

**South Kingstown School Committee
Executive Session and Business Meeting
South Kingstown High School Cafeteria
215 Columbia Street
Wakefield, RI 02879
Tuesday, January 27, 2026**

1. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

Ms. Vetter called the meeting of the South Kingstown School Committee to order at 5:03 PM. Ms. Vetter asked for a motion to convene into Executive Session for Discussion and/or Action regarding those items of business exempt from open meetings under RIGL 42-46-4 and A: Discussion: Job Performance - Superintendent Mid-Year Review (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)); B: Discussion: SKESP Negotiations (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(2)). Individuals had been notified including their right to have any discussion held in open session.

MSV(1) – Motion made to recess into Executive Session

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 5-0 (Kate Macinanti and Brad Shear absent at time of vote)

MSV(2) – Motion made to adjourn Executive Session and Reconvene Open Session

Motion made by Stewart Lander

Motion seconded by Bradley Shear

Motion passes 5-0 (Kate Macinanti and James Restivo absent at time of vote)

2. Call to Order

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

Ms. Vetter called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM and led the roll call:

Member	Present	Absent	Notes
Carol Vetter	X		
James Restivo	X		
Michelle Brousseau	X		
Paula Whitford	X		
Kate Macinanti	X		
Bradley Shear	X		Arrived during Executive Session
Stewart Lander	X		
Other Attendees			
Michael J Podraza Superintendent	X		
Daniel P Seger Assistant Superintendent	X		
Patricia Proctor Chief Financial Officer	X		

B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Ms. Vetter led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

C. Motion to Seal Minutes of the Executive Session

MSV(3) – Motion made to Seal the Minutes of the Executive Session.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 7-0

D. Disclosure of Votes Taken in Executive Session

Ms. Vetter stated that there were no votes taken in Executive Session.

3. Comments from the Community

A. Comments from the Community

Ms. Vetter closed Community Comments as no community members wished to speak.

4. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes - 1/13/2026**
- B. Approval of Open Session Minutes - 1/13/2026**
- C. Purchases Over \$10,350**
- D. Homeschool Requests - SY 2025-2026**
- E. Field Trip - SKHS - Metropolitan Museum of Art**

MSV(4) – Motion made to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 7-0

5. School Committee Business

A. Discussion: LeftField Update Presentation

Chris Spiegel from LeftField was present to provide an update on the high school and athletic field project. Items discussed were as follows:

- **SKHS Schedule/Construction Update:**
 - Foundations Install Complete
 - Underground Drainage Systems Install - Phase I Complete
 - Underground Utilities Install at Building Exterior
 - Building Exterior Grading Complete
 - Steel Erection Ongoing - Began: January 27
 - Winter Conditions Control Ongoing
- **Curtis Corner Update:**
 - Athletic Fields remain at Curtis Corner Middle School site
 - Curtis Corner Middle School is to be completely demolished
 - Proposed field location is the existing field location improved for stormwater management
 - Track (Parameter) - Expanded to 8 Lanes
 - Field (Parameter) - Support Frequency of Use and Sports
 - New Site Amenities - Included Lighting, Bleachers, Fencing

Committee members thanked all involved with the project for their work and commitment to the project.

B. Discussion: FY 2026-2027 Preliminary Budget

.Mr. Podraza presented the FY 27 Budget Update. Items discussed included the following:

- **Current Status**
 - Priorities and Goals - New SKSD priorities and goals, aligned with both the findings and recommendations of the 24-25 Equity Audit, and the District's recently adopted mission and core beliefs.
 - Enrollment - Utilization of historical, current, and projected data regarding SKSD students across Pre-K through 12 grade bands.
 - Staffing - Utilization of historical, current, and projected data regarding SKSD employees.
 - Fund Balance - Historical and current projections regarding SKSD fund balance and scenarios requiring the utilization of these funds.

At this time, Ms. Whitford leaves the meeting.

- **Challenges**
 - Reduction in State Aid - Governor's budget and funding recommend a significant reduction in State Aid to South Kingstown.

- “Community Wealth - The State calculates each community’s ability to pay based on property values and resident income.
- School Choice - South Kingstown is the only town in Washington, Kent, Newport, and Bristol counties that has more than one (1) charter school located within the town (2).
- Contractual Obligations - South Kingstown School Department has one employment and two purchased services contracts that are still pending resolution for the FY 27 (School Lunch Program and Transportation) Kingstown.
- Assumptions
 - State & Federal Aid - State Aid - Governor’s Budget; Federal Aid - Level Fund.
 - Employment Contracts - NEASK (Teachers): 2.5%; SKESP (Para-Educators): 2%; Council 94 (Custodians): 2%; Administration 2%.
 - Health & Benefits - Representative from the Trust urged a ten (10) percent increase for Health Care; Other Benefits - five (5) percent for Dental, Retirement, etc.
 - Other - All other FY 27 figures represent requests from Budget Owners to Chief Financial Officer; All previous fiscal years were taken from past presentations, NOT Munis or Audit.
 - No use of fund balance in estimate.

Discussion regarding the approximately \$4.2 million shortage under the current assumptions. Members agree that the full need should be presented to the Town Council. Explore the possibility of the Town funding the Capital Improvements Plan, while the district uses limited fund balance plus town appropriation for operations. Program cuts alone will not close the gap in funding. Mr. Podraza is directed to make suggested revisions (high-cost Special Education costs; Capital Improvement Plan impacts, use of larger fonts in presentation) discussed tonight, and present those to the Budget & Finance Subcommittee next week for its review.

C. Discussion: School Building Committee Update

School Building Committee update included in tonight’s presentation under School Committee Business Item A.

7. Adjournment

A. Adjourn

MSV(5) – Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Stewart Lander

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 6-0 (Paula Whitford absent at time of vote)

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM.