

**MINUTES OF CHESHIRE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
OPENING OF SCHOOL MEETING  
HELD IN TOWN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2025 AT 7:30 PM**

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Board Members Present: Samantha Rosenberg, Chair; Anne Harrigan, Vice Chair; Adam Grippo, Secretary; Anne Marie Cullinan; Mark Ecke; Timothy White

Board Members Absent: Anthony Perugini

Administrators Present: Jeffrey F. Solan, Ed.D., Superintendent of Schools; Marlene Silano, Assistant Superintendent of Schools; Emily Taylor, Chief Operating Officer; Robin-Anne Carey, Director, Pupil Personnel Services; Vincent Masciana, Chief Project Officer; Kevin Hanlon, Principal, Cheshire High School; Kristin Pelz, Assistant Principal, Cheshire High School; Maureen Reed, Ed.D., Assistant Principal, Cheshire High School; Daniel Tartarelli, Assistant Principal, Cheshire High School; John Perosino, Athletic Director, Cheshire High School; Kelly Grillo, Principal, Dodd Middle School; Ryan Murphy, Assistant Principal, Dodd Middle School; Diana Burns, Ed.D., Principal, Chapman Elementary School; Katharine Carlucci, Assistant Principal, Chapman & Norton Elementary Schools; Kristin Lopa, Principal, Doolittle School; Jillian Romann, Assistant Principal, Doolittle School; Scott Jeffrey, Principal, Highland Elementary School; Erica Labickas, Assistant Principal, Highland Elementary School; Azra Redzic, PK-8 Curriculum Coordinator; Christina Sherwood, Supervisor of Elementary Special Education; Marie Broadway, Supervisor of Secondary Special Education

*This meeting was recorded and available to view on the Cheshire Public Schools  
YouTube Channel, [www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools](http://www.youtube.com/cheshirepublicschools)*

**1. CALL TO ORDER – 7:32 P.M.**

- A. Roll for Quorum. The roll was called and a quorum determined.
- B. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.  
Ms. Rosenberg led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**2. AUDIENCE**  
None

**3. OPENING OF SCHOOL REPORT**

Dr. Solan welcomed everyone back for a new school year. He introduced Ms. Taylor who gave a report on summer activity in School District Operations. She said they onboarded 45 new staff, summer projects are nearly complete, some of the projects included upgraded WIFI in every building, upgraded classroom pc's that are older than 5 years. Ms. Taylor reviewed the summer projects completed at each of the schools.

Next Ms. Silano reported that Curriculum Writing Institute that was held again this summer. She also reported on Administrator Professional Learning and Committee work, certified staff new hires and New Teacher Orientation.

Dr. Solan gave his Opening of Schools presentation. He reviewed convocation, where the Teacher of the Year, Denise Scialabba and Paraeducator the Year, Geraldine Perno were announced. He showed a video of staff members as real-life superheroes. He shared first day student photos and reviewed enrollment at each of the schools. He noted the enrollment projections were very close to actual with a difference of 15 more students enrolled in district than was projected. There are 45 Open Choice students in district this year.

The Superintendent reviewed the Cheshire Public Schools Strategic Planning Initiatives with the Board for their affirmation. He explained that in 2017 we adopted two goals focused on our Social Emotional Learning and Complex Thinking. Shortly thereafter, they reviewed and revamped the Cheshire Performance Standard. In 2021, we again reviewed our direction with the community and Board and affirmed our focus on Complex Thinking and Social Emotional Learning.

Dr. Solan gave an update on the two new school projects noting they are ahead of schedule and under budget. He reviewed the new school start times and the process that was used to come up with the result. The target completion date for redistricting is Thanksgiving 2025 and shared preliminary enrollment projections for the new schools. He reviewed the next steps in the process:

- The demographers are continuing to review and finalize data (our data is due to them on September 12th)
- The demographers developing multiple options and the implications on transportation
- The Board will be presented with three versions for consideration (likely late in October)
- The BOE will select a version to put forward for State of Connecticut review
- A redistricting plan will be adopted in late November or Early December

4. **OLD BUSINESS**

None.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. **Affirmation of Strategic Plan.**

Chairman Rosenberg explained that The Strategic Goals of the Cheshire Board of Education are an integral part of the Cheshire Public Schools Strategic Planning Initiative. In 2011, Cheshire Public Schools engaged the community in a process to establish a clear destination for its future. The Board of Education subsequently adopted 16 goals to guide the district from 2011 through 2021. Having seen great progress and recognizing changing

societal demands for our students, Cheshire decided to refocus and hone in on two goals in 2016. Through a comprehensive school and community engagement process, the Board of Education identified complex thinking and social-emotional learning as focal points at that time.

In the fall of 2022, the Board of Education directed the Superintendent to once again review relevant literature and work with the community to revisit our goals so that the Board may apply that feedback in the adoption of a formal direction for the start of the 2022-2023 school year. At the conclusion of that process, the Board of Education adopted the following Theories of Action and district goals. They also reaffirmed the Cheshire Public Schools Vision of the Graduate and Performance Standards.

State law requires local Boards to set annual goals and objectives each year. Because the Cheshire Strategic Planning Initiative reflects the vision and beliefs of the Cheshire Community it has traditionally served as the Board of Education goals each year.

The following motion reaffirms the Board's commitment to the Strategic Initiatives and supports their continued use as the overarching framework used to set district and individual school goals and objectives this year.

**MOTION** by Mr. Grippo and seconded by Dr. Harrigan.

**MOVED** that the Cheshire Board of Education reaffirms the Cheshire public school strategic objectives and goals for 2025-26.

**VOTE:** The Motion passed unanimously by those present.

6. **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Grippo, and seconded by Dr. Harrigan, the meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Samantha Rosenberg, Board Chair

Attest:

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Carol K. Jesensky, Board of Education Clerk

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