

**JANUARY 15, 2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

**CALLED TO ORDER**

Mr. Marcucio: Called meeting to order at 6:36.

**OPENING CEREMONIES**

Pledge of Allegiance

**ROLL CALL**

Ms. Tovar: Ken Marcucio; Dan Foley; Kim Tovar; Rebecca O’Hara; Jim Gildea; Erica Nuzzo; Melissa Mongillo. Karla Malerba, absent; Holly Orazietti, absent.

We do have enough to proceed.

**Also Present:**

**Dr. Matthew Conway, Superintendent of Schools.**

**ADDITIONS/DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

Mr. Marcucio: We need a motion to make an addition to the agenda for the executive session.

**Motion that the Board of Education to add the review for request for extended leave of absence to item number four. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Dan Foley.**

<b>Ken Marcucio</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dan Foley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Kim Tovar</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rebecca O’Hara</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jim Gildea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Erica Nuzzo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melissa Mongillo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Karla Malerba</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Holly Orazietti</b>	<b>Absent</b>

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Foley: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

## **PUBLIC PORTION**

Mr. Marcucio: Anybody from the public who would like to speak. Anybody from the public who would like to speak. Anybody from the public who would like to speak. Anybody from zoom who would like to speak. On zoom, anybody from the public who would like to speak. Anyone from the public on zoom. Seeing no one from the public, move on.

## **THE 2025 DERBY HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TEAM**

Dr. Conway: I'd like to ask Principal Olson to join us at the podium.

Ms. Olson: Good evening, everyone. I'm happy to be here tonight. We've talked about our mock trial program that has been running at Derby High School in our second year. A couple of pictures that I'll just draw everyone's attention to. Before we get started, there's our students before they are competing right out front of the Bridgeport Superior Court. Down below our students were sitting at the attorney's table getting ready for their case. In a moment, you're going to be able to speak with our classroom teacher, Mr. Butterworth who runs the program. That is the 2025 2026 group of students representing Derby High School for our mock trial.

This is a program that's brought a lot of enthusiasm and a lot of pride back to our school. Kids have jumped in the program with both feet. And have had a chance to really understand case law. Understand the nuances of public speaking. Being able to prepare for lots of different angles of a case. I'm going to give you a chance to not only hear from our teacher and next our students and finally our coach, we are so grateful for his time and expertise. And in a moment I'll introduce you to him, Everett Sussman.

At this time, I do have Mr. Butterworth who is online. He can talk a little bit about the program and then we'll turn it over to the kids.

Mr. Butterworth: Good evening, everybody. I apologize for not being there in person tonight. Some family obligations to take care of back at home. I'm glad to be here to talk about this program. So, I think when we started looking into mock trials and programs for Derby High School a few years ago. I don't think that either Principal Olson or I kind of growth in the success. And the excitement the program has brought to the first two years as a full-time class in the fall. I think Attorney Sussman can speak as well later on about the growth of the program the past two years. I know we had a similar meeting last year. This year's crew with the mix of juniors and seniors have really taken on the roles. They did an incredibly professional. They were highly praised by the Judges of their cases for their

ability to articulate their thoughts and kind of have this strong presence throughout the courtroom or the commanding of their witnesses and do all of it without notes.

We kind of put pride in ourselves with being prepared. Putting the kids' efforts. Also, Attorney Sussman's efforts. Rigorous classroom activities. But our kids really receive a lot of praise from the Judges in terms of their preparedness, in terms of their presence. Their vocal strength of themselves in the courtroom. Especially it was a murder case this year. Our students were able to keep their emotions in check and play their roles and really dive into their characters as well. I know the kids have heard my say repeatedly but I'm incredibly proud of their performance. I was proud of them before going to the competition. And regardless of what the Judge's scoring said in terms of merit value and whether or not we advanced. I know these kids really tried their best and pushed every day in the classroom to get better. So, incredibly proud, incredibly happy that we have this at Derby High School.

Ms. Olson: Thank you, Mr. Butterworth who really has helped build this program from the ground up. It started an idea. An email came across my way. And said, hey, wouldn't it be kind of cool. We didn't realize how big it was. So, the first year we did it as an exploratory we just went, our kids went and observed other students competing. And then really geared up for the fall.

At this time, I do want to give a highlight to this case. It was the State of Connecticut versus Nick VanSteenburg and we do have Nick here in the room with us, the accused in this particular case. And we also have two of our really outstanding attorneys for the prosecution. Calling up the students that participated in the case.

Ms. Olson: Attorney Sussman will give you more information about the program. I was really impressed with the kids at their trial. The opposing team was trying to trip them up with their own statements. The kids really knew what they were saying. They didn't get flustered and found a way to stand their ground. It was noted in the feedback. They received positively. So, I am really very pleased and so happy to be able to introduce everyone again to Attorney Everett Sussman.

Students: Speaking about their part in the mock trial.

Attorney Sussman: Good evening, everybody. I am very happy to be here. And I am immensely proud of these students and the rest of the squad. They did not just do their homework. They studied literally hundreds of pages. Not just to figure out what's on the test. They figured out how they are going to step into the characters that they had to be for the witnesses. How they were going to learn the Rules of Evidence. And there are a lot of them. How they were going to learn to object. How they were going to stand up straight.

Speak clearly. Sit down and be quiet when it's time to do that. They did a great job. I was happy to be part of it. And much like how Derby High teaches math, it teaches foreign languages and each of those build year by year. The year you've learned, you use the next year at class. I want to see that happen with mock trial. I want to see freshman, sophomores, juniors, seniors in the program because there's so much more they can learn each year they just get better.

And whether the students go on to be in the legal field or become advocates as journalists, or carpenters or anything else, these are skills that they are going to be able to use. Be able to put together arguments. To take apart bad arguments. To speak up on their own behalf and to speak up on behalf of their go to meetings. And I think we need more of that out here. So, I'm looking forward to next season. Thank you.

Ms. Olson: And the last thing I'll mention is Everett is proudly wearing his mock trial coach sweatshirt that he was presented with last year. We appreciate it. We very much look forward to the work. Not only is this a really rigorous class, but it meets at 7:30 in the morning, first period with seniors. That's a tough schedule. The kids in there really have done wonderful things. So, I thank the Board very much for your support and allowing us to add another course. And we're going to continue to grow on it and Mr. Butterworth, to you, hats off. He was the first year teacher taking on that role you know and just building a class from nothing and Coach Sussman continuing his work. He's actually continuing to grow in the program itself outside of even just Derby High School and recently moved into a Judge capacity for other schools that are competing. So, he really knows both sides, the coaching and what the Judges are looking for.

Congratulations again to everyone and thank you.

Ms. Nuzzo: I just want to say, I may have had an upper hand as a Board member because of having a child that took the class. So, I got to like hear a little bit more and see the comments from the Judges. And I am so extremely proud of every single one of the students. Mr. Butterworth, Mr. Sussman, they did such a good job. I was getting feedback of how well prepared they were. So, I thank everyone for representing our school so well.

Mr. Foley: How many credits?

Ms. Olson: This is a half year course, they'll get .5 credits for it.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**Motion that the Board of Education enter into Executive Session to review the Appointment List for the New Hires and the Request for Extended Leave of Absence**

**and the Superintendent of Schools is invited to attend. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Melissa Mongillo.**

<b>Ken Marcucio</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dan Foley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Kim Tovar</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rebecca O’Hara</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jim Gildea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Erica Nuzzo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melissa Mongillo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Karla Malerba</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Holly Oraziatti</b>	<b>Absent</b>

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Out at 6:53. Back in at 7:19.

Ms. Mongillo: Second.

Ms. Tovar: Motion carries.

#### **APPOINTMENT OF NEW HIRES**

**Motion that the Board of Education approve the Appointment of New Hires as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Erica Nuzzo.**

<b>Ken Marcucio</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dan Foley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Kim Tovar</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rebecca O’Hara</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jim Gildea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Erica Nuzzo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melissa Mongillo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Karla Malerba</b>	<b>Absent</b>

**Holly Orazietti                      Absent**

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Nuzzo: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

**Motion that the Board of Education approve the request for Extended Leave of Absence with benefits through the end of the school year as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Melissa Mongillo.**

**Ken Marcucio                      Yes**

**Dan Foley                          Yes**

**Kim Tovar                          Yes**

**Rebecca O’Hara                  Yes**

**Jim Gildea                          Yes**

**Erica Nuzzo                        Yes**

**Melissa Mongillo                Yes**

**Karla Malerba                    Absent**

**Holly Orazietti                   Absent**

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Mongillo: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

**Motion that the Board of Education we skip to item number 14 Overnight Trip CIAC Class S State Championship Meet; 15 Out-of-State and overnight field trip New England Regional Cheer Championships and 16 Out-of-State field trip New England Indoor Track Regional Championship due to time constraints. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Jim Gildea.**

**Ken Marcucio                      Yes**

**Dan Foley                          Yes**

**Kim Tovar                          Yes**

<b>Rebecca O’Hara</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jim Gildea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Erica Nuzzo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melissa Mongillo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Karla Malerba</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Holly Orazietti</b>	<b>Absent</b>

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Gildea: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

#### **OVERNIGHT TRIP CIAC CLASS S STATE CHAMPIONSHIP MEET**

**Motion that the Board of Education approve the overnight field trip for Derby High School Wrestling Team to the CIAC Class S State Championship Meet in Killingly, Connecticut from February 20<sup>th</sup> to February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Jim Gildea.**

<b>Ken Marcucio</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dan Foley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Kim Tovar</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rebecca O’Hara</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jim Gildea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Erica Nuzzo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melissa Mongillo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Karla Malerba</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Holly Orazietti</b>	<b>Absent</b>

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Gildea: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

**Motion that the Board of Education approve the out-of-State and overnight field trip for Derby High School Cheer to attend the New England Regional Cheer Championship at Worcester State University, Massachusetts on March 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Melissa Mongillo.**

<b>Ken Marcucio</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dan Foley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Kim Tovar</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rebecca O’Hara</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jim Gildea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Erica Nuzzo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melissa Mongillo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Karla Malerba</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Holly Oraziatti</b>	<b>Absent</b>

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Mongillo: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

**Motion that the Board of Education approve the out-of-State field trip for Derby High School to the Reggie Lewis Center, Boston, Massachusetts on February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2026 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Erica Nuzzo.**

<b>Ken Marcucio</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dan Foley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Kim Tovar</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rebecca O’Hara</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jim Gildea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Erica Nuzzo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melissa Mongillo</b>	<b>Yes</b>

**Karla Malerba**                      **Absent**

**Holly Orazietti**                      **Absent**

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Nuzzo: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

**OUT-OF-STATE FIELD TRIP – DERBY HIGH SCHOOL TO BRYANT UNIVERSITY**

**Motion that the Board of Education to skip to item 13, Out-of-State Field Trip – Derby High School to Bryant University. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Melissa Mongillo.**

**Ken Marcucio**                      **Yes**

**Dan Foley**                              **Yes**

**Kim Tovar**                              **Yes**

**Rebecca O’Hara**                      **Yes**

**Jim Gildea**                              **Yes**

**Erica Nuzzo**                              **Yes**

**Melissa Mongillo**                      **Yes**

**Karla Malerba**                      **Absent**

**Holly Orazietti**                      **Absent**

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Mongillo: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

**Motion that the Board of Education approve the out-of-State Field Trip for Derby High School Basketball to attend Bryant University on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2026 to attend the basketball game. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Melissa Mongillo.**

**Ken Marcucio**                      **Yes**

**Dan Foley**                              **Yes**

<b>Kim Tovar</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rebecca O'Hara</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jim Gildea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Erica Nuzzo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melissa Mongillo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Karla Malerba</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Holly Oraziatti</b>	<b>Absent</b>

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Mongillo: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Proper chaperones.

Ms. Mongillo: Motion carries.

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Marcucio: Obviously, no reports yet.

But there was a revision and I didn't send it out to everybody. The only revision was Kim was going to be on the Safety?

Ms. Tovar: Yes, Student Health and Safety.

Mr. Marcucio: And Dan is off the Safety. Other than that, the same as the ones that I've sent out to you.

Now the only two that have to meet right away are Finance and Policy. I guess we're going to have to keep the meetings where they are.

Chairman of those two will have to do it before the COW meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2026.

Dr. Conway: If available, we could.

Mr. Foley: Policy me, I guess.

Mr. Marcucio: Rebecca, you're the head of the Finance. We can't do it the same time because the same people are on both committees.

Ms. O'Hara: I'm not on policy anymore.

Ms. Mongillo: I have been to one over zoom of the ACES meetings. I'm happy to do it.

Mr. Marcucio: If you can't make it.

Mr. Foley: If you can't do it, let me know.

Mr. Marcucio: One of us will go.

Dr. Conway: They come to Dina. Dina distributes them right to Laura.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Conway: You have my report before you. Any questions.

Mr. Marcucio: Busy agenda.

Dr. Conway: Busy month.

Mr. Gildea: Do you meet with the Mayor or just the Board of Alderman?

Dr. Conway: It's only the Board of Alderman only if we have something on the agenda. And we have the Mayor meeting once a month, first Monday of the month.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you.

Mr. Marcucio: No other questions for Doc.

## **ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS**

### **FACILITIES REPORT**

Mr. Hoffman: Irving, we had our annual testing on the oil tank. That was back in October. We didn't get the results originally, so I put them on there.

Derby Middle School, the chiller again. We have a walk-through schedule for tomorrow. We hope to have all bids by February 20<sup>th</sup>. So, we're moving along with that. Also, at the middle school, we had issues with the score board. The controller failed. Unfortunately, that controller was obsolete. So, we did have to go upgrade it. It cost about \$1,300 to do it in-house. We did it, we're good. It's back and running.

Derby High School, continued with the PTECs, room G02, and classroom 112, both cabinet heaters failed. The room 112, that section, we did have to put a subpanel in to accommodate the 30 amp circuit. But I will say, it's about \$2,200 for that job. But that we'll handle now. There's six more rooms in that section that we could tie to that panel now. So, we don't have to have that cost again.

Over at the high school we replaced a 40-gallon electric water heater that serves LRU, the woodshop and the art room. One note I would like to mention on that all of our electric water heaters at the high school are 277 volts. I actually found out yesterday we can no

longer get breakers for those panels. So, as we are going forward with water heaters, they are now two circuits instead of one we're going to have to start thinking about updating the electrical panel. The breakers are actually, they haven't made the breakers they said since 1972. I was a kid, they stopped making it in the 80's.

Mr. Gildea: So, you would basically go in, take the electrical panel out, put a new one in and have to test all the breakers.

Mr. Hoffman: Yes. The wiring is fine. It's just a matter of taking the service out of that. The older square panels update them to handle the new breakers. It is a big job. There's 28 of those panels in the building. The issue we're going to run into is the water heaters, the old ones that we have. They were 277 volt and it's 160 amp circuit. The new ones are now all coming through. They want two 30 amp circuits on one heater, so new breakers.

Mr. Foley: How about other schools, on gas.

Mr. Hoffman: Yes, all other schools are on gas. It's just the high school. Down the road, we're going to have to start thinking about upgrading some service.

Mr. Gildea: I know the building is electric, but is there any way to start switching these hot water heaters out from electric and making them hot water or convert them from electric.

Mr. Hoffman: Well, the problem with our gas, our main, our kitchen is off the gas. It's 120-gallon water heater. That's gas. I would worry about the electrical, where we have the water heaters now. That would be a nightmare. And there's no gas in that area.

Mr. Gildea: Okay. Thank you.

Mr. Hoffman: District wide they want an inspection every six months. Just completed that. Don't have the reports back yet. We did have to update the annual contract. It went to \$3,100 a year. That's the new fire code.

Mr. Gildea: The bid for the chiller, come in less than the bigger, do you expect that to still come in less than figure we submitted for the record.

Mr. Hoffman: Yes.

Mr. Gildea: Are we close to a list that we would want to recommend to the City. That's \$700,000 worth of money through the Johnson Controls. And that went back to the City. So, the City had that. They've already given out almost \$500,000 of it. Before they allocate the rest of it, it would be nice if we on the Board of Ed got something. I think we should try to get our piece. I think we should have it ready within the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Hoffman: Yeah, we have it ready.

Mr. Gildea: And can we see it. Not now but even on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. It would be helpful if the Board can see it in my opinion before you offer it to the City. It's usually the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month. My guess is, it won't be until the 26<sup>th</sup>. I think we should see the recommended capital planning list. I think the Board should have some kind of weigh in it. Saying hey, this is the thing we should fight for. We're not going to get a lot. We'll get one or two things on it. But with all due respect, the police got two cars. They're getting another car soon. They're getting three new fire trucks. They just updated the entire Derby Police Department software system. I appreciate all of that. I'm supportive of that. But again, there's only \$250,000 left. And I'd like to think that we're the only major body in the City that hasn't gotten something.

Ms. Tovar: Makes sense. Okay.

Ms. Mongillo: Jim do you plan to upgrade the panels and the breakers over the spring. Is that planned in this budget or are you planning.

Mr. Hoffman: No, that is not planned.

Ms. Mongillo: You're going to budget for next year. Okay.

Mr. Hoffman: Yeah. I don't think it's going to be in one shot.

Ms. Mongillo: Over time. But you're going to budget that for the next budget.

Mr. Marcucio: Thanks, Jim.

## **STRATEGIC PLANNING**

Dr. Rafferty: Good evening, everyone. I have five things to grow on here for you. First is as you know we partnered with Yale. Our presentation is now being submitted in the Netherlands. And we're waiting to hear back about that. So, if I'm not around in May I'll be in the Netherlands representing Derby Public Schools. I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge Jenn Shea and Molly Sullivan from the high school who are co authors of the paper and do a lot of work. We're running that project again this spring. Jenn Shay sent the dates to me today. So, I'll have more on that as we go further.

The second thing is that I'm, you know how Dr. Conway did an achievement presentation recently. We will be using that data and go deeper to do a three-step process with our building leaders to do basically a needs assessment, revisit our strategic planning and then implement and monitor our work along the way, which we plan to come back to the Board over time as we do that work.

Speaking of improvement strategies, I meet with PDAC every month, which is a group of teachers across the district who give us suggestions on improvement strategy and

planning. We covered the latest teacher evaluation plan, what's going well. What we still need to work on. The highlights of how teachers feel that it's a more comfortable, professional way for them to develop their capacity as opposed to the old model. So, the further feedback we're doing is we're building a strategy for next year about what other terms about whether professional development whether they would like more information.

On Tuesday, I went to University of Hartford and participated in the Governor's Prevention Partnership Workshop, which was about mentoring, which we will launch in the middle school in the coming weeks first of February. Principal Caggiano is setting up an application process to have kids apply for leadership opportunities and develop a, we'll start small here in the middle school to get kids to really understand how to transition into high school and then we'll expand our mentoring in the high school. The chart, you could see the data on the power of the mentoring it is really powerful. It's attendance. It reduces behaviors. Make kids more likely to find pathways to future success.

And then the last one is you know, we've partnered with Harvard. We've partnered with Yale. We've partnered with Worcester Poly Tech. We've partnered with Drake University. And in the coming weeks, we're going to have, I brought to you, this is part of a research study with Worcester Poly Tech and someone from North Carolina State would like to come visit because we've done some really good work in our tutoring at the elementary level. And they want to come visit, talk to teachers, talk to students and find out how to help us get even better. So, some pretty exciting stuff. I'm happy to take any questions.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion that the Board of Education approve the minutes from the following meeting A, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Board of Education meeting. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Melissa Mongillo.**

<b>Ken Marcucio</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dan Foley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Kim Tovar</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rebecca O'Hara</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jim Gildea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Erica Nuzzo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melissa Mongillo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Karla Malerba</b>	<b>Absent</b>

**Holly Orazietti**                      **Absent**

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Mongillo: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

**Motion that the Board of Education approve the financial report for the periods through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 as recommended by the Superintendent of Schools. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Erica Nuzzo.**

**Ken Marcucio**                      **Yes**

**Dan Foley**                              **Yes**

**Kim Tovar**                              **Yes**

**Rebecca O’Hara**                      **Yes**

**Jim Gildea**                              **Yes**

**Erica Nuzzo**                              **Yes**

**Melissa Mongillo**                      **Yes**

**Karla Malerba**                      **Absent**

**Holly Orazietti**                      **Absent**

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Nuzzo: Second.

Mr. Trainor: Good evening. Right now we are looking at a surplus of about 11,000. The number last month was around 21,000. We had an invoice that come in that we hadn’t anticipated for transportation. It was from a prior year. And we were able to absorb some of the cost from the Title One Grant. That’s why you see a \$10,000 difference there. If we were to liquidate everything right now, pay off all the encumbrances, we’ll have a balance of about \$11,000.

Mr. Gildea: And that includes the encumbrances?

Mr. Trainor: Yes.

Mr. Gildea: If everyone had started on day one, we’d be in a deficit right now.

Mr. Trainor: Yes.

Mr. Marcucio: How much money would that involve?

Mr. Trainor: The vacancy. So, the vacancy positions, when they came on, right now we're looking at about a cost somewhere around 55,000 or 60,000. They all become vacant at certain times. So, every day that they're vacant, we add to that number.

Mr. Gildea: So, we'd have a \$40,000 deficit if everyone started on day one.

Mr. Trainor: Correct. Some of the things that happened this year that would be included would be the cost of the playground we split with the City. We received money from the City. We paid for some of that cost. We also had a big chiller invoice that we hadn't anticipated.

Mr. Gildea: The snowstorm, this year's snowstorm at a greater speed than many years. Would this include some of the December snow fall? Did we pay for that?

Mr. Trainor: No. There's some overtime involved for some of the custodians for shoveling the sidewalks, but it's minimal.

Mr. Gildea: We did get the SEED money. We did get the additional SES money, I realize we use that to balance the budget. What would be driving our high costs, the chiller, the playground. I thought we set aside money out of last year for that?

Mr. Trainor: The invoice was paid in this fiscal year. So, if we had paid it last year, it would have eaten up some of the 209,000 that we had as a surplus at June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Gildea: Okay. Is that 209,000 still there?

Mr. Trainor: Yes. Unaudited. Waiting for the final result from the auditor.

Mr. Gildea: Thank you.

Mr. Trainor: I believe it's three months at 350,000. Is that accurate?

Mr. Giannotti: I'm here. So, we can keep three-months operating expense, would be 360,000. But right now, we have 257,000.

Mr. Foley: How is the equipment? Are we up to date on the equipment?

Mr. Giannotti: We've had some repairs on some of the walk-in coolers. Everything else is okay. It's just maintenance right now. But some of the stuff is getting older.

Dr. Conway: We put together a five-year plan.

Mr. Gildea: We replaced a lot of that over the last five years between grant and surplus, right?

Mr. Giannotti: Yes.

Mr. Marcucio: Thanks, Sal.

Mr. Giannotti: You're welcome.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries.

## **FY27 BUDGET UPDATE**

Mr. Trainor: So, we got a budget update. We put together a document that talks about the big things that we're working with in this budget. We currently have a ask of .32 percent, which is \$66,000 on a 20-million-dollar budget. We also have a couple scenarios. If you recall last year we had talked about an additional outplaced special ed student. We built in one or two additional students at about 150,000 per student. We're a transient district. You know, from July through October, we had budgeted 24 students this year. We are currently at 24 students. However, we have had 12 changes in our student population. Costs are prorated. If someone leaves in September and we have another one come back in November we have one month that we're not spending. But it depends on where, what school these students are going to. How they're being transported and what services they need.

So, if we ask for one additional student, we'd be asking for a 1.06 percent ask. And if we ask for two, we'd be asking for 1.79 percent. Any questions. So, the biggest issue this year was the teacher's contract. I put together a little spreadsheet. The overall impact of the teacher's contract is 708,000 which you'll see in the bottom right hand of that box. And then I broke it down by funding source. So, with this new contract with the staff that we have in district, the burden of it is on the operating budget. It's about 500,000. The State grant 167,000.

We had been working to move costs. We've been working with principals on potential changes in staffing. We have been looking at contracted positions. We have been looking at our facility costs. We are taking a fine look at every department and everything that is being purchased within our district. We have gotten to a place where we are only asking for 66,000 without an additional special ed kid.

Ms. Mongillo: Just give us an idea of what we're potentially losing in our district with that moving around.

Dr. Conway: A big portion of it is current outplaced students in our outplaced transition program. A couple years ago, added an additional year the district is responsible for a child as soon as they reach the age of 22. So, we have currently nine students outplaced in various programs. With the assistance of the principals and special education supervisor plan and space to move 7 of 9 back into district next year. Savings \$847,000 I believe. Subtract the teacher and para educator in that room, the substitutes is about 720,000. We're very confident on that move. Other moves to reduce costs further, is filling current open positions from within. Move into a different or similar role to another school. Actual reductions with two non-classroom positions and possibly two classroom positions during enrollment. Hiring individuals in-house for those same services as soon as we can find people in that role.

Mr. Gildea: I understand the \$800,000 worth of savings. So, is that saying and we were 1.2 million last time. So, the 700,000, the bulk of it would come from the creation of internal programs, transition programs, and then the balance of it would be various reductions.

Mr. Foley: Doctor, my only concern on that is bringing those seven students back in, I hope there's not a problem with them being mainstreamed in or causing problems.

Dr. Conway: This is a very specific program. Unlike other programs, they are in programs for the majority of the day and really teaching them life skills.

Mr. Foley: Where would this be?

Dr. Conway: Right now we're looking at space here.

Mr. Gildea: Do you mean like what part of the building?

Mr. Foley: Yeah.

Mr. Gildea: Okay.

Mr. Marcucio: How many years would these students be?

Dr. Conway: They relocated here, received transition services here. We have space at the high school too.

Mr. Trainor: The space here is bigger.

Mr. Gildea: The beauty of the RAISE Program is it's contained. So, would it be contained or would it be disbursed throughout the building?

Ms. Mongillo: Did I understand you correctly, they would not be in the building very much anyway because they're in transition programs and work program?

Dr. Conway: Some will. Some won't.

Ms. Mongillo: Any concern regarding the age difference in this potential of having 18 year olds in with middle schoolers?

Dr. Conway: Not with what we have in place.

Ms. Mongillo: Okay.

Dr. Conway: There won't be a lot of interaction with other students. I think we can do it more efficiently.

Ms. Mongillo: I like the work that we've done to reduce the budget and not lose classroom teachers or anything that's going to really affect any of the kids. Thank you.

Mr. Gildea: For special ed, how many students did we budget this year. How much did we end up at?

Mr. Trainor: The budget is 24 students for this fiscal year.

Mr. Gildea: Outplaced. I'm sorry,

Mr. Trainor: Yeah, outplaced. We budgeted for 24 students.

Mr. Gildea: And where do we end up?

Mr. Trainor: We're currently at 24 students. We had 12 changes.

Mr. Gildea: My thought is, if we need it we should budget it. In my opinion, when we separate it out, there's a chance we don't get it. I think if we're going to ask for it, we should ask for it.

Dr. Conway: That's why it's here.

Mr. Marcucio: What you're talking about doesn't include the savings that we had. I had a couple of meetings with the Mayor about business manager position. We'd be saving money here. This doesn't include that. We're meeting again next week.

Ms. Tovar: In the event would that be a person employed by the City of Derby or the Board of Education.

Dr. Conway: I have not been part of the discussions. I will be part of the discussions next week.

Ms. Tovar: Okay.

Mr. Marcucio: An existing position with the City.

Mr. Gildea: I do think there's going to be a shared, the Mayor's cut, appointed shared service committee that would include Board of Education members, include Board of Alderman members, it will include tax board members, and I think the thought is not to just look at one position but to do a deeper dive within the departments to see hey, there's an AP position here, there's a payroll position here, there's an AP position there. And then to look at the departments, but to your question, any framework of how the reporting structure would work that would be recommended by the shared services committee would have to be voted on by our Board, it would have to be voted on by the Board of Alderman, representatives by both Boards on that committee. Because that structure of reporting is that, you know, so much more details than how are we going to cover one person. It's reporting structures. It's getting into the offices who is looking into where the savings are, bodies, insurances. So, it's a deeper dive.

Ms. Mongillo: And there accessible to elections which scares me to death. The whole thing is great right now because of what we have in place. And I'm not saying I'm opposed to it. I think it's a great idea. But whoever ends up on that committee needs to be mindful of putting structure in place to protect the bodies from election years when there are different decision makers and leadership in place to not screw up any one board or sector of the City.

Ms. Tovar: Agreed.

Mr. Gildea: I agree. With all due respect, when previous chief of staff was here, it wouldn't work.

Dr. Conway: Even when he looked at it, over time what it comes down to is exactly what you start out.

Mr. Gildea: Ultimately, let's just say we tried it for a year and it didn't work. The Board of Ed can finance their own business end of it. Certainly, we have the ability to weigh in and to make sure our authority doesn't get diminished with the change in administration. I agree 100 percent. We go back to our own and go back the way we did it. That's always been our prerogative.

Dr. Conway: I talked to Robbie about that, the recommendation where they met with somebody. They've actually done that in multiple communities, where they are using ID in both the SEED and now the Board of Ed where they have the combined services and where they don't have shared services.

Ms. Mongillo: If available.

Dr. Conway: So, there will be no gap between January 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Foley: I still have reservations about it.

Mr. Gildea: Does this figure include flatline ECS?

Dr. Conway: Yes.

Mr. Gildea: I get it.

Dr. Conway: I want to thank our administrators for digging in and coming up with some creative plans. Do things that we think will actually improve instruction as well as reduce costs.

Mr. Gildea: Very nice.

Mr. Marcucio: Thanks Robbie on behalf of the Board for all the work he is doing.

### **DISCUSSION ON SCHOOL UNIFORMS**

Mr. Marcucio: I think there is some concern about how we are handling the families that can't afford.

Dr. Conway: Right now, it's not a concern right now. We've done fundraisers. Each school has supplies. And going forward we're anticipating, year over year, if you're going to be buying uniforms year over year, because kids grow out of that size, we already set up in our platform we buy uniforms, a place where you can buy youth uniforms as well as families donating the youth uniforms to the schools use on an as need basis for families who may not be able to afford. But right now, we don't have any situation where somebody doesn't have a uniform due to financial need.

Ms. Tovar: Is there a way to put on the website like a way to donate towards school uniforms.

Dr. Conway: There will be. It's all built and ready to go. It's still on. And then we'll make announcements.

Ms. O'Hara: How about somebody who said they can't afford it. We just give them the clothes that they need.

Dr. Conway: Fundraisers.

Ms. O'Hara: No questions asked.

Dr. Conway: Questions asked. Assuring the family has a financial need so it doesn't get abused.

Ms. O'Hara: They don't have to wait like a fundraiser.

Dr. Conway: If you had a situation. We could create one in the event we need to use it.

Ms. O'Hara: I donated a lot myself of uniforms. I want to make sure they get distributed.

Ms. Tovar: \$12.

Ms. O'Hara: He won't over charge.

Dr. Conway: City Stitchers have been tremendous.

Mr. Gildea: Derby guy.

Ms. O'Hara: Derby guy.

Dr. Conway: The committee gave me the green light.

Mr. Gildea: The committee recommended to the full Board. We recommended to the full Board.

**Motion that the Board of Education to approve adding to our dress code gym uniforms at the elementary school, quarter zip shirts and fleece jackets. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Mr. Jim Gildea.**

<b>Ken Marcucio</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dan Foley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Kim Tovar</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rebecca O'Hara</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jim Gildea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Erica Nuzzo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melissa Mongillo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Karla Malerba</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Holly Oraziatti</b>	<b>Absent</b>

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Mr. Gildea: Second.

**ADJOURN**

**Motion that the Board of Education adjourn its meeting. Passed with a motion made by Ms. Kim Tovar and a second by Ms. Erica Nuzzo.**

<b>Ken Marcucio</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Dan Foley</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Kim Tovar</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Rebecca O'Hara</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Jim Gildea</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Erica Nuzzo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Melissa Mongillo</b>	<b>Yes</b>
<b>Karla Malerba</b>	<b>Absent</b>
<b>Holly Oraziotti</b>	<b>Absent</b>

Ms. Tovar: Making motion.

Ms. Nuzzo: Second.

Mr. Marcucio: Motion carries. Adjourned at 8:20.

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Marianne Samokar

Recording Secretary