

**South Kingstown School Committee
Executive Session and Business Meeting
South Kingstown High School Cafeteria
215 Columbia Street
Wakefield, RI 02879
Tuesday, June 9, 2026**

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

A. Call to Order

Ms. Vetter called the meeting to order at 5:01 PM.

B. Roll Call

Ms. Vetter led the roll call.

Members present: Stewart Lander, Kate Macinanti, Paula Whitford, Michelle Brousseau, James Restivo, Carol Vetter

Members absent: None

Others present: Michael Podraza, Superintendent; Dan Seger, Assistant Superintendent

2. Executive Session

A. Executive Session

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 - Terms of Contract Negotiation - Interim Director of Facilities and Operations (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)); B: Discussion: Personnel - Terms of Contract Negotiation - Director of Facilities and Operations (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)); and C: Discussion: Personnel/Job Performance - Superintendent Evaluation (RIGL 42-46-5(a)(1)). Individuals were 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 6-0

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

Motion made by Michelle Brousseau

Motion seconded by Kate Macinanti

Motion passes 6-0

3. Open Session - Business

A. Roll Call

Ms. Vetter called the open session to order at 6:00 PM and led the roll call.

Members present: Stewart Lander, Kate Macinanti, Paula Whitford, Michelle Brousseau, James Restivo, Carol Vetter

Members absent: None

Others present: Michael Podraza, Superintendent; Dan Seger, Assistant Superintendent; Patricia Proctor, Chief Financial Officer

B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

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

C. Motion to Seal Minutes of 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: Caleb Briggs, Max Dinardo, Isabelle Potter, Fiona Dorvilier, Henry Freye, Poe Harvey, Mary Lester, Isaac Hansen, David Smith, Madison McStay, Margaux Turner, Teddy Hanson, Henry Palm, Emma Jackson, Theo Dursin, Lucia Hubbard, Juliette Marino, Genevieve Coleman, Olivia Reppucci, Imogen Foye, Avery Monnes, Paige Graney, Sydney Durant, Eloise Stabile, Miles Licht, Abigail Licht, Cadence Hallock, Josie Geremia, Lu Culpepper. Congratulations to all.

4. Comments from the Community

A. Comments from the Community

As there were no participants, Ms. Vetter closed public comments.

5. Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Executive Session Minutes - 5/28/2026**
- B. Approval of Open Session Minutes - 5/28/2026**
- C. Monthly Finance Report for YTD May, 2026 (FY 2026)**
- 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 Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 6-0

At this time, a motion is made by Mr. Restivo to move School Committee Business Items A and B ahead of the Superintendent's Report.

MSV(5) – Motion made to move School Committee Business Items A and B ahead of the Superintendent's Report.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 6-0

7. School Committee Business

A. Discussion/Action: Personnel - Terms of Contract Negotiation - Interim Director of Facilities and Operations

MSV(6) – Motion made to approve the Terms of Contract Negotiation - Interim Director of Facilities and Operations, as discussed in Executive Session.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Kate Macinanti

Motion passes 6-0

B. Discussion/Action: Personnel - Terms of Contract Negotiation - Director of Facilities and Operations

MSV(7) – Motion made to approve the Terms of Contract Negotiation - Director of Facilities and Operations.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Kate Macinanti

Motion passes 6-0

At this time, Mr. Podraza announces the appointment of Mr. Joseph Adams as the next Director of Facilities and Operations for the South Kingstown School Department. Mr. Podraza gives a brief introduction and invites Mr. Adams to the podium. Mr. Adams shares his appreciation for the support he has received during his time as Interim Director of Facilities and states that he is very excited to begin this new role with the district.

6. Superintendent's Report

A. Superintendent's Report Presentation

Mr. Podraza shares the Superintendent's Report.

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

Mr. Podraza shares the district's personnel updates (Resignations (2); Superintendent Appointment (1); Coach (1))

C. State Aid Update

Mr. Podraza states that, based on the May 29 House Finance figures, South Kingstown is projected to receive an overall increase of \$78,185 in state aid, including a \$26,000 increase in base aid and additional positive adjustments in the enrollment transition and poverty loss stabilization funds, with most of the increase tied to nonpublic transportation credits. Mr. Podraza reminds the Committee that these figures are contingent on final passage of the state budget.

D. Office of Teaching and Learning - Professional Development Overview

Mr. Seger provides an overview regarding Professional Development within the district. Items included and discussed are as follows:

- SY 2025-2026 School Year Professional Development (PD)
 - One annual district PD day per current NEASK and SKESP contracts
 - Two PD days were added following the February blizzard, a reduction in the required number of school days in Rhode Island from 180 to 178, and a revised district calendar.
 - Required and regular meetings of the District Professional Development Committee for NEASK and SKESP input, planning, and feedback.
- Key PD Drivers
 - Equity Audit
 - Strategic Plan
 - SurveyWorks Data
 - District Safety Team
- June PD Day Themes
 - Day One - Physical Safety
 - Day Two - Psychological Safety
- June PD Day Topics
 - Day One - Physical Safety (Emergency Response Training; ALICE training)
 - Day Two - Psychological Safety (Understanding Microaggressions; Trauma-Informed Practices; Building Relationships with Students)
- June Professional Learning Modalities
 - Day One - In-Person (Enhances collaboration; contributes to culture of continuous learning, mutual support, and reflective practice.
 - Day Two - Empowers educators; offers flexibility; personalizes learning experiences to match learning preferences, strengths, and areas for growth.

Mr. Seger and Mr. Podraza emphasized that this is a starting point for shared language and baseline training. Follow-up will take place in faculty meetings and common planning times; through coaching cycles and job-embedded PD, and through the evaluation processes that look for implementation of safety and trauma-informed practices in classrooms and schools. Staff can revisit modules, sign up for additional offerings, and respond to post-PD surveys that will guide future sessions. Discussion ensued regarding recent events, possibilities for the district's review of response to the same, specifically with regard to communication and students' needs immediately following a major incident. Mr. Podraza and Mr. Seger shared the importance of these professional development days, especially in light of recent events. Further discussion regarding how professional development is planned for the district. Mr. Seger explained that the key drivers act as a starting point that then steers the Professional Development Committee as to what professional development is needed.

MSV(8) – Motion made to accept the Superintendent's Report.

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Stewart Lander

Motion passes 6-0

7. School Committee Business

C. Discussion/Action: Financial Consultant Contract

Mr. Podraza presented an employment contract for former Interim Chief Financial Officer, Anthony Ferrucci, to provide short-term consulting support for the district. Discussion ensued regarding terms of the contract to include wages, funding for wages, task responsibilities, and workday.

MSV(9) – Motion made to approve the Financial Consultant Contract with revisions as discussed.

Motion made by Kate Macinanti

Motion seconded by Paula Whitford

Motion passes 6-0

D. Discussion/Action: Bid Award - RFP #2471 - Transportation - Ocean State Transit - Revision

Mr. Podraza explained that the previously approved transportation award to Ocean State Transit needed clarification to distinguish the base bid of \$3,632,310 (as posted on BidNet) from additional operational costs (pre-K mid-day runs, special education mini-buses with monitors, and late/after-school buses), which together bring the projected FY27 transportation cost to \$4,822,548.50. These add-ons are priced from the vendor's rate sheet and may fluctuate based on program needs.

MSV(10) – Motion made to accept the revision report for Bid Award - RFP #2471 - Transportation.

Motion made by Michelle Brousseau

Motion seconded by James Restivo

Discussion ensued regarding components of additional charges. Mr. Podraza explained that these additional charges are priced from the vendor's rate sheet and may fluctuate based on program needs.

Motion passes 6-0

E. Discussion/Action: FY 2026-2027 Substitute Pay - Revision

Mr. Podraza presented revisions to the substitute pay schedule to maintain current hourly rates for 2025–2026 where they exceed Rhode Island's minimum wage, adjust rates effective January 1 with the state minimum wage increase, separate hourly and daily positions, and ensure substitute rates do not exceed the lowest contractual step.

MSV(11) – Motion made to accept the FY 2026-2027 Substitute Pay - Revision

Motion made by James Restivo

Motion seconded by Kate Macinanti

Motion passes 6-0

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

Ms. Brousseau reported that certain General Assembly items related to public education have been tabled for further discussion, and that House Resolution 8351 Sub A was recommended for passage by House Finance. Ms. Brousseau noted continued monitoring of legislation, including a Senate bill on unfunded mandates. She requested that legislative items return on the next agenda as "Discussion/Action" so the Committee can consider adopting formal Resolutions. Draft Resolution language will be brought forward at the next meeting.

G. Discussion: Policy #8425 - Residency (FIRST READ)

Mr. Restivo explained that this policy was being brought back due to some revisions suggested by RIDE. Mr. Seger addressed the changes to this policy as a result of RIDE monitoring feedback (Renaming "Burden of Proof" to "Registration," removing outdated foster-care references, adding a cross-reference to the new McKinney-Vento policy, and updating to gender-neutral pronouns). Mr. Seger also reported that district counsel did review the policy and suggested that language on pre-occupancy enrollment be omitted. Discussion ensued regarding reworking rather than omitting the clause on pre-occupancy enrollment so that limited Superintendent-approved exceptions may be allowed while maintaining residency and funding compliance. Mr. Restivo stated that the policy will return for a second read at the next meeting.

H. Discussion: Policy - NEW - McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act (FIRST READ)

Mr. Seger reviewed this new policy that formalizes federal requirements and current practice for students experiencing homelessness, including enrollment, transportation, and liaison duties, and will be cross-referenced in Policy 8425 -Students' Residency. Mr. Seger shared that district counsel did review the policy and suggested only a minor edit to remove redundant wording. Mr. Restivo stated that the policy will return for a second read at the next meeting.

I. Discussion: Annual Summer Workshop

Discussion ensued regarding plans for its annual summer workshop, noting a tentative date of July 28, and identifying equity and school committee goals as key topics. Members agreed to continue the practice of inviting school committee candidates once filing is complete, while reiterating that the workshop is an open public meeting. Administration will confirm a location (with attention to accessibility and climate control) and finalize logistics.

J. Discussion: School Building Committee Update

Ms. Macinanti reported that the new high school remains on schedule with major structural work complete, the Town is advancing plans for a rooftop solar array using safe-harbor incentives, and planning continues for demolition and site work at the Curtis Corner campus.

8. Adjournment

A. Adjourn

MSV(12) – Motion made to adjourn the meeting.

Motion made by Kate Macinanti

Motion seconded by Michelle Brousseau

Motion passes 6-0

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40 PM.