

**MINUTES - BOARD OF EDUCATION PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD IN THE CENTRAL OFFICE BOARD ROOM ON NOVEMBER 20, 2025**

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Planning Committee Members Present: Tim White, Samantha Rosenberg (Virtual)

Planning Committee Members Absent: Mark Ecke

Additional Attendees Present: Anne Harrigan- Board of Education  
Anne Marie Cullinan- Board of Education  
Adam Grippo- Board of Education  
Emily Taylor- Chief Operating Officer  
Vincent Masciana- Chief Projects Officer  
Marlene Silano- Assistant Superintendent  
John Perosino, Athletic Director

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**CALL TO ORDER**

Tim White called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Tim White motioned for Agenda Item #6 (Redistricting & Transportation Update if Available) to be moved to Agenda Item #2. The Motion was seconded by Samantha Rosenberg and passed unanimously.

**REDISTRICTING & TRANSPORTATION UPDATE IF AVAILABLE**

Emily Taylor provided a brief update on transportation, including that an email was sent earlier in the day regarding ongoing routing work to all families via Parent Square. The maps for Scenarios B and E were uploaded into the district's routing software, and the Transportation Manager, Luther Miller, has begun building the routes. Although the goal was to present draft routes at this meeting, they were not yet ready. Samantha Rosenberg emphasized the need for a definite timeline for completing the redistricting and transportation work. Tim White highlighted the importance of the December 4 Board of Education meeting and stressed the need to have sufficient information available in order to ensure a productive discussion.

**AUDIENCE**

Janina Grayeb, 125 Round Hill Rd. Ms. Grayeb stated that her son is a first grader at Chapman School and her younger son is in pre-K at the YMCA and looking forward to attending school as well. Ms. Grayeb expressed that they had been told for years that their children would attend Barnum. She stated that this has resulted in a loss of trust in the Board and a feeling that her family has not been included or heard in decisions they have supported over many years. Ms. Grayeb asked how the Board plans to regain the trust of families in similar situations and how it intends to address the concerns raised.

Tyler Bourn, 25 Oxford Ct. Mr. Bourn shared that he and his wife are CHS graduates and now have two children at Chapman. Mr. Bourn expressed concern about the communication surrounding the redistricting process, stating that recent messaging to families and students has

been confusing and, at times, careless. Mr. Bourn reported that a group of parents has been collaborating to offer alternative options for consideration and that approximately 120-130 parents have signed a petition asking the Board to include Scenario D as a viable option. He stated that, in their view, Scenario D minimizes disruption and best supports students' social-emotional needs.

Jack Hall, 37 Kerr Hill Rd. Mr. Hall expressed concern and confusion about why students were told they would be attending Barnum- through signs, field trips, and school messaging- when some are now being reassigned to Highland instead. He stated that many children believed they would attend Barnum and are now learning that this may not be the case.

Julie Hall, 37 Kerr Hill Rd. Ms. Hall stated that families at Chapman had long been told that their children would attend the new Chapman and that many students have believed this for two years. She expressed concern about the sudden change in messaging and the impact on families and students, particularly those who may need additional emotional or learning support. While she spoke highly of Highland and its leadership, she stated that large shifts in school assignments and schedules are difficult for families who had been expecting a different outcome.

Brian Mancini, 1135 Cheshire St. Mr. Mancini stated that he feels families have been misled throughout the redistricting process, noting that communications from district staff, virtual meetings, and prior planning materials all suggested that Chapman students would attend the new Barnum School. He urged the Board to reconsider Scenarios B and E as the primary options and asked for clearer explanations regarding capacity and decision-making.

Joselyn Romero, 100 Curve Hill Rd. Ms. Romero explained that her family chose Cheshire specifically because of its K-6 elementary model and strong sense of community. She noted that Chapman families had long been told their children would attend the new Barnum building and that messaging, promotions, and visibility of the construction reinforced that belief. She urged the Board to consider allowing current Chapman students to be grandfathered into Barnum , along with their siblings, so they may remain with their peers.

Michael Olesen, 130 Woodland Dr. Mr. Olesen addressed the Board, expressing strong concern that current redistricting plans fail to keep Chapman students together. He stated that families feel misled, urging the Board to either grandfather current students into Barnum, allow them to remain at Chapman until they age out, or redistrict so they may attend together.

Joshua Kyller, 505 Squire Hill Rd. Mr. Kyller stated that he has two children at Chapman School and expressed concern about the uncertainty and mixed messaging regarding school assignments. He noted the difficulty of explaining these changes to his children, whose expectations may not be met, and urged the Board to consider the impact on current students over long-term projections. He requested that decisions prioritize the needs and well-being of children currently affected by redistricting.

Nancy Hayes, 100 Braemar Dr. Ms. Hayes stated that she is a parent of a first grader and a third grader, and addressed the Board regarding the proposed school reassignments. She emphasized the importance of the school district and community connections, noting her family's positive experience at Chapman and her active involvement in school activities. Ms. Hayes expressed

concern that the proposed changes would disrupt not only Chapman families but also Highland families, affecting students' routines, social connections, and school start times. She requested clarification on whether transportation data would be provided for all proposed scenarios or only the two preferred options.

Clara Fang, 645 Quinnipiac Ct. Ms. Fang spoke in support of Scenario D for school reassignments. As an engineer, she emphasized the importance of data-driven decisions and noted that Scenario D would result in the least disruption across all schools, including Chapman and Highland. She stressed that student well-being and emotional needs should be the highest priority in the decision-making process, alongside enrollment projections and transportation considerations.

### **FIRE SUPPRESSION UPGRADES**

Emily Taylor requested a bid waiver for fire sprinkler work at Norton and Cheshire High School to correct an existing mandatory recall of the systems. This work would be completed by Pro-7 Fire Protection LLC, the vendor that completes the 5-year sprinkler inspections for all Board of Education buildings. The recommendation was for the Planning Committee to recommend to the Board of Education to request a bid waiver from the Cheshire Town Council so that funds from Capital Projects Resolution CEB #26 (\$150,000) may be applied to fund repairs to sprinkler non-conformances at all campuses.

It was noted that a citation from the Fire Marshall is filed, but has not yet been issued. The committee discussed alternatives to the bid waiver, including a fire watch. Cost considerations were discussed, with an estimated \$40,000 for a temporary fire watch. Tim White named his concern about bid waivers in general and noted he would vote against the bid waiver in committee. Committee members agreed to keep the full board informed and defer action to the Board of Education Meeting scheduled on 12/4/25. There was no motion.

### **WEIGHT ROOM RENOVATIONS AT CHS**

Emily Taylor provided an update on the CHS weight room, which currently lacks climate control. The district is exploring the addition of HVAC using funds from an existing 2020 capital project, with \$268,000 available and an estimated cost of approximately \$112,000. This project is currently under the purview of the Public Building Commission, but Emily Taylor said that we would like it reassigned to the Board of Education. It was noted that potential community-led renovations of the facility would be postponed until climate control is installed to protect new equipment.

### **ATHLETIC TURF PROJECT AT CHESHIRE HIGH SCHOOL**

The committee received an update on the CHS athletic turf and track from Emily Taylor and John Perosino. The previously proposed \$800,000 referendum for replacement did not pass; \$600,000 had been planned for year two of the project. The district is exploring options, including potentially obtaining preliminary design quotes from engineering and design firms to evaluate potential new turf and track installations. Initial cost estimates for replacement range around \$1.5 million for both track and field, with design work estimated at \$15,000- \$20,000, to be funded from the district's architectural and consulting services line item.

The turf, originally installed 15 years ago, is approaching the end of its lifespan, with testing indicating increased wear, particularly in high-use areas. The track was resurfaced when the turf was installed, and while it is aging, it is currently considered safe. Any future replacement or refurbishment may require additional testing to assess sub-surface conditions.

No formal action was taken; this was an informational update to guide planning and community discussions regarding the long-term needs of the CHS athletic facilities.

#### **UPDATE ON ENERGY PERFORMANCE CONTRACT**

Vincent Masciana presented an update on the district's energy performance contract. A meeting and presentation with Johnson Controls is tentatively scheduled for December for the Energy Performance Working Group, covering all measures across schools and town facilities, including solar, Doolittle air conditioning, police boiler replacements, and the wastewater treatment plant fuel cell.

Mr. Masciana noted that Eversource has not yet provided cost estimates for running a natural gas line to the wastewater treatment plant, which remains a key unknown. Additionally, we learned recently that current legislation prevents us from receiving a school construction grant for the solar projects through a tax-exempt lease purchase without special legislation, though efforts are underway to secure such legislation, potentially by February. This delay may impact summer project timelines but should not affect overall financial viability, including eligibility for tax credits under the Inflation Reduction Act.

Discussions with the School Building Committee regarding solar installations at Barnum and Norton schools continue. At Barnum, rooftop and limited ground-based solar is planned, while at Norton, only rooftop solar is anticipated; no front-lawn arrays will be installed. The committee emphasized the importance of maintaining project momentum and securing available funding.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Tim White, which was seconded by Samantha Rosenberg and voted upon unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Attest:

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Emily Taylor  
Chief Operating Officer

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Carol Jesensky, Executive Assistant

Filed at the Town Clerk's Office, Town Hall, Cheshire: 12/2/2025.