

**South Kingstown School Committee
Executive Session and Business Meeting
South Kingstown High School Cafeteria
215 Columbia Street
Wakefield, RI 02879
Tuesday, May 12, 2026**

1. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

Ms. Vetter called the meeting of the South Kingstown School Committee to order at 5:01 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: Personnel - Contract Renewal - Principal, Matunuck Elementary School (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)); B: Discussion: Personnel - Contract Renewal - Principal, Peace Dale Elementary School (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)); C: Discussion: Personnel - Contract Renewal - Principal, West Kingston Elementary School (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)); D: Discussion: Personnel - Contract Renewal - Principal, Broad Rock Middle School (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)); E. Discussion: Contract Renewal - Assistant Principal, Broad Rock Middle School (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)); F. Discussion: Contract Renewal - Assistant Principal, Broad Rock Middle School (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)); G. Discussion: Contract Renewal - Accounting Manager (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)); and H: Discussion: District Exempt Update (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)). Individuals have 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 Paula Whitford

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 James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 6-0 (Brad Shear absent at time of vote)

2. Call to Order

A. Call to Order/Roll Call

Ms. Vetter called the meeting to order at 6:03 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		Arrived during Executive Session
Bradley Shear		X	
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 6-0

D. Disclosure of Votes Taken in Executive Session

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

E. Student Recognitions

During the monthly Student Recognition ceremony, the following students were recognized for their outstanding academic achievements and contributions to the South Kingstown School Department and its community: Robbie Kuczek, Fiona Dorvilier, Colin McGuire, Hailey Iannone, Kingston Graham, Isla Richards, Madelyn Orellana, Miranda Savage, Beatrice Ruedakurto, Ariana Duquette, Layla Fitzgerald, Saesha Ellis-Blunt, Thomas Roberts, Rosie Mahoney, Everly Morrelli, Sammie Brown, Naomi Horn, Kyle McNamara, Bridget Harnois, Lilly Point, Emelyn Daniele, Everett Gray, Ella Rush, Elle Cellucci, Florence Thomas, Eva Vieira, Henrietta Schueller, Stanley Chen, Steven Downing, Hope Downing, Iris Jones, Catherine Harley, Maya McDevitt, Renee Tamayo, Eden Tamayo, Tenzin Saldon, Tenzin Namkha, Janeska Osibin-Prout, Vivian Lin, Gabrielle Briggs, Gavin Finneran, Thalia Goss, Tripler Nardini, and Sean Aquire. Congratulations to all.

3. Comments from the Community

Derek Miller - Mr. Miller gave his support to the proposed revisions to Policy #8405 - Age of Initial Enrollment, stating that the changes suggested would provide professional discretion to educators, help similarly situated families enroll children in an age-appropriate grade, retain students in the district, and potentially avoid the cost of an additional year of K–12 education that the district would otherwise bear.

Ms. Vetter closes public comment at this time.

4. Consent Agenda

A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes - 4/28/2026

B. Approval of Open Session Minutes - 4/15/2026 (Public Hearing #2)

C. Financial Update

D. Purchases Over \$10,350

E. Homeschool Requests - SY 2025-2026

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

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Kate Macinanti

Motion passes 6-0

5. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Report Presentation

Mr. Podraza provides the Superintendent's report.

B. Personnel - Non-Exempt/At Will Employee Updates (For Information Only; No Board Action Required)

Mr. Podraza provides the personnel actions for the district (one retirement, one resignation, and two appointments).

MSV(5) – Motion made to accept the Superintendent's Report.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Stewart Lander

Motion passes 6-0

6. School Committee Business

A. Discussion/Action: Contract Renewal - Principal, Matunuck Elementary School

MSV(6) – Motion made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on the contract renewal for the Principal of Matunuck Elementary School.

Motion made by Michelle Brousseau

Motion seconded by Kate Macinanti

Motion passes 6-0

B. Discussion/Action: Contract Renewal - Principal, Peace Dale Elementary School

MSV(7) – Motion made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on the contract renewal for the Principal of Peace Dale Elementary School.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 6-0

C. Discussion/Action: Contract Renewal - Principal, West Kingston Elementary School

MSV(8) – Motion made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on the contract renewal for the Principal of West Kingston Elementary School.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 6-0

D. Discussion/Action: Contract Renewal - Principal, Broad Rock Middle School

MSV(9) – Motion made to table Item D from the agenda.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 6-0

Ms. Vetter states that this item will be brought back at a later time.

E. Discussion/Action: Contract Renewal - Assistant Principal, Broad Rock Elementary School

MSV(10) – Motion made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on the contract renewal for the Assistant Principal of Broad Rock Middle School.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Stewart Lander

Motion passes 6-0

F. Discussion/Action: Contract Renewal - Assistant Principal, Broad Rock Elementary School

MSV(11) – Motion made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on the contract renewal for the Assistant Principal of Broad Rock Middle School.

Motion made by Michelle Brousseau

Motion seconded by James Restivo

Motion passes 6-0

G. Discussion/Action: Contract Renewal - Accounting Manager

MSV(12) – Motion made to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on the contract renewal for the Accounting Manager.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 6-0

H. Discussion/Action: Bid Award - RFP #2470 - Supplemental Athletic Transportation - Arrow Prestige Limousine

Mr. Podraza states that this bid award is for the transportation for the athletic department when our vendor cannot meet the demands on a given day. Clarification is given that limousines are not used - this company also owns buses. Further clarification that this bid is for supplemental use only, and this is a precautionary measure for unknown situations.

MSV(13) – Motion made to accept Bid Award - RFP #2470 - Supplemental Athletic Transportation - Arrow Prestige Limousine

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 6-0

I. Discussion: CivicPlus

Mr. Podraza invites Doug Snow, Director of Technology, to the podium. Mr. Snow explains that the district will be moving from BoardDocs and ClerkBase over to CivicPlus. This move will be better not only technologically but also financially for the district. This program is also used by the Town of South Kingstown, which will provide the community with consistency for public-facing information. Discussion ensued regarding training opportunities for School Committee members and the public.

J. Discussion/Action: Policy #8405 - Age of Initial Enrollment - SECOND READ

Mr. Restivo and Mr. Podraza reviewed the proposed changes to the policy.

MSV(14) – Motion made to approve Policy #8405 - Age of Initial Enrollment, with the changes as discussed at the table.

Motion made by Kate Macinanti

Motion seconded by Stewart Lander

Motion passes 6-0

Ms. Vetter thanks the members of the Policy Subcommittee for their work on this policy. She also thanks the parents for their input and support. Ms. Vetter states that the changes to the policy will be in effect immediately. Clarification of a question from the audience, explaining the process

K. Discussion: Legislative Liaison Updates - Current Initiatives Before the House and Senate Relating to Public Education

Ms. Brousseau provided an update on the State House process and advised that the General Assembly is nearing the end of its session. She highlighted two House bills scheduled for hearing in the House Education Subcommittee:

1. House Bill 6481 – Seizure Medication in Schools
 - Addresses the administration of seizure rescue medication during the school day.
 - Involves who may administer the medication and under what conditions.
2. House Bill 8362 – Curriculum and Foster Children
 - Seeks to investigate curriculum issues affecting foster children, particularly when they move from district to district.
 - Focuses on ensuring continuity of services, including for students with IEPs or 504 plans.

M. Discussion: Implications of Town Council Final Budget Adoption

Mr. Podraza reviewed the FY 2026-2027 budget gap, noting that despite an approximate \$1.5M increase in town appropriation and temporary OPEB relief, the district is facing a remaining shortfall of about \$1.24M after accounting for recent reductions in federal grants and increased required maintenance of effort for facilities. He outlined a plan of definitive and potential adjustments, including savings from revised ERSRI/MERS rates and non-personnel reductions (e.g., surplus from FY26, technology, supplies at South Kingstown High School and Peace Dale Elementary School), followed by personnel-related adjustments across bargaining units if necessary, which together would slightly exceed the current gap and provide a modest buffer. Committee members expressed concern about the impact of reductions on academic supports, discussed the treatment of a Council 94 position, and emphasized the need for ongoing fiscal planning with the Town and earlier collaboration on CIP and future budgets. A special budget meeting was scheduled for May 19 (executive session at 5:00 p.m., open session at 6:00 p.m.) to review specific positions, consider notices required by the June 1 statutory deadline, and take formal action, with public comment to be invited at that meeting.

N. Discussion: School Building Committee Update

Ms. Macinanti reported that the high school construction remains on schedule and on budget, with the exterior envelope now being installed on the academic tower. She noted ongoing communication with immediate abutters, including an abutters' meeting on May 23 at 10:00 a.m., and plans for broader community update meetings in June/July to address construction impacts, future traffic flow, and parking during the transition to the new building. At Curtis Corner Middle School, abatement is underway within a fenced area with air-quality monitoring prior to demolition, and outreach to abutters is beginning, with disruption expected to be more limited than at the high school. She added that the district is coordinating with Studio G to provide a project and athletic fields update at a future meeting, and confirmed the overall project target of substantial completion in summer 2027 remains unchanged.

7. Adjournment

A. Adjourn

MSV(15) – Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Stewart Lander

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.