%. Discussion occurred regarding recent adjustments made, electricity rates, special education tuition and Excess Cost reimbursement to the Town, and possible further adjustments to health insurance. The Budget & Finance Subcommittee will meet on January 27 for further budget review and E. Gelven encouraged members to review materials in preparation for discussion. It is anticipated that the Board will formally approve the 2026-27 budget at the regular meeting on February 2.

5. Adjournment

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. Carried with a motion by Lawrence Pilcher and a second by Catherine Staunton.

Thomas Danehy: Absent

Jason Feeney: Yea

Erica Gelven: Yea

Matthew Guarnieri: Yea

Lawrence Pilcher: Yea

Alan Samet: Yea

Catherine Staunton: Yea

Yea: 6, Nay: 0, Absent: 1

Respectfully submitted by Cassie Gambrell