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By Marc J Garofalo MPA, MMC, MCTC at 3:57 pm, Oct 13, 2026

Proposal to Conduct Dissertation Research

Presented to the Derby Board of Education

Stephen Wojtowicz | Doctoral Candidate, American College of Education

Proposed Site	Derby High School
Participants	Approximately 10–15 students in Grades 11–12
Student Commitment	Brief background questionnaire and one 20–30 minute individual interview
Approval Requested	Permission for Derby High School to serve as the dissertation research site

Study Overview

I am requesting permission to conduct my doctoral dissertation research at Derby High School. The study will explore how students feel that the behavior and attitudes of other students in class can affect their own engagement and learning experiences. The goal is not to evaluate individual students, teachers, administrators, or the school. The goal is to better understand the classroom experience from the students' point of view.

Why This Study?

Research has shown that peer behavior, classroom climate, and student engagement are connected. Much of that research measures outcomes such as achievement, engagement, or disruptive behavior. My study takes a qualitative approach and asks students to describe, in their own words, how peer disengagement may influence their focus, participation, and learning.

Who Would Participate?

Approximately 10–15 students in Grades 11 and 12 would participate voluntarily. Students currently enrolled in a course that I teach would not be eligible to participate. Recruitment would occur only through school-approved communication methods. Participation would have no effect on grades, school standing, or a student's relationship with teachers or administrators.

What Would Students Be Asked to Do?

Participants would complete a brief demographic/background questionnaire and take part in one individual semi-structured interview lasting approximately 20–30 minutes. Interviews would take place in a private location at school at a mutually convenient time. With the required permission, interviews would be audio-recorded so responses can be transcribed accurately. A brief follow-up could occur only if clarification is needed.

Draft Interview Questions

1. How would you describe the overall atmosphere in your classes?
2. What kinds of behaviors do you notice from students who seem uninterested or not involved in class?
3. How do those behaviors affect your own focus or participation in class, if at all?
4. Do you think other students' attitudes or behavior affect how much you learn in class? Why or why not?
5. Can you describe a time when other students' behavior affected your classroom experience?
6. What do you think teachers or schools could do to help students stay more involved in class?

Student and Family Protections

Participation will be voluntary. For participants who are minors, parent or guardian informed consent and student assent will be required before participation. Students may decline to answer a question or withdraw from the study without penalty. Participant names will not be used in the dissertation; pseudonyms or participant codes will be used instead. Research materials will be stored in password-protected files accessible only to the researcher, and identifying information will be removed from reported findings.

Approvals and Oversight

No participant recruitment or data collection will begin until all required approvals are in place, including approval from the American College of Education Institutional Review Board (IRB) and permission from the school district. Recruitment, consent/assent, interviews, confidentiality, and data handling will follow the approved research procedures.

Potential Benefit

There is no direct financial or academic benefit to participating students. The study may provide useful information about how students experience peer disengagement and may help educators and school leaders better understand classroom conditions that support student engagement and positive learning experiences.

Request to the Board

I respectfully request permission from the Derby Board of Education for Derby High School to serve as the research site for this doctoral dissertation study, subject to all required institutional and district approvals and protections described above.

Thank you for considering this request.

Finance Dept. Monthly Update – September 2026

September focus: FY 2025-26 audit readiness, MFAC reporting, and grant budget updates

Core Finance Operations

- Processed purchase order approvals, accounts payable, bank reconciliations, payroll, journal entries, and City and Board of Education reconciliations while supporting FY 2026-27 operations and completing remaining FY 2025-26 closeout work for audit.
- Prepared monthly financial reports, budget updates, and support schedules for City, WPCA, Board of Education, Shared Services, and Capital Committee review.
- Continued detailed budget-to-actual and forecast reviews for Board of Education operating and grant accounts, including recurring coordination with school administrators on spending controls and available resources.
- Researched and corrected payroll, benefit, account-coding, revenue, and financial-system issues to improve the accuracy of employee records and financial reporting.

Audit, Year-End Close, and Fiscal Oversight

- Advanced the FY 2025-26 City and Board of Education close and audit preparation by completing reconciliations, organizing supporting schedules, and providing payroll, cash-disbursement, grant, revenue, expenditure, and balance-sheet information for audit testing.
- Prepared the City's September MFAC update and supporting financial information. The FY 2026 audit remains on track for completion ahead of the December deadline, and the Committee indicated that Derby may not need to attend its November meeting while it considers removing Derby from oversight in January.

Financial Management and Budget Analysis

- Initiated a comprehensive FY 2026-27 budget-to-forecast analysis for grant accounts, including a detailed bottom-up review of grant staffing and other expenditures.
- Conducted a review of operating and grant-funded salary projections to identify funding gaps associated with FY 2026-27 compensation increases.
- Evaluated available grant funding sources and developed recommendations to align expenditures with anticipated revenues and reduce financial risk.

- Reconciled 26-27 education grant expenses in eGMS with accounting system, reviewed available balances, and created FY 2026-27 grant budgets within the eGMS and accounting system.

Strategic Projects and Other Initiatives

- Supported City and Board of Education capital, procurement, and operational initiatives, including vehicle and equipment insurance schedules, project funding reviews, vendor coordination, and contract administration.
- Ongoing evaluation of financial systems utilized by the City and Board of Education to develop a consolidation recommendation that will generate improved efficiency, better budget transparency, forecasting accuracy, and long-term fiscal sustainability.

Derby Food Service
Statement of Activity
September 2026

	Total	
	Sep 2026	Jul 1 - Sep 30 2026 (YTD)
Revenue		
Income		
Catering Income	6,900.00	7,516.00
Intergovernmental		
Government - NSL	91,956.90	100,614.50
Government-Breakfast	40,918.81	44,503.21
Total for Intergovernmental	**$132,875.71**	**$145,117.71**
Revenue	2,198.15	2,198.15
Revenue-Mealpay	418.02	468.02
Total for Income	**$142,391.88**	**$155,299.88**
Uncategorized Income	16.63	17.58
Total for Revenue	**$142,408.51**	**$155,317.46**
Cost of Goods Sold		
Cost of Goods Sold		$0.00
Beverage Purchases	6,050.90	7,924.39
Food Purchases	64,313.99	88,349.43
Paper Supplies		4,193.76
Purchases		2,050.00
Total for Cost of Goods Sold	**$70,364.89**	**$102,517.58**
Total for Cost of Goods Sold	**$70,364.89**	**$102,517.58**
Gross Profit	**$72,043.62**	**$52,799.88**
Expenditures		
Computer Expense	1,055.10	6,917.54
Laundry and Cleaning	798.96	2,146.00
Office Supplies	1,610.01	1,610.01
Payroll		
Salaries & Wages	45,417.99	70,810.61
Total for Payroll	**$45,417.99**	**$70,810.61**
Purchases	2,642.01	4,089.50
Repairs & Maintenance	1,623.06	1,623.06
Total for Expenditures	**$53,147.13**	**$87,196.72**
Net Operating Revenue	**$18,896.49**	**-$34,396.84**
Other Expenditures		
Reconciliation Discrepancies	$0.00	$0.00
Total for Other Expenditures	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Net Other Revenue	**$0.00**	**$0.00**
Net Revenue	**$18,896.49**	**-$34,396.84**

Derby Public Schools
Business Manager's Report
October Update

Operating	Adjusted Budget	Unaudited Actuals	Variance	2026-2027 Budget	YOY Budget Variance	% Change	Notes
Salaries	$ 13,352,717	$ 13,124,398	$ 228,319	$ 13,663,159	$ 310,441	2.3%	
Temp Services	$ 60,000	$ 98,746	$ (38,746)	$ 60,000	$ -	0.0%	
Aces & Substitute Services	$ 349,615	$ 194,155	$ 155,460	$ 375,000	$ 25,385	7.3%	Speech Services (126k)
Benefits	$ 826,500	$ 855,407	$ (28,907)	$ 842,880	$ 16,380	2.0%	Social Security, Medicare, Insurance Waiver, Life Insurance
Total Staffing Costs	**$ 14,588,832**	**$ 14,272,706**	**$ 316,127**	**$ 14,941,039**	**$ 352,206**	2.4%	
Tuition to Other Districts	$ 3,064,510	$ 3,070,306	$ (5,796)	$ 2,891,747	$ (172,763)	-5.6%	
Transportation	$ 1,723,636	$ 1,844,660	$ (121,024)	$ 1,702,161	$ (21,475)	-1.2%	
Utilities	$ 801,644	$ 864,950	$ (63,306)	$ 843,700	$ 42,056	5.2%	
Unemployment Insurance	$ 16,000	$ 51,204	$ (35,204)	$ 25,000	$ 9,000	56.3%	
State Aid Excess Cost	$ (830,369)	$ (692,391)	$ (137,978)	$ (689,562)	$ 140,807	-17.0%	
Repairs & Maintenance	$ 337,000	$ 299,583	$ 37,417	$ 304,364	$ (32,636)	-9.7%	Includes Contracted Services & Equipment Replacement
Supplies	$ 340,318	$ 353,016	$ (12,698)	$ 319,496	$ (20,822)	-6.1%	
All Other Expenses	$ 406,878	$ 453,677	$ (46,799)	$ 476,504	$ 69,626	17.1%	Includes Licensing Software, Legal Services, Copier Rental, Dues & Fees
2% Non-lapsing fund	$ 89,423	$ -	$ 89,423	$ -	$ (89,423)	-100.0%	
Supplemental Appropriation	$ 160,000	$ -	$ 160,000	$ 73,619	$ (86,381)	-54.0%	
SubTotal Other	**$ 6,109,040**	**$ 6,245,006**	**$ (135,966)**	**$ 5,947,029**	**$ (162,011)**	-2.7%	
Total Operating Budget	**$ 20,697,872**	**$ 20,517,712**	**$ 180,160**	**$ 20,888,067**	**$ 190,195**	0.9%	

Grants	Adjusted Budget	Unaudited Actuals	Variance	2026-2027 Budget	YOY Budget Variance	% Change	Notes
Salaries	$ 5,429,781	$ 5,433,180	$ (3,399)	$ 6,458,768	$ 1,028,988	19.0%	
Purchased Services	$ 909,735	$ 900,692	$ 9,043	$ 895,186	$ (14,549)	-1.6%	Includes Software/Licensing Subscriptions, RBT Wages and Substitues
Supplies	$ 124,158	$ 121,825	$ 2,333	$ 131,623	$ 7,465	6.0%	
SMSM	$ 47,847	$ 39,126	$ 8,721	$ 17,628	$ (30,219)	-63.2%	State mandated portions of several grants must go to SMSM (title/IDEA)
Adult Education	$ 113,351	$ 113,351	$ -	$ 130,063	$ 16,712	14.7%	
Total Grant Budget	**$ 6,624,872**	**$ 6,608,174**	**$ 16,698**	**$ 7,633,268**	**$ 1,008,396**	15.2%	

Totals							
Salaries	$ 18,782,498	$ 18,557,578	$ 224,921	$ 20,121,927	$ 1,339,429	7.1%	
Other Expenses	$ 8,540,246	$ 8,568,309	$ (28,063)	$ 8,399,409	$ (140,837)	-1.6%	
Overall	**$ 27,322,744**	**$ 27,125,886**	**$ 196,858**	**$ 28,521,335**	$ 1,198,591	4.4%	

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Statement of Assurances

Derby School District (0000000037-00) Public School District - FY 2027 - Alliance and Priority School District Grants (17041, 17043, 17108) - Rev 0 - Assurances

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Copy Previous Fiscal Year Details

☐ *** The Local Educational Agency (LEA) hereby assures the State Educational Agency (SEA) that the LEA follows all regulations applicable for CSDE, including those outlined below.**

A.	The applicant has the necessary legal authority to apply for and receive the proposed grant;
B.	The filing of this application has been authorized by the applicant's governing body, and the undersigned official has been duly authorized to file this application for and on behalf of said applicant, and otherwise to act as the authorized representative of the applicant in connection with this application;
C.	The activities and services for which assistance is sought under this grant will be administered by or under the supervision and control of the applicant;
D.	The project will be operated in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and in compliance with regulations and other policies and administrative directives of the State Board of Education and the Connecticut State Department of Education;
E.	Grant funds shall not be used to supplant funds normally budgeted by the agency;
F.	Fiscal control and accounting procedures will be used to ensure proper disbursement of all funds awarded;
G.	The applicant will submit a final project report (within 60 days of the project completion) and such other reports, as specified, to the Connecticut State Department of Education, including information relating to the project records and access thereto as the Connecticut State Department of Education may find necessary;
H.	The Connecticut State Department of Education reserves the exclusive right to use and grant the right to use and/or publish any part or parts of any summary, abstract, reports, publications, records and materials resulting from this project and this grant;
I.	If the project achieves the specified objectives, every reasonable effort will be made to continue the project and/or implement the results after the termination of state/federal funding;
J.	The applicant will protect and save harmless the State Board of Education from financial loss and expense, including legal fees and costs, if any, arising out of any breach of the duties, in whole or part, described in the application for the grant;
K.	At the conclusion of each grant period, the applicant will provide for an independent audit report acceptable to the grantor in accordance with Sections 7-394a and 7-396a of the Connecticut General Statutes, and the applicant shall return to the Connecticut State Department of Education any moneys not expended in accordance with the approved program/operation budget as determined by the audit;
L.	REQUIRED LANGUAGE (NON-DISCRIMINATION)
	References in this section to "contract" shall mean this grant agreement and to "contractor" shall mean the Grantee.
(a)	For purposes of this Section, the following terms are defined as follows:
(1)	"Commission" means the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities;
(2)	"Contract" and "contract" include any extension or modification of the Contract or contract;
(3)	"Contractor" and "contractor" include any successors or assigns of the Contractor or contractor;
(4)	"Gender identity or expression" means a person's gender-related identity, appearance or behavior, whether or not that gender-related identity, appearance or behavior is different from that traditionally associated with the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth, which gender-related identity can be shown by providing evidence including, but not limited to, medical history, care or treatment of the gender-related identity, consistent and uniform assertion of the gender-related identity or any other evidence that the gender-related identity is sincerely held, part of a person's core identity or not being asserted for an improper purpose.
(5)	"good faith" means that degree of diligence which a reasonable person would exercise in the performance of legal duties and obligations;
(6)	"good faith efforts" shall include, but not be limited to, those reasonable initial efforts necessary to comply with statutory or regulatory requirements and additional or substituted efforts when it is determined that such initial efforts will not be sufficient to comply with such requirements;
(7)	"marital status" means being single, married as recognized by the state of Connecticut, widowed, separated or divorced;
(8)	"mental disability" means one or more mental disorders, as defined in the most recent edition of the American Psychiatric Association's "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders", or a record of or regarding a person as having one or more such disorders;
(9)	"minority business enterprise" means any small contractor or supplier of materials fifty-one percent or more of the capital stock, if any, or assets of which is owned by a person or persons: (1) who are active in the daily affairs of the enterprise, (2) who have the power to direct the management and policies of the enterprise, and (3) who are members of a minority, as such term is defined in subsection (a) of Connecticut General Statutes § 32-9n; and
(10)	"public works contract" means any agreement between any individual, firm or corporation and the State or any political subdivision of the State other than a municipality for construction, rehabilitation, conversion, extension, demolition or repair of a public building, highway or other changes or improvements in real property, or which is financed in whole or in part by the State, including, but not limited to, matching expenditures, grants, loans, insurance or guarantees.
	For purposes of this Section, the terms "Contract" and "contract" do not include a contract where each contractor is (1) a political subdivision of the state, including, but not limited to, a municipality, (2) a quasi-public agency, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 1-120, (3) any other state, including but not limited to any federally recognized Indian tribal governments, as defined in Conn. Gen. Stat. Section 1-267, (4) the federal government, (5) a foreign government, or (6) an agency of a subdivision, agency, state or government described in the immediately preceding enumerated items (1), (2), (3), (4) or (5).

(b)	(1) The Contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the Contract such Contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by such Contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or of the State of Connecticut; and the Contractor further agrees to take affirmative action to insure that applicants with jobrelated qualifications are employed and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their race, color, religious creed, age, marital status, national origin, ancestry, sex, gender identity or expression, intellectual disability, mental disability or physical disability, including, but not limited to, blindness, unless it is shown by the Contractor that such disability prevents performance of the work involved; (2) the Contractor agrees, in all solicitations or advertisements for employees placed by or on behalf of the Contractor, to state that it is an "affirmative action-equal opportunity employer" in accordance with regulations adopted by the Commission; (3) the Contractor agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which the Contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which the Contractor has a contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission, advising the labor union or workers' representative of the Contractor's commitments under this section and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment; (4) the Contractor agrees to comply with each provision of this Section and Connecticut General Statutes §§ 46a-68e and 46a-68f and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §§ 46a-56, 46a-68e and 46a-68f; and (5) the Contractor agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the Contractor as relate to the provisions of this Section and Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-56. If the contract is a public works contract, the Contractor agrees and warrants that he will make good faith efforts to employ minority business enterprises as subcontractors and suppliers of materials on such public works projects.
(c)	Determination of the Contractor's good faith efforts shall include, but shall not be limited to, the following factors: The Contractor's employment and subcontracting policies, patterns and practices; affirmative advertising, recruitment and training; technical assistance activities and such other reasonable activities or efforts as the Commission may prescribe that are designed to ensure the participation of minority business enterprises in public works projects.
(d)	The Contractor shall develop and maintain adequate documentation, in a manner prescribed by the Commission, of its good faith efforts.
(e)	The Contractor shall include the provisions of subsection (b) of this Section in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a contract with the State and such provisions shall be binding on a subcontractor, vendor or manufacturer unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes §46a-56; provided if such Contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the Contractor may request the State of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation or negotiation prior thereto to protect the interests of the State and the State may so enter.
(f)	The Contractor agrees to comply with the regulations referred to in this Section as they exist on the date of this Contract and as they may be adopted or amended from time to time during the term of this Contract and any amendments thereto.
(g)	(1) The Contractor agrees and warrants that in the performance of the Contract such Contractor will not discriminate or permit discrimination against any person or group of persons on the grounds of sexual orientation, in any manner prohibited by the laws of the United States or the State of Connecticut, and that employees are treated when employed without regard to their sexual orientation; (2) the Contractor agrees to provide each labor union or representative of workers with which such Contractor has a collective bargaining agreement or other contract or understanding and each vendor with which such Contractor has a contract or understanding, a notice to be provided by the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities advising the labor union or workers' representative of the Contractor's commitments under this section, and to post copies of the notice in conspicuous places available to employees and applicants for employment; (3) the Contractor agrees to comply with each provision of this section and with each regulation or relevant order issued by said Commission pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes § 46a56; and (4) the Contractor agrees to provide the Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities with such information requested by the Commission, and permit access to pertinent books, records and accounts, concerning the employment practices and procedures of the Contractor which relate to the provisions of this Section and Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-56.
(h)	The Contractor shall include the provisions of the foregoing paragraph in every subcontract or purchase order entered into in order to fulfill any obligation of a contract with the State and such provisions shall be binding on a subcontractor, vendor or manufacturer unless exempted by regulations or orders of the Commission. The Contractor shall take such action with respect to any such subcontract or purchase order as the Commission may direct as a means of enforcing such provisions including sanctions for noncompliance in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-56; provided, if such Contractor becomes involved in, or is threatened with, litigation with a subcontractor or vendor as a result of such direction by the Commission, the Contractor may request the State of Connecticut to enter into any such litigation or negotiation prior thereto to protect the interests of the State and the State may so enter.
M.	The grant award is subject to approval of the Connecticut State Department of Education and availability of state or federal funds.
N.	The applicant agrees and warrants that Sections 4-190 to 4-197, inclusive, of the Connecticut General Statutes concerning the Personal Data Act and Sections 10-4-8 to 10-4-10, inclusive, of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies promulgated there under are hereby incorporated by reference.

* The Local Education Agency (LEA) hereby assures the State Education Agency (SEA) that the LEA has received local board of education approval of this plan's submission. Date of board approval:

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Alliance District Grant Budget Overview

Derby School District (0000000037-00) Public School District - FY 2027 - Alliance and Priority School District Grants (17041, 17043, 17108) - Rev 0 - Alliance District Grant (17041)

Go To

Filter by Location: All - $4,124,765.00

Show Unbudgeted Categories

Object		
100 - Personal Services > Salaries	3,910,655.17	3,910,655.17
200 - Personal Services > Employee Benefits	191,374.83	191,374.83
500 - Other Purchased Services	14,735.00	14,735.00
600 - Supplies	8,000.00	8,000.00
Total	4,124,765.00	4,124,765.00
	Allocation	4,124,765.00
	Remaining	0.00

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Priority School District Grant Budget Overview

Derby School District (0000000037-00) Public School District - FY 2027 - Alliance and Priority School District Grants (17041, 17043, 17108) - Rev 0 - Priority School District Grant (17043)

Go To

Filter by Location: All - $818,702.00

Show Unbudgeted Categories

Object	Proposed	vs. Priority School Activities	Total
100 - Personal Services > Salaries	454,383.00		454,383.00
300 - Purchased Professional and Technical Services	260,862.00		260,862.00
400 - Purchased Property Services	2,500.00		2,500.00
500 - Other Purchased Services	90,957.00		90,957.00
600 - Supplies	10,000.00		10,000.00
Total	818,702.00		818,702.00
	Allocation		818,702.00
	Remaining		0.00

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SEPTEMBER 17, 2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Marcucio called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONIES

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

Present: Ken Marcucio, Dan Foley, Jim Gildea, Melissa Mongillo, and Karla Malerba.

Excused: Kim Tovar, Holly Orazietti, Rebecca O'Hara, and Erica Nuzzo.

Mr. Gildea confirmed that a quorum was present.

Also Present

Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent of Schools.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

A motion was made by Mr. Gildea and seconded by Ms. Mongillo to move the Financial Report from Item 11 to Item 9.

Vote:
Ken Marcucio – Yes
Dan Foley – Yes
Jim Gildea – Yes
Kim Tovar – Excused
Holly Orazietti – Excused
Rebecca O'Hara – Excused
Erica Nuzzo – Excused
Melissa Mongillo – Yes
Karla Malerba – Yes

Motion carried.

PUBLIC PORTION

Ms. Malerba reported that members of the Derby High School Class of 1976 would like to have the school sign redone and indicated that the class would raise the funds necessary for the project.

Mr. Marcucio directed the group to contact Dr. Conway regarding the request.

There were no additional members of the public who wished to speak.

BIRTHDAYS

The Board recognized Mr. Foley and Athletic Director Jennifer Moffat on their birthdays.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

A motion was made by Mr. Gildea and seconded by Mr. Foley to waive Executive Session.

Vote:
Ken Marcucio – Yes
Dan Foley – Yes
Jim Gildea – Yes
Kim Tovar – Excused
Holly Orazietti – Excused
Rebecca O'Hara – Excused
Erica Nuzzo – Excused
Melissa Mongillo – Yes
Karla Malerba – Yes

Motion carried.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW HIRES

A motion was made by Mr. Gildea and seconded by Mr. Foley to approve the Appointment List of New Hires as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Vote:
Ken Marcucio – Yes
Dan Foley – Yes
Jim Gildea – Yes
Kim Tovar – Excused
Holly Orazietti – Excused
Rebecca O'Hara – Excused
Erica Nuzzo – Excused
Melissa Mongillo – Yes
Karla Malerba – Yes

Dr. Conway introduced and welcomed the following new appointments:

- Damaris Battaglia – Long-Term Substitute, Academic Learning Center at Bradley School
- Margaret Mantione – Grade 4 Teacher, Bradley School
- Rose Muir – Long-Term Substitute School Counselor, Derby High School

- Emily Santos – Paraeducator, Academic Learning Center at Bradley School
- Alexsandra Leandro – Paraeducator, Little Raiders University
- Isabella Chevarella – Assistant Girls Soccer Coach, Derby High School

Motion carried.

Dr. Conway invited Dr. Ciccarini to introduce members of the families who were present.

Dr. Ciccarini welcomed and introduced Damaris Battaglia, Margaret Mantione, and Emily Santos and recognized them for their new positions within the district.

SRO UPDATE

Dr. Conway introduced Police Officer Stephanie Kowalec, who will serve as a School Resource Officer (SRO) for the Derby Public Schools.

Officer Kowalec introduced herself and spoke briefly about her new assignment.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee - No report.

Negotiations and Personnel Committee - Ms. Mongillo reported that the committee is scheduled to meet on October 6, 2026.

School/Community Relations and Policy Committee - No report.

Plants and Facilities Committee - No report.

Academic & Curriculum Committee - No report.

Athletic Committee - No report.

Student Health and Safety Committee - No report.

SHARED SERVICES UPDATE

Mr. Gildea reported that the Shared Services Committee continues to develop a framework for a shared Director of Finance position, similar to the shared Human Resources position.

Corporation Counsel provided clarifying language addressing scenarios in which the two Boards may not agree, including how a potential exit strategy would be handled.

The Shared Services Committee will also discuss the search committee process, using the previous Human Resources search as a model. A concrete proposal is expected to be presented to the Board for review at the October meeting.

Dr. Conway had no additional comments.

FINANCIAL REPORT

A motion was made by Mr. Gildea and seconded by Mr. Foley to accept the Financial Report as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Vote:
Ken Marcucio – Yes
Dan Foley – Yes
Jim Gildea – Yes
Kim Tovar – Excused
Holly Orazietti – Excused
Rebecca O'Hara – Excused
Erica Nuzzo – Excused
Melissa Mongillo – Yes
Karla Malerba – Yes

Mr. Hall provided an update on key financial activities for August and the ongoing 2025–2026 fiscal year closeout, including preparation for the annual audit.

He reported that significant work had been completed related to the EFS reporting process and State reporting requirements. The EGEMS grant report must also be completed before the EFS report can be finalized. These activities are necessary to ensure that the district's financial system is prepared for the audit and that the information is aligned with the City's financial records.

Mr. Hall reported that the EFS report is approximately several million dollars below the previous year, primarily due to changes related to health insurance. The district transitioned to the Connecticut State Partnership health insurance program, which resulted in significant changes.

The 2026–2027 grant budget has been entered into the accounting system. Final numbers are still being received and will be reviewed in greater detail.

Mr. Hall reviewed the financial summary with the Board, including the original and adjusted 2025–2026 budgets, actual expenditures, and variances. The district finished approximately $180,000 favorable to the adjusted budget.

He explained that the financial summary separates operating expenditures from grant expenditures. Approximately $5.4 million is currently included in grant-funded expenditures, including salaries and purchased services. Mr. Hall emphasized the importance of monitoring these funds and considering the potential impact on future budgets should grant funding change or become unavailable.

Mr. Hall also reviewed salary expenditures. The current change reflected approximately $13,663, or approximately two percent. After reviewing prior budget versions and reports with Dr. Conway, an issue was identified regarding the salary amount and the impact of the teacher

contract. The salary projection will need to be adjusted, and additional factors, including substitute services, will also be considered.

Mr. Hall expects to have the financial information fully updated before the next meeting and plans to include a forecast column to provide a clearer projection of salary increases and other anticipated expenditures.

Motion carried.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Conway reported that the contract for the bus cameras had been approved and that he had been in contact with All-Star regarding implementation.

He also provided an update on preparations for the 2026–2027 school year, including Convocation, open houses, and other back-to-school activities. Contracts associated with these activities were approved by City Corporation Counsel the previous week.

Dr. Conway noted that completion of the EFS report represented a significant milestone.

Dr. Conway introduced Principal Paul Lucke of Seymour High School, who is participating in the 092/093 Superintendent Certification Program and will be interning with the Derby Public Schools throughout the school year. Mr. Lucke has already participated in various district meetings and attended his first Board meeting.

FACILITIES DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Hoffman provided several facilities updates.

At Derby High School, initial issues related to the start of school included problems with the transition lines entering the school. UI cleared debris from the line. He also reported that the Derby High School elevator is now operational and in service. Several older relays were replaced and the doors are functioning. Additional work is planned to modernize the elevator system, as some components, including the track, are worn.

At Derby Middle School, repairs to the gym floor began on Tuesday and are expected to take approximately four weeks to complete. The insurance claim was approved. Four actuators in the gym were also replaced. Despite the recent heavy rain, no water entered the building.

The roadside electric sign serving the Derby Middle School/High School campus continues to experience problems. The district is troubleshooting the issue. Two power supplies need to be replaced, and four video outlets were damaged. Replacement parts are expected on September 21. Mr. Hoffman will also explore obtaining bids for eventual replacement of the sign as part of a modernization project.

Mr. Hoffman reported that the district plans to re-mulch the appropriate areas.

At Bradley School, the district determined that responsibility for the exterior basketball court lights rests with the district. Following discussions with the City, power to the lights has been disconnected, and the existing lights will be removed.

DIRECTOR OF TEACHING AND LEARNING REPORT

Dr. Rafferty provided an academic achievement and growth update and recognized the teachers and staff for their work implementing new curriculum resources over the past several years.

Dr. Rafferty introduced this year's district theme, **"We Before Me,"** emphasizing the concept that all students are collectively the responsibility of the entire district.

Dr. Conway reported that the district's most recent assessment results showed increases in both achievement and growth across the district. Improvements were reported in English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, and science, as reflected in the District Performance Index (DPI).

SAT results also showed increases, with ELA scores increasing by 24 points and mathematics scores increasing by 19 points. Dr. Conway credited the work taking place at Derby High School, and Dr. Rafferty noted that the high school has increased the rigor of its courses and instructional materials to better prepare students for college-level work and assessments.

The district also observed gains among high-needs students across schools in both ELA and mathematics. Dr. Conway explained that the district examines achievement and growth not only by grade level from one year to the next, but also by following individual student cohorts as they progress from one grade to the next.

Examples of growth highlighted included:

- Bradley School showed a 14.6 percent gain in math and ELA proficiency and a 22 percent gain in math proficiency.
- Irving School showed increases of 5.4 percent in ELA and 7.4 percent in mathematics.
- Grade 5 mathematics at Irving School achieved 69.7 percent of its identified growth target.
- Growth was also noted in ELA among students in Grades 6 and 7.

Dr. Conway emphasized the importance of examining student cohorts over time rather than relying solely on year-to-year comparisons between different groups of students. Cohort data provides a clearer picture of individual student growth and achievement.

The district identified continued opportunities to accelerate student achievement, particularly in mathematics. Dr. Rafferty noted that staff have identified areas where targeted interventions and resources may have the greatest impact, including for students who enter the district after attending other school systems.

Grant Funding

Dr. Conway reported that the district had finalized and submitted two of three grant applications focused specifically on mathematics, with the third application scheduled for submission that day.

The grant amounts discussed were:

- Derby High School – approximately $331,000
- Irving School – approximately $131,000
- Derby Middle School – approximately $231,000

Dr. Conway reported that he had met with State Department of Education representatives who reviewed the grant applications. The district received the maximum amount of funding available for each of the three grants.

Dr. Rafferty noted that the grant applications were fully funded because they clearly identified the district's areas of need and the strategies that would be used to address achievement gaps.

Dr. Conway credited Dr. Rafferty and the district's principals for their work developing the grant applications. He emphasized that the grant funds are supplemental and cannot be used to supplant existing funding.

The district reported that every grade-level cohort increased its average score in both ELA and mathematics. Districtwide ELA and mathematics cohort growth increased by 3.3 percent, from 53.5 to 56.8.

Additional areas of growth were also highlighted, including significant increases in individual areas and a 47-point increase in ELA proficiency in one highlighted area.

Dr. Conway and Dr. Rafferty emphasized the importance of identifying instructional practices that are producing positive results and replicating those practices throughout the district.

Student Mobility and Academic Achievement

Dr. Conway presented additional information regarding student mobility and its relationship to academic achievement.

The district reviewed information from the EIT report within EDSITE Secure, which provides student information from pre-kindergarten through the current grade, including students who were not enrolled in Derby for their entire educational history. The data allows the district to examine student movement between districts and schools and the length of time students have been enrolled in Derby.

Dr. Conway reported that students who remain in the district for more than two years have demonstrated higher SBAC performance, lower disciplinary issues, and improved attendance

during their third year of enrollment. The presentation focused specifically on SBAC performance.

The data continued to reflect trends identified in previous years, with longer-term enrollment associated with stronger academic performance. Dr. Conway noted that student mobility remains a significant challenge for the district and that students who remain enrolled for longer periods demonstrate substantial gains.

The presentation also showed that between approximately 16 and 25 percent of students in individual grade levels have been enrolled in the district for less than two years. Approximately 22.11 percent of third-grade students were identified in this category. At Grade 9, approximately one-quarter of students were new to the district, and 35 percent of seniors had not attended Derby High School for all four years.

Dr. Conway noted that approximately 33 percent of eighth-grade students in the previous year had been enrolled in the district for less than two years, and the district is continuing to track these figures annually.

Dr. Rafferty explained that student mobility can also create curricular challenges. Students entering the district from other school systems may have experience with different instructional programs and routines. Students who have remained in Derby have greater familiarity with the district's curriculum and expectations.

She noted that mathematics can be particularly challenging because instruction is sequential, making it important to identify gaps quickly and provide appropriate support.

Dr. Rafferty explained that grant funding will provide classrooms with additional resources and support to address these challenges.

Dr. Conway and Dr. Rafferty also referenced the district's accountability index report and comparisons with similar districts.

Mr. Marcucio thanked Dr. Rafferty for the presentation.

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Ms. Conway reported on the opening of the district's fifth early childhood classroom. She noted that the classroom was completed and that the open house held that day was very well attended. She reported that families and staff were pleased with the new classroom and the start of the school year.

BRADLEY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms. Giardini reported on Bradley School's participation in **Character Counts**, a program operated by the Deluca Foundation in collaboration with Drake University.

Bradley staff participated in professional development focused on the program's six pillars of character. Community meetings will be held the following week to introduce the program to students.

The program will emphasize the six pillars through activities, positive office referrals, and certificates recognizing students who demonstrate positive character.

Ms. Giardini noted that Derby Middle School will also participate in Character Counts.

The six pillars are:

- Respect
- Responsibility
- Trustworthiness
- Caring
- Fairness
- Citizenship

DERBY HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms. Olson reported on Derby High School's efforts to prepare students for careers in addition to college.

The district recently reported industry-recognized credentials to the State. Students have opportunities to earn certifications through their coursework that can support their transition into the workforce.

Examples from the previous year included First Aid, CPR, CNA, and NIMS certifications in metalworking, machining, and safety through Housatonic Community College.

The high school is conducting a crosswalk of all courses to identify additional industry-recognized credentials that can be incorporated into existing programming and provide students with additional career-readiness opportunities.

Ms. Olson noted that while the district has traditionally emphasized college readiness, it is also expanding its focus on career readiness.

She also reported that students will have the opportunity to demonstrate world-language proficiency and earn a special seal on their diplomas.

IRVING SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Mr. Russo highlighted the new math lab at Irving School. He reported that the program is fully operational and has received positive feedback.

The math lab teacher, Ivy Irving, has created an environment focused on mathematics and social-emotional learning. The open house was well attended, and the math lab received significant interest from families.

Mr. Russo also shared that a parent who initially had concerns about the social-emotional learning component visited the classroom during open house and left with those concerns addressed.

Ms. Giardini reported on kindergarten orientation at Irving School. The orientation provided incoming kindergarten students with an opportunity to meet staff and teachers and become familiar with the school environment.

Teachers were also able to learn more about the incoming students, allowing them to better prepare to meet individual student needs. Parents had the opportunity to meet staff and learn about kindergarten expectations.

Staff and families provided positive feedback regarding the orientation.

DERBY MIDDLE SCHOOL PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Ms. Quartiano provided an update on the implementation of Character Counts at Derby Middle School.

On August 31, staff participated in a two-hour professional learning session with the school's Drake University partner. The session focused on relationships and the six pillars of Character Counts and prepared staff for implementation with students.

Students are participating in daily lessons that promote interaction and engagement with one another. Paraeducators also received training, along with ten eighth-grade students selected for the Derby Middle School Leadership Academy.

The Leadership Academy students will serve as peer advocates and assist with promoting the six pillars throughout the school.

The Character Counts program was introduced during grade-level team meetings, with all three grade levels participating.

Ms. Quartiano also reported on the school's open house. Families had the opportunity to meet classroom teachers, Unified Arts teachers, and support staff. Community partners also participated, including the Derby Neck Library and the Youth Bureau. The Derby Neck Library distributed Dino Reading Buddies materials and promoted reading activities for students and families.

SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Mr. Giordano highlighted the launch of the new transition program at Derby High School.

As part of the program, Griffin Hospital partnered with the district. Derby students prepared welcome folders and related materials for Griffin Hospital. Students assembled the materials at Derby High School and delivered the completed folders to the hospital. The program is expected to expand to activities at Griffin Hospital in the future.

Mr. Giordano also recognized senior Luke Camara for his participation in the Best Buddies Leadership Conference in Bloomington, Indiana, at Indiana University. Mr. Camara received a scholarship to attend the conference and represented Derby High School.

During the conference, he connected with students and community members from across the country and gathered ideas that may be incorporated into Derby High School's Best Buddies program.

Mr. Giordano reported that discussions are already underway regarding potential events with Woodland High School and Oxford High School.

ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT REPORT

No report.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Gildea and seconded by Mr. Foley to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2026 Board of Education meeting.

Vote:
Ken Marcucio – Yes
Dan Foley – Yes
Jim Gildea – Yes
Kim Tovar – Excused
Holly Orazietti – Excused
Rebecca O'Hara – Excused
Erica Nuzzo – Excused
Melissa Mongillo – Yes
Karla Malerba – Yes

Motion carried.

OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP – DERBY MIDDLE SCHOOL

A motion was made by Mr. Gildea and seconded by Mr. Foley to approve the Derby Middle School out-of-state field trip to New York City, as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools.

Vote:
Ken Marcucio – Yes

Dan Foley – Yes
Jim Gildea – Yes
Kim Tovar – Excused
Holly Orazietti – Excused
Rebecca O'Hara – Excused
Erica Nuzzo – Excused
Melissa Mongillo – Yes
Karla Malerba – Yes

Ms. Caggiano reported that the prices remain unchanged.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Gildea and seconded by Mr. Foley to adjourn the meeting.

Vote:
Ken Marcucio – Yes
Dan Foley – Yes
Jim Gildea – Yes
Kim Tovar – Excused
Holly Orazietti – Excused
Rebecca O'Hara – Excused
Erica Nuzzo – Excused
Melissa Mongillo – Yes
Karla Malerba – Yes

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 6, 2026 COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CALLED MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Foley: Called meeting to order at 6:32.

OPENING CEREMONIES

Pledge of Allegiance

ROLL CALL

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

Rebecca O'Hara, absent, Karla Malerba, absent and Ken Marcucio, excused.

Mr. Foley: We do have a quorum.

Also Present:

Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent of Schools here until Executive Session.

ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Mr. Foley: Any additions/deletions to the agenda. Hearing none.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Foley: Anyone from the public wishes to speak? Anyone from the public wishes to speak? Third time, anyone from the public? Hearing none. Close the public portion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session to discuss the Superintendent's Evaluation Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Jim Gildea.

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S CONTRACT

Motion that the Board of Education approve the Superintendent's 2026-2027 contract, including an additional year and a three percent (3%) increase. Motion passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Jim Gildea.

Ken Marcucio	**Excused**
Dan Foley	**Yes**
Kim Tovar	**Yes**
Jim Gildea	**Yes**
Karla Malerba	**Absent**
Melissa Mongillo	**Yes**
Erica Nuzzo	**Yes**
Rebecca O'Hara	**Absent**
Holly Orazietti	**No**

5 Yes, 1 No, 2 Absent, 1 Excused.

ADJOURN

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

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

_____

Marianne Samokar
Recording Secretary

City of Derby-Board of Education

2027 Draft Schedule of Regular Board of Education Meetings

Location: Derby Middle School Cafetorium and via Zoom
73 Chatfield Street
Derby, CT 06418

January

- Tuesday, January 5 – Committee of the Whole– 6:30 PM
- Thursday, January 21 – Board of Education Meeting - 6:30 PM

February

- Tuesday, February 2 – Committee of the Whole – 6:30 PM
- Thursday, February 18 – Board of Education Meeting – 6:30 PM

March

- Tuesday, March 2 – Committee of the Whole – 6:30 PM
- Thursday, March 18 – Board of Education Meeting – 6:30 PM

April

- Tuesday, April 6 – Committee of the Whole – 6:30 PM
- Thursday, April 15 - Board of Education meeting – 6:30 PM

May

- Thursday, May 13 – Board of Education meeting – 6:30 PM*

June

- Tuesday, June 1 - Committee of the Whole – 6:30 PM
- Thursday, June 17 – Board of Education meeting – 6:30 PM

July

- Thursday, July 15 – Board of Education Meeting – 6:30 PM

August

- Thursday, August 19 - Board of Education meeting – 6:30 PM

***Harvard Institute is May 19, 20 and 21st**
May 18th is DHS Academic Awards Night

City of Derby-Board of Education

2027 Draft Schedule of Regular Board of Education Meetings

Location: Derby Middle School Cafetorium and via Zoom
73 Chatfield Street
Derby, CT 06418

September

- Tuesday, September 7 – Committee of the Whole – 6:30 PM
- Thursday, September 16 - Board of Education meeting – 6:30 PM

October

- Tuesday, October 5 – Committee of the Whole – 6:30 PM
- Thursday, October 21 – Board of Education meeting – 6:30 PM

November

- Wednesday, November 2 – Committee of the Whole – 6:30 PM
- Thursday, November 18 – Board of Education meeting – 6:30 PM

December

- Tuesday, December 7 – Committee of the Whole – 6:30 PM
- Thursday, December 16 – Board of Education meeting – 6:30 PM

Respectfully Submitted,
Kenneth Marcucio, Sr., Chairman
Board of Education

Zoom meeting links:

Committee of the Whole Meeting: (First Tuesday unless otherwise indicated)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88375075648
Meeting ID: 883 7507 5648
Find your local number: https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbpACGewm

Regular Board of Education Meetings: (Third Thursday unless otherwise indicated)
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89155620034
Meeting ID: 891 5562 0034
Find your local number: **https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdmTihWXTL**

DERBY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

35 Fifth Street
Derby, Connecticut 06418
(203) 736-5027 fax (203) 736-5031 www.derbypride.org

Dr. Matthew Conway, Jr.
Superintendent of Schools

October 2026 – September Report

Academics

- Director of Teaching and Learning Meeting – September 3, 11, 17, 24
- Superintendent Network Meeting – September 4
- CAPSS Board of Directors Meeting – September 4
- Review Update on Blue Ribbon Commission – September 8
- CAPSS Federal & State Legislative Committee – September 14
- 2026 Commissioner's Back to School Meeting – September 15
- Biweekly Principal Meeting/1st Administrative Council Meeting– September 16
- Update Legislative Committee – September 17
- Advanced Manufacturing Meeting – September 18
- Reading Leadership Implementation – September 22
- CAPSS Alliance Districts Committee – September 23
- Junior Achievement Meeting – September 25
- Reading Implementation Process Pilot – September 28
- Superintendents' Network Retreat – September 29

Human Capital

- Interview Certified Staff – September 2
- Approve Fingerprints – September 3
- DEA Executive Board Meeting – September 3
- Weekly District School Climate Meeting – September 14
- Human Resources Meeting with ACES – September 15
- Human Resources Interview – September 16
- Connecticut Advisory Council for Teacher Professional Standards (CACTPS) – September 18
- Special Education Elementary Supervisor Meeting – September 21
- Requested Teacher Meeting – September 22
- Meeting with Administrative Assistant Union – September 23
- Interviews for Director of Human Resources – September 24
- Requested Teacher Meeting – September 25
- Interview for Director of Human Resources – September 30

Operations

- Visit All Schools – September 1
- Visit Bradley School – September 2
- Microsoft Renewal Meeting – September 3
- Business Office Follow Up Meeting – September 3, 11, 17, 24
- Budget Review – September 4
- Alliance Grant Review – September 4
- Mayor's Meeting – September 8

- Review Transition Students Program – September 8
- Review Magnet School Transportation – September 17
- Board of Education Meeting – September 17
- MFAC Meeting – September 23
- Monthly Special Education Supervisor Meeting – September 23

Climate and Culture

- DHS Varsity Football Game – September 11, 18, 25

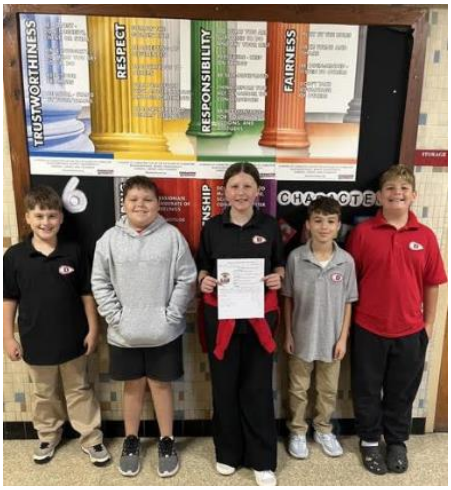
For Information on School Events:

Little Raiders University: https://www.derbypride.org/our-schools/little-raiders-university



Bradley School: https://www.derbypride.org/our-schools/bradley-school#h.fc3zn7up45xr

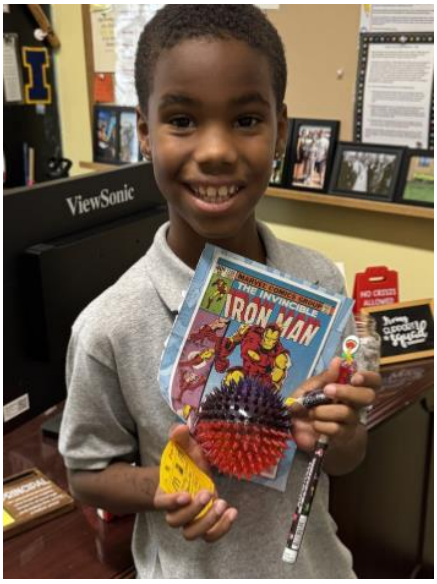
Please check out this week's newsletter



Pawsitive Office Referrals

Irving School: **https://www.derbypride.org/our-schools/irving-school#h.3sgf6fd5kmc7**

Check out the opening Irving School Newsletter



P.A.Ws. with Character

Derby Middle School: **https://www.derbypride.org/our-schools/derby-middle-school#h.z4nyo2f9doub**

DMS Newsletter https://app.smore.com/n/nmtx9

Photos of the Week!





Derby High School:
https://www.derbypride.org/our-schools/derby-high-school#h.edwh8wnag2na

DHS Newsletter: **https://app.smore.com/n/sptvd**



Derby Public Schools

Facilities Update

Board of Education Report — October 2026

1. Derby High School – 90-Minute Fire-Rated Doors

Status: On Order – Installation Anticipated October 21, 2026
Contractor: Tim Lydon
Supplier: Kamco

Three sets of 90-minute fire-rated double doors have been ordered through Kamco. The original order was placed on August 24, 2026.

Due to the custom manufacturing requirements, including associated hardware, the doors have an estimated eight-week lead time. Kamco has advised that the doors are expected to be ready for installation on October 21, 2026.

2. Derby High School – Elevator Repairs and Modernization

Status: Repairs Completed – September 21, 2026
Contractor: Schindler Elevator

Schindler Elevator successfully rebuilt the existing control relays, restoring the elevator to full operation on September 21, 2026.

All repair costs were covered under the district's existing elevator service agreement, resulting in no additional repair expense to the district.

The Facilities Department is currently developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a comprehensive elevator modernization project to address aging equipment, improve reliability, and support long-term operation.

3. Derby Middle School – Gymnasium Floor Water Damage

Status: Insurance Claim Approved – Updated October 7, 2026
Contractor: New England Overland Floor
Estimated Completion: October 13, 2026

Gymnasium floor restoration remains on schedule.

During the removal and repair process, contractors discovered an additional area of approximately 400 square feet of standing water beneath the bleachers. The additional damage was documented and approved for repair under the insurance claim.

The bleachers have been removed to provide access to the affected flooring and allow the necessary restoration work to proceed.

The proposed gymnasium floor artwork and layout are available for review:

Derby Middle School – Gym Floor Artwork Proof

The anticipated completion date remains October 13, 2026, pending any unforeseen conditions.

4. Derby Middle School – Roadside Electronic Sign

Incident Date: August 8–9, 2026
Status: Damage Assessment and Replacement Pricing – Updated October 6, 2026

A lightning strike affecting electrical transmission lines in the Chatfield Street/Road area resulted in an electrical surge impacting Derby Middle School. The surge damaged multiple electronic control boards and components, including those associated with the roadside electronic sign.

Repair Findings:

- Two damaged power supplies were identified and replaced.
- Additional testing revealed four damaged video output modules, which have since been replaced.
- The electronic sign consists of 20 LED panels, with 10 panels on each side.
- Each panel contains 144 individual LED pixels, for a total of 2,880 pixels.
- Following the component replacements, only seven individual pixels are currently receiving power.

Given the extent of the damage and the anticipated cost of additional repairs, the Facilities Department is evaluating the cost-effectiveness of replacing the electronic sign rather than continuing component-level repairs.

Pricing is currently being obtained for a new electronic sign equipped with appropriate electrical surge protection to reduce the risk of similar damage in the future.

5. Derby Middle School – Fire Extinguisher Replacement

Status: Replacement Required
Contractor: MFT by Encore
Estimated Cost: Under $4,000

During the district's fire protection equipment review, 23 existing fire extinguishers were identified for replacement in accordance with applicable NFPA 10 inspection, maintenance, and service requirements.

The existing extinguishers will be replaced with new 5-pound ABC multipurpose fire extinguishers.

This replacement will help maintain compliance with applicable fire protection standards and ensure the continued availability of properly serviced emergency equipment throughout the building.

6. Bradley School – Fire Sprinkler System

Status: Inspection Deficiencies Identified – Corrective Work Being Scheduled
Contractor: CFP
Estimated Cost: Pending

During the annual fire sprinkler system inspection, two items were identified requiring corrective action or scheduled testing:

1. **Water Motor Gong:** The sprinkler system's water motor gong was found to be leaking and requires repair.
2. **Five-Year Obstruction Investigation:** The required five-year internal obstruction investigation and associated testing are due in 2026.

The Facilities Department is coordinating with CFP to schedule the required testing and repair of the leaking water motor gong.

The sprinkler system remains operational and capable of activation. The identified deficiencies are being addressed as part of the district's ongoing fire protection maintenance and compliance program.

Derby Strategic Planning

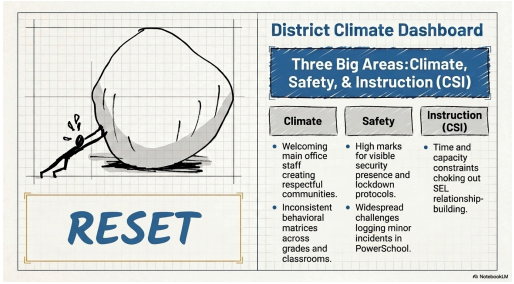
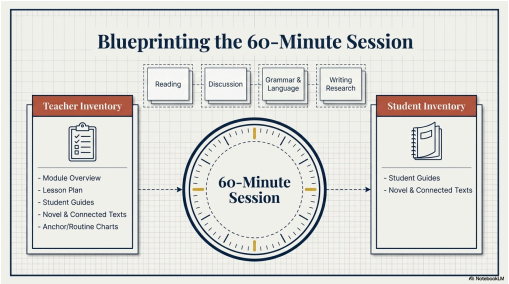
[The Strategic Plan: Read here]

School Year 2026-2027

September

Math Foci *** Math Lab at Irving, *Tutoring Focus for Acceleration**	**Achievement Update**
Character Counts Roll Out	

July/August 2026

Focus Forward 	**Bookworms (MS)** 
Assessment Revisions	**IM 360 Transition**

Early Childhood Program

Oct., 2026

Pre-K Students

School	Full day	Bus students
3 - 3 year old class	45	2
2 - 4 year old classes	30	4

Academics

Unit Topics: Harvest Themes: pumpkin, apples, leaves and more

Big Idea: Students will be able to count apples, like or dislike the taste of diff. Apples, identify parts of a pumpkin, and identify shapes and colors

ELDS Strands: Early learning experiences will support children to develop….)

Cognition A: effective approaches to learning

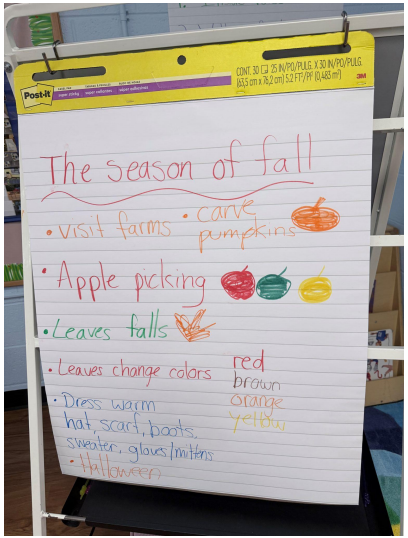
Language & Literacy E: gain knowledge of print and its uses

Math A: understand counting and cardinality

Science A: apply scientific practices

Social & Emotional H: social relationships

Physical Dev A & B: gross motor / fine motor skills
Creative Arts B: explore and respond to creative works
Social Studies C: understand self, family and a diverse community
Weekly SEL: 4 year olds use The Second Step Program 3 year olds use PATHS - **P**romoting **A**lternative **TH**inking **S**trategies





Operations

Cathi Kellet Safe Kids Program



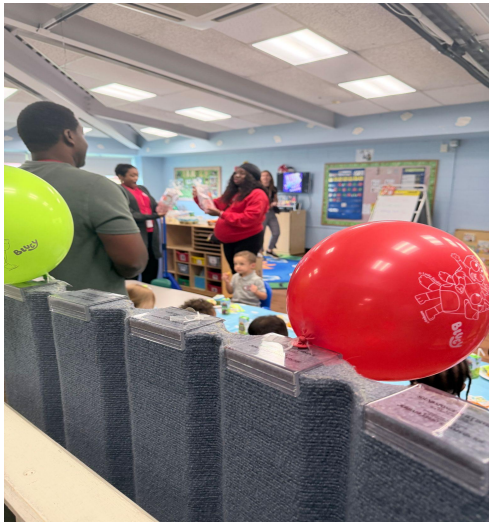


Human Capital

Brianna’s classroom birthday party







Home To School Continuum

Oct. 2026







Thank you for your time!!!



Bradley School

155 David Humphreys Road • Derby, CT 06418-2250
Dr. Mario Ciccarini, Principal
Nicole Giardini, Dean of Students
Angela Milewski, Supervisor of Special Education, PK-5
Phone: (203) 736-5040 • www.derbyps.org/Bradley
Email: MCiccarini@derbyps.org

*At Bradley School, we leave our P.A.W.S. on everything we do. We **P**ersevere, **A**ct Responsibly, **W**ork and Play Safely, and **S**how Respect. These characteristics define us and help us become positive role models in our school and community.*

October 2026 Monthly Report

Academics

- 10/06 - Goal setting meetings begin
- 10/09 - Grade level (data) team meetings begin - Reading & Math

Human Capital

- 10/01 - DCF Training Refresher (CAS)
- 10/01 - Started formal observations of Initial Certified staff
- 10/07 and 10/21 - Pupil service meeting
- 10/09 - Alliance visit at Irving School (Mario)
- 10/14 - AI for Leaders workshop (CAS)
- Ongoing - Bi-weekly coaches meeting
- 10/19 - TEAM orientation (Tracy)
- 10/21 - Admin Council (at Bradley School)
- 10/22 - CSDE IEP quality training
- 10/27 - ASSISTments meetings

Operations

- 10/01 - Special education supervisor interview (not on committee)
- 10/05 - Budget meeting
- 10/20 - October emergency drill (Fire)
- 10/24 - Youth Bureau Services Medication Take-Back Day (at Bradley School)
- 10/27 - Bus evacuation drills in the morning

Culture/Climate

- 10/01 - Start of National Principals Month
- 10/02 - School Custodian Appreciation Day (Lou and Pat)
- 10/08 - Fire Safety & Prevention Presentation (Grades 1-5)

- 10/08 - October PTA meeting (virtual)
- 10/09 - Kindergarten students visit Hotchkiss Hose
- 10/13-15 - Grade 5 visited the David Humphreys House (Thank you, PTA)
- 10/16 - Sucari show for grades K-5 (Thank you, PTA)
- 10/16 - Lucy Duck fundraiser (for Literacy Night)
- 10/23 - PTA Halloween Dance
- 10/26 - Interactive Theater for grades 3-5 (Thank you, John Saccu)
- 10/28 - Bradley School Character Counts community meeting in the afternoon

Derby High School
75 Chatfield Street
Derby, Connecticut 06418
(203) 736-5032 ▪ www.derbyps.org
Principal, Jennifer Olson

Update to Board of Education -September 2026 (Presented October 2026)

Academics:

- The Desktop Publishing Class attended a Yearbook Workshop at Southern CT State University. This event helped students build foundational yearbook skills. They attended workshops that introduced skills in design, photography, and writing. Students also worked with a professional cover design artist to workshop ideas for DHS' 26-27 yearbook cover.
- Held Unified Sport Training with SAAB mentors from CT Association of Schools/CIAC **(Carter Ruggiero & Kaylee Mair)**
- School Counselors held Senior Meeting/**Financial Aid Night** featuring guest speaker Jessica Odlum, Director of the College Place. DHS families can receive free help from Jessica to complete their FAFSA. Parents were provided a link to sign up for a private 1:1 meeting. This is an effort to increase the percentage of students applying for financial aid.
- School counselors pushed into all Grade 12 English classes to give an overview of the **Common App** and the components (Personal information, activities and extracurriculars, essays, letters of recommendation, and college-specific questions (supplemental essays, etc)

Human Capital

- Prepared the **master schedule** for daily teacher collaboration time. Teachers from a variety of departments/grade-levels can utilize collaboration time built in the school day to work on projects, co-plan, or meet with a student in need.
- Held first **Safety Meeting** to review the Incident Command structure. Meetings are scheduled once per month.Updating the All Hazards Plan with Lead SSO. Fire drill and lockdown drill held.
- Held School Climate & Culture committee; Reviewed new CT School Climate plan and reviewed possible district survey questions
- During PD with teachers, department coordinators and admin reviewed school-wide practices for PowerSchool grading to keep students and parents informed about progress, including:
    - PowerSchool grades will be updated at least once per week (at a minimum).
    - Teachers will consistently use the "collected," "missing," or "late" flags to keep students and families informed about the status of assignments.
    - Most assignments will be graded & entered in PowerSchool within 3 days; major assignments and projects will be graded within 5 days.

Operations

- Held **grade-level meetings** during Advisory to celebrate the start of new year, share important dates/information for upcoming events & activities and discuss school-wide expectations, including uniforms, phones/headphones, attendance.
- Planning Fall **College Fair** is being held in-person at DHS on October 8th

- Held September **attendance meeting**. Meetings held in Summer with students who met the chronically absent threshold-including incoming freshmen. Productive meetings to establish expectations and identify barriers. The team identified students with 2 or more absences this year. Made parent contact, held student meetings, conducted home visits, engaged outside providers, made reports to the Careline based on student needs/history. Daily attendance remained strong through the first month of school.

Climate/Culture:

- Hosted a successful **Back to School Night/Open House** with parents participating both in-person and remotely to increase accessibility and participation. Parents/guardians were able to experience a "day in the life of their teenager" and meet all of the teachers during scheduled blocks that follow our school's daily schedule. A bell rang to start and end classes and parents "switched" classes every 10 minutes. Held Open House to engage families
- Held a **"Senior Sunrise"**event to bring the Class of 2026 together for a special early morning celebration
- Held **Picture Days** (senior portraits, school photos, and sports pictures)
- Held a **school-wide pep rally** to launch the new year and celebrate fall sports with performances by our cheerleaders.
- Celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month (9/15 - 10/15). An empanada/churro sale is planned by the Spanish Honor Society & Spanish club on 10/10.
- Students selected clubs which will start in October. Club meetings & activities will be held every Thursday during Advisory to ensure all students can participate in a club. Helps with building connections and is great on a student resume for college/job applications.
- Student Council launched their grade-level Coin Wars to raise money for Vicki Soto Memorial (School Safety), Umbrella Center (Domestic Violence Services), PACER (National Anti-Bullying), Seymour Pink (Breast Cancer).
- Met with the Culture and Climate Committee leaders and scheduled meetings throughout the school year. The committee includes 24 people who meet 1x per month during the day. This year the committee expanded and all teachers joined a subcommittee to provide voice and input. Meetings will be held during our planned Wed afterschool meetings. Committees include: Academic Success, Student Experience, Professional Experience, Family & Community Engagement

Derby Middle School

73 Chatfield Street
Derby, Connecticut 06418

(203) 736-1426▪ fax (203) 736-3234▪ www.derbypride.org
Principal, Rachael Caggiano
Assistant Principal, Tracey Quartiano

September 2026

Academics

- Tour of DMS Special Education classrooms with DHS UConn Intro to Special Education students who will have the opportunity to do field experiences at DMS
- Weekly Instructional Support Leader Meeting
- Began Bookworms pilot rollout in grades 6-8, and a modified Bookworms Special Education class in grades 6-8
- 1:1 Meeting with Teachers who requested Curriculum Check-Ins
- Derby Youth Bureau - John Saccu presentations in Health Classes
- All Social Studies classes held Constitution Day Activities

Human Capital

- Ongoing Paraeducator recruitment and interviewing (2 vacancies)
- Attended CAS Middle Level Monthly Meeting via ZOOM
- Held DMS Culture and Climate Committee meeting to discuss Character Counts Rollout
- Attended CAS Executive and Board of Directors Meetings
- Held Professional Development (Character Counts) for paraeducators and students on the DMS Leadership Academy
- Attended bi-weekly principals' meetings
- Attended Administrative Council meeting

Operations

- Completed Grant writing and management
- Meeting with Derby Neck Library to discuss supports and connections this year.
- Fall Sports kicked off: Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, and Boys and Girls Cross Country
- Held DMS Open House with various local supports attending

Culture/Climate

- Comprehensive Learning Center Raider Cafe held twice weekly
- Celebrated Custodian Appreciation Day - Thank You Mr. Park, Mr. Kozey, Mr. Moran, and Mr. Wrigley!
- Probus of New Haven members visited the CLC at DMS

9 Garden Place
Derby, CT 06418
203-736-5043

Nicole Giardini
Dean of Student Affairs

Marc V. Russo
Principal

Angela Milewski
Special Education Supervisor

At Irving School, we use our P.A.W.S. to persevere, act responsibly, work and play safely, and show respect to ourselves, each other, and our school!

October 2026 *Monthly Report*

Academics

September 8	Summer Reading and Math Challenge Recognition
September 14	JC Music Fair
September 21	Data Team Meetings Begin
September 25	Kindergarten and 1st Grade Flexible Friday
September 28	Literacy Audit Meeting

Talent

September 2, 16, 30	Bi-Weekly Principals Meeting
September 9, 16, 23, 30	Coaches Meeting
September 9, 16, 23	After-school Professional Development
September 10, 24	Bi-Weekly Special Education Department Meeting
September 11, 18, 25	PPS Check-ins
September 16	Admin Council
September 22	Team Check-ins Begin
September 30	Psychological and Physical Management Training
September 30	CAS Coaching Workshop

Operations

September 15	Open House
September 15	Community Partners at Open House - CT Food to Kids, Derby Public Library, Valley Regional Health District, Scouting America, PTO
September 17	Monthly Emergency Safety Drill - Fire Evacuation
September 17	PTO Monthly Meeting
September 17	Board of Education Meeting

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September 23	School Climate/Safety & Security Committee Meeting
September 23	Monthly Emergency Safety Drill - Lockdown
September 25	DEA/Admin Check-in
September 28	TSI Grant Review Meeting

Culture/Climate

September 4	Cornerstone Greeters at Arrival
September 14	Book Fair Week
September 14	District School Climate Meeting
September 16	PTO Fundraiser Begins
September 16	Storehouse Project Mobile Food Pantry
September 25	Community Meeting

Special Education
Derby Public Schools

Pre K-Elementary Supervisor: To Be Determined
Secondary Supervisor: Michael Giordano

Update to Board of Education - October 15, 2026

Our Shared Focus and Priorities:

- Supporting and growing teacher practice.
- Collaboration with and support of families.
- Continuing educational opportunities for inclusion and individualized growth.
- Develop and grow Special Education programs within the district.

Current Happenings

Academics

- Planning and delivering scientifically research-based interventions.
- Attending PPTs (Review/Revise, Annual Review, and Re-Evaluations)
- Collaboration between coaches/interventionist/special education staff.
- Conducting initial assessments to determine eligibility.
- Creation of a new Transition Program has launched. (five total students)
- Conducting evaluations and programming for children transitioning from Birth to Three.
- Transition Program has begun a "mail delivery system and teacher school store" for snacks and drinks.
- Collaboration between coaches/interventionist/special education staff.

Human Capital

- Held PMT Training on 8/31/2026.
- Coordinating staffing and support for Resource and Learning Centers.
- Working with School-Based Clinician Program (BHCare), weekly meetings.
- High School SPED Teachers beginning to coordinate with BRS Level-Up.
- Held department meetings at all schools for PPS and Special Education Teachers.
- Best Buddies Stipend position posted at the secondary level.

Operations

- Scheduled biweekly Special Education Meetings for Middle and High School.
- Reviewed budget and Open POs on a biweekly basis with Brian Hall.
- Ordering supplies and resources for teachers/staff.
- Goal Conferences have been started with all PPS staff.
- Formal observations have begun to be scheduled with all PPS staff.

Culture/Climate

- Provided positive feedback to all staff.
- Team meetings with department and new staff.
- Coaching and support of new staff in support of students with disabilities.

Derby High School Athletics
75 Chatfield Street
Derby, Connecticut 06418
203-736-5032 ▪ www.derbypride.org
Athletic Director, Jennifer Moffat CMAA

- I had the privilege of attending the CIAC Sportsmanship Conference on Oct 7th with 8 student athletes. They represented our school as we received a Michael's Jewelers Achievement Cup for the 2025-2026 school year for Exemplary Sportsmanship throughout our athletic programs
- The Pixellot camera on the press box has been replaced due to condensation build up inside the lens
- There have been some electrical issues (lights/scoreboard) at the football/soccer field this year but I have worked with Public Works and they have come up with solutions
- It was a request from DMS to add a temporary snow fence on their practice field next to DMS. With the help of both Jim Hoffman and DPW, the project was completed on 10/6
- The DMS gym floor is still under construction and we are waiting on a completion date
- Fall sports are just over the halfway point and a little more than halfway for middle school.
- DHS Girls volleyball has 6 wins and is 2 wins away from qualifying for the state tournament.
- DHS X-Country is having a successful season. As of 10/7, the boys are 7-3 and the girls are 5-5 and will compete at the NVL Championship Meet on Oct 21st and at the State Championship Meet on 10/31
- DHS Football is off to an 0-3 start this season We are currently struggling with low numbers while injuries have become a big concern during year one of our rebuild. We have postponed 2 games so far. That is the maximum number of games that can be postponed with the intent to make them up. I will be looking for potential co-op options for next season to see if there is good fit
- DHS Boys Soccer may still be young this season, but their commitment is undeniable. They've been giving 100% effort at both practices and games, focusing on building their skills and growing stronger as a team every day
- Girls Soccer is in season one of a co-op with Emmett O'Brien Tech and that has helped our numbers. They have been putting in the work to chase down their first win of the season.
- Our cheer team has been hard at work since early July, and their dedication is already shining through. They're currently putting the final touches on their

competition routine while continuing to energize the team and hype up the crowd at every event. We're so proud of their spirit, teamwork, and drive

- Our Unified Sports team had their first practice on 10/6 and we will host the CIAC Unified Flag Football event on 10/20 and Thomaston High School will make the trip down Route 8 to visit us for Spooky Soccer on 10/29. We will attend the Unified Leadership Summit at Rocky Hill High School on 11/4. Additionally, 2 students represented DHS at the Unified Sports Unified Leadership Council (ULC) meeting on October 5th. Formerly known as the Youth Activation Council (YAC), this group will meet multiple times throughout the year to bring new opportunities to DHS and engage in leadership initiatives at the state level
- Senior nights are swiftly approaching:
    - X-Country 10/14
    - Boys Soccer 10/19
    - Girls Volleyball 10/23
    - Girls Soccer 10/27
    - Football & Cheer 10/30
- Middle school x-country, girls and boys soccer are doing well with the number of athletes this year. X-Country girls are 5-3. The girls and boys team will compete at the Jr. NVL Championship meet on 10/20 and the MS State Championship Meet on 11/7
- Middle school unified sports have started the selection process for this year and we will begin scheduling events this month

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By Marc J Garofalo MPA, MMC, MCTC at 3:57 pm, Oct 13, 2026