

Board of Education Meeting
June 15, 2026 5:30 PM
311 Hunting Hill Ave. Conference Room B
Middletown, CT 06457
DRAFT

Board Members Present: Kelly Bee, Chris Cardella, Sheila Daniels, Rakim Grant, Deborah Kleckowski, Susan Owens (arrived during Executive Session), Harold Panciera and Kim Riordan

I. Call to Order

Ms. Daniels called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

II. Executive Session

II.A. Discussion of Ratification of AFSCME Local 1467 Contract

MOTION: Motion to go into Executive Session for the purpose of Discussion of Ratification of AFSCME Local 1467 Contract and invite Harry Snyder and Jennifer Cannata was made by Ms. Kleckowski and a second by Ms. Bee - unanimous vote.

III. Discussion and Possible Action on Ratification of AFSCME Local 1467 Contract

MOTION: A motion was made to ratify the AFSCME Local 1467 Contract was made by Ms. Kleckowski and a second by Ms. Bee.

Kleckowski - yay

Riordan - yay

Bee - yay

Owens - yay

Grant - yes

Daniels - yay

Panceira - yay

Cardella - yay

IV. Discussion and Possible Action on Line Item Transfer for Reinstatement

of Administrative Assistant for IT

Dr. Addley shared that the State Department of Education's Adult Education Provider Grant was approved on June 10, 2026. This resulted in \$202,000 in savings in benefit expenditures in the General Fund. The administration is requesting that the BOE approve the line item transfer in the 2026-2027 general fund budget from the benefit cost center to the IT Department cost center to support the reinstatement of the Administrative Assistant, Central Office / IT position. Ms. Forbes and Mr. Skott responded to questions regarding salary, benefits and the focus of the position.

MOTION: A motion to reinstate the Administrative Assistant position for IT was made by Ms. Kleckowski and a second by Bee - unanimous vote

V. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Eversource Expenses

Dr. Addley shared that in January 2025, Eversource advised the BOE that backbilling totaling \$394,335 had been incurred by the new Beman Middle School during the 2025 calendar year due to an error in the Eversource billing department. The matter was discussed with the City several times. The administration requested that the City reimburse the BOE for the charges paid for the City's Park and Recreation Center. The BOE approved a first payment of \$115,055 toward the total at its May 12, 2026 BOE meeting; subsequently, the City reimbursed the BOE for charges incurred in the 2025-26 school year in the amount of \$35,843.85. The resulting balance owed to Eversource is \$209,828.24. The action requested is for the BOE to approve payment to Eversource of the remaining balance of \$209,828.24 from the 2025-26 projected end-of-year balance of \$409,270.44.

The Board had the discussion of the options of paying the bill and continuing to ask the City to take responsibility for the bill.

MOTION: A motion to approve the transfer of \$209,828.24 from the unexpended balance account to resolve the outstanding Eversource bill was made by Ms. Kleckowski and a second by Mr. Cardella - unanimous vote.

VI. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:15 PM by Ms. Kleckowski and a second by Ms. Bee-unanimous vote.

Date: June 15, 2026

To: Middletown Board of Education Members

From: Brooke Carta, President AFSCME Local 1467

RE: Discussion and Possible Action on Ratification of AFSCME Local 1467 Contract

Good Evening Board of Education Members -

Historically the Union has had an opportunity to address the Board and/or Council publicly at a meeting when the discussion and possible action of ratification of a tentative agreement for our contract is on the agenda. Unfortunately there is no public session included on tonight's agenda. Because of this I respectfully ask that the statement below be read into the record this evening. Thank you for your consideration.

Statement from AFSCME Local 1467:

To the Members of the Middletown Board of Education,

On behalf of Local 1467, I urge you to vote in favor of the tentative agreement before you this evening.

This agreement represents nearly a full year of negotiations. Throughout that process, both parties dedicated countless hours—including days, evenings, and weekends—to reach a fair and reasonable settlement. Considerable time and effort were invested not only in negotiating contract terms, but also in ensuring that the language accurately reflects current practices, clarifies expectations, and reorganizes provisions so the contract is more user-friendly and easier to administer moving forward.

I would like to publicly thank the Board of Education's negotiating team: Jennifer Cannata, Harry Snyder, Randall Mel, Natalie Forbes, Marco Gaylord, Sheila Daniels, Dean Krupa and Attorney Anne Littlefield and the 1467 Negotiation Team: Jeremy Hungerford, Danielle Gagnon-Smith, Bill Sheedy, Josh Coefield, John Giuliano, Jessie Hunter and Robert Montuori.

While there were certainly challenges and difficult conversations along the way, everyone remained committed to the process and worked hard to reach an agreement that serves the interests of employees, the district, and the community.

What is before you tonight is a fair agreement. Our union came to the table prepared to be reasonable and mindful of the financial realities facing both the Board of Education and the City. We understood the responsibility that comes with negotiating a contract funded by public dollars and worked hard to balance the needs of our members with the fiscal challenges facing the district.

We believe this agreement reflects that balance and provides fair compensation and protections for employees while remaining responsible to the taxpayers and community we serve.

For those reasons, I respectfully ask for your support and a favorable vote on the tentative agreement.

Thank you for your consideration.

Brooke Carta

President, AFSCME Local 1467