NOVEMBER 4, 2026 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Marcucio: Called meeting to order at 6:33.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

Ms. Tovar: Ken Marcucio, Jim Gildea; Dan Foley; Erica Nuzzo; Kim Tovar; Holly Orazietti and Melissa Mongillo.

Rebecca O'Hara and Karla Malerba not in attendance.

We have a quorum and we can proceed.

Also Present:

Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent of Schools.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Marcucio: Any additions or deletions to the agenda?

Dr. Conway: I'll just mention it now that we'll have to postpone until the next meeting to present the College and Career Readiness as Jen Olson cannot be with us tonight.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Marcucio: Okay. Anybody from the public who would like to speak? Anybody from the public who would like to speak? Anybody from the public online who would like to speak? Hearing nothing, number three, the financial update, Mr. Hall.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Hall. Right now, we're working on the audit for the current year. Everything is going very well. The auditors have been here for the last few days. They're really focusing on the Board of Ed to make to make sure everything is tied up there. Because I need a good number to come back to you to talk about for non-lapsing. My plan is to recommend to know all the favorability for non-lapsing in the next Board meeting so that we can bake it into the audit as well as the City can take the expense on their side this year. The City is shaping up. It had a very good year. So, it would be a good time to start up and build a real reserve at the Board of Ed as far as the non-lapsing goes. We're really reducing a lot of pressure when we're talking about the budget.

And what we're working on and the amount of money that we need to request and feel comfortable with if we got a strong non-lapsing reserve to fall on. You should have that in the upcoming Board meeting. In a couple of weeks I'll have that number for you.

Mr. Marcucio: Do we need to make a motion?

Dr. Conway: Because it's just an update. It's not the actual budget that we do approve at the regular meeting, you don't need a motion.

Mr. Marcucio: Thank you.

Mr. Hall: I haven't asked for anything yet. So, just giving you an update of where we are. At the next meeting, be ready. To that point, we're finalizing all the grant information into the EGM system getting those budgets finalized working with Dr. Conway and Dr. Rafferty, getting close. Obviously, there's a lot of revisions that come back and forth but there's still a little more work to do. That's well under way.

And then kicking off the '27/'28 budget process, Dave from my team who many of you are aware of, he's kind of my deputy if you will. He's doing a great job. He's starting the budget from the ground up where we're looking at last year, this year and next year to have good comparison points for everyone and then really better understand what's going on with the entire expense for the Board of Education.

Lastly, talk a little bit about safely, the school bus stop arm violation cameras. We've spent a lot of time getting things kicked off working with Police Chief Grogan who is going to be heavily involved with this process. So, meeting with him. The Mayor just signed the SOW today. Had to go a little back and forth with them. We're shooting for an early December launch, getting all the things in the cameras and the buses, getting ready for launching in early December.

Also, we have ERATE funding. It usually comes out of our category one expenses, internet and basic stuff. But I've been reaching out to consultants to get category two expenses, which are more of the switches, hardware, backup power systems. So, when power goes out, the internet around for a little while longer.

We're going to try and do some investments there. And we're utilizing all rebate money we get. We maybe have to pay ten percent of what the costs are. We'll try to leverage that. Otherwise, there are no real new numbers to what I showed at the last board meeting. I'll probably have another financial output at that meeting.

Mr. Marcucio: Are we going to get a list an exact number yet for the shortage that we're making up.

Mr. Hall: We got some surplus now. We got more than a million in grants. I should have a numbers update on the next Board meeting on the projection. No concerns.

Mr. Marcucio: Can we see something in black and white see what grants are being used to pay for.

Mr. Hall: I'll get you the list at the next Board meeting.

FACILITIES UPDATE AND PROJECT REVIEW

Mr. Hoffman: Quick updates. The fire doors for Derby High School, date November 6 install.

Derby High School volleyball floor sleeves, we were notified last month a student got a grant to cover a new volleyball set up and sleeves to be installed. We move forward with that. Up and running in December.

Derby Middle School Gym is completed. The floor turned out very nice. They returned back to gym class late last week.

The electric sign on the campus. We got some bids coming in. We'll leave it open until November 9 at 2. We will go from that point.

Mr. Marcucio: What actually are you repairing there?

Mr. Hoffman: That sign is going to be replaced. The bids are for replacement. There will be two new LED panels on each side of the sign.

Mr. Marcucio: Okay. So, the whole thing is no good.

Mr. Hoffman: So, the internals, no. We're about 4,000 into it already. They wanted to keep going troubleshooting. But they want to move forward with a replacement.

Mr. Marcucio: And is that going to be covered by insurance?

Mr. Hoffman: Depending on the price.

Mr. Marcucio: Do you have any idea yet or no?

Mr. Hoffman: So, two of them came in. They were under 20,000. So, it wouldn't cover our deductible.

Ms. Mongillo: So, is that per filing or is that annual?

Mr. Hoffman: So, dealing with the gym floor I was told that's per file, per claim.

Bradley School sprinkler system, an estimate came in, it's under $2,500. He's scheduled to do that on Veteran's Day.

The Capax update, submitted one quote today to Brian for the Plow Truck based on the State of Connecticut's pricing.

Three things were approved.

The PTEC Unit, we got two bids in for the high school We're waiting on one more.

These covered all the existing classrooms.

Dr. Conway: We used the $90,000.

Mr. Hoffman: Main Sewer line. Irving school, Rotor rooter coming in during shut down and save for us about two days a work.

Mr. Gildea: a list of projects that we do is the elevator. Do you have any other ones?

Mr. Hoffman: We do have the elevator and then Bradley School air conditioning is high on the list.

Mr. Marcucio: Elevator at the high school.

COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS UPDATE

Not going forward tonight as Ms. Olson cannot be present tonight.

ACCOUNTABILITY INDEX REVIEW

Dr. Conway: Take it away.

Dr. Rafferty: Tonight, I'm going to take you through the accountability index. We highlighted basic math, ELA and science. Today, I want to show you the accountability index that had and if you talked amongst yourselves earlier, you know, there's 12 indicators. And so, today, we're going to try to give you a glimpse of those 12 indicators and how our team uses those. And we don't just talk about reading and math. Today, I'm going to give you a little insight about where we are as a district over time.

So, I went back about three years to kind of go over this. One, there's a tremendous amount of data that I'm going to share tonight. And I won't even get to a lot of it. And if something peek's your interest and you want to learn more about it or get into more detail about it, I would just ask you to reach out to me and I'm happy to follow-up with anyone who wants to learn a little bit more about these.

So, on each slide, I made these here, I won't talk about it so much other than this slide shows you the different areas that the accountability index addresses those schools and think more holistically and not just around one or two areas. So, two other things to highlight. Dr. Conway has built two dashboards. One is just related to most of the data that you find. So, if you follow this link that's in the slide that will take you to that. It's right the district's website. I'll show you that in a second. And the second thing that he built that we as a team use to be able to track all growth and our systems and structures so that we don't make decisions that are not based on things that are making a difference things that are a return on an investment that we think will impact student teacher success rates. These are dashboards that are available as a team as we grow.

So, I will go underneath them. This is the second dashboard that I was talking about. So, in this one when you follow the link, it's going to take you to how you could spend a lot of time looking at the indicators, each school result, certain student groups, comparing to other districts if we want. It has so much information inside it. But I just want to go through the highlights tonight around it. So, first thing to know and we mentioned this in the last meeting all of our major core academic areas are showing continued growth over the last three years. So, we told you last year when we talked about UP. And this year we wanted to come back and say we are going to go UP again and that trend is continuing which for us is very validating because we're trying to play the long game. We're trying to stay the course. And not be reactive but be proactive.

And so, same thing here, the 12 indicators are reduced to one accountability index score. When you look at these two lines here, you can see how the State is, for all intents and purposes close to flatlining. But yet, we are not. We are in an onward trip trajectory UP where you take all the indicators and come up with one accountability index score. And it's making bigger growth. Also, what I put together, what I put on here was every single accountability index and then the three scores. If you look here, you could see the ELA performance. And then I put it in Gemini and asked it like, what's your evaluation of the last three trends? You could look at this more in depth later. You could see the word success over and over. It'll say things like, strong upward trend, steady upward trend, consistent improvement. So, I just listed all 12 indicators to give you a sense of how we're growing in all 12 of those areas. I'd also be remised if I didn't mention that the State average in the indicators is about 1.3. And we're averaging 3.3. Fifty percent of the districts actually went down in their score. We did not. We went up. And we went up more than the State has been growing on an average rate. So, I put all 12 indicators here with each particular score and it goes through everything but ELA, math, absenteeism, advance course taking, physical fitness, access to arts. All of those things are there for you to read in more depth.

But you could see there is also lots of good news there. And I also want to make note of while we're happy, we're not satisfied. So, we know that we're seeing growth in lots of places. But every once in a while we see something that could be better. So, while all three schools are to the left of this chart, are showing good growth. In Derby Middle School, we have to focus ourselves because their growth is not accelerated. It's not fast enough for us. And we've already put things in place. We developed a math screener. We're trying to do a better job supporting and meeting with teachers on a regular basis. We know math is a big area focus for us. So, when we look at these indicators that becomes one of the areas we want to focus on. So, I'll take you through a couple of things that are impressive through the accountability index. Our index has grown 7.9 percent since 2024. Our ninth graders are on track for graduation. Every one of these scores has a story behind it. We're making improved attendance gains. We mentioned this in the last meeting. Our targeted intervention for students learning English has had an unbelievable growth, way above the State average.

And Dr. Conway mentioned last time, in some areas when you measured in the top five. And we are really looking at that and say, what are we doing there that we can transfer to other groups of students or students that we want to focus on more intently. Most people will tell you the hardest grade to transition is ninth grade. It's a big step for kids. But it's a very challenging year for students and the high school has made significant inroads on that. We've seen kids on their growth on their postsecondary momentum. Our graduation rates for kids leaving us intends to rise. We're impacting that even after they leave us. We're trying to get kids more access to more rigorous content and while there was a slight drop, there's a whole story behind that, you could see the amount of kids passing the exams, continues to rise. The high school has worked really hard to develop a program of studies to widen its course offerings to make sure that the arts have a high priority in our school. Once again, manifested in one of the indicators from the accountability index. Our fitness rates have dipped a little bit. Our theme now is not just growth, but acceleration. So, be proactive and ready at the same time. The link will give you information on all the indicators.

Dr. Conway: Different indicators use different percentages, use different weights to then come out with an overall index score. So, each area, there's index scores that then all filter up to a single index score. Not all of those index scores. Each of those indicators are weighted the same. They aren't all based upon 100 percent. Some are based on 75 percent or 50 percent. But it all depends upon the individual indicator and the weight that the State has given them. They are meeting now to look at the weights again. It's been a while. I want to say since 2013 that they actually looked at the different weights and percentages. So, there's a committee now with the State Department of Ed looking at each

of those indicators and seeing if there's going to be any changes moving forward a preview on it.

There will be additional weights given to some of the areas that we show strength in. So, the number of, you're on track for graduation. Your number of students taking CTE courses. A lot of the work being done on workplace readiness now and develop pathways and they want to give more weight to those areas where we're seeing progress as opposed to just academics.

SCHOOL BUS SAFETY – CAMERA UPDATE

Mr. Marcucio: Mr. Hall touched on this earlier in his report. Anything else, Dr. Conway?

Dr. Conway: No, we have a meeting scheduled with Safe Fleet tomorrow. But Brian and I to get their latest updates, right now, all but one bus, the cameras are installed. They're live but they're working on calibrating them. They're not turned on for people to monitor at this moment. They are on for the company to be able to calibrate over the next weeks to make sure they're picking up the right thing and everything is working properly before, as Brian said, we go live in December. But we'll have a more detailed update to that tomorrow, multiple things on agenda for the company to update us on.

Mr. Marcucio: Will there be a warning period or no?

Dr. Conway: That is up to the City. The bus company was of the understanding that there wasn't. But it is the decision that's up to the City whether it's a two-week, 30-day warning.

Mr. Hall: We talked about that with Chief Grogan and we don't feel it's necessary to have warning period. We are going to do 30 days prior to have a public awareness campaign. We'll make it known we are going live.

Dr. Conway: No.

ADJOURN

Motion that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Holly Orazietti and a second by Ms. Kim Tovar.

Ken Marcucio	**Yes**
Dan Foley	**Yes**
Kim Tovar	**Yes**
Holly Orazietti	**Yes**
Jim Gildea	**Yes**
Melissa Mongillo	**Yes**
Erica Nuzzo	**Yes**
Rebecca O'Hara	**Absent**

Karla Malerba **Absent**

Ms. Orazietti: Making motion.

Ms. Tovar: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion passes.

Adjourned at 7:16.

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Marianne Samokar
Recording Secretary

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By Marc J Garofalo MPA, MMC, MCTC at 10:49 am, Nov 13, 2026