

BOARD OF FINANCE

Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on Thursday, May 7, 2026
Held via ZOOM - meeting ID 818 4894 1516

Regular Members	Others
✓ Joe Pryor (CHM) Kate Ward	✓ Gordon M Ridgway, First Selectman Rocco Botto, Selectman
✓ Zejke Hermann	✓ Richard Bramley, Treasurer
✓ Gary Steinkohl	✓ CCS Principal, multiple BoE members, and CCS staff
✓ Simon Hewett	Alternate members
✓ Jessica Brackman	✓ Richard Wolkowitz
	✓ Cody Gillotti

Call to Order

7:00 p.m.

1 -Additions

None

2 - Minutes

Minutes for the 3.19.26 and 2.4.26 meetings were emailed to all members prior to the meeting. Copies of the minutes were also available at the meeting.

Motion

Zejke Hermann Made a motion to approve the minutes as presented.
Jessica Brackman Seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

3- Correspondence

4.7.26 letter to Bd of Finance from Region One Superintendent

A letter addressed to the Members of the Board of Finance was received from Melony Brady-Shanley on behalf of the Cornwall Board of Education. Said letter is appended to these minutes. The letter was discussed in brief as follows.

- Gordon and Joe have met with the school district regarding this and discussed the transportation costs for homeless families and a legal challenge regarding tuition students
- options to address the potential \$20k shortfall include a budget transfer, or a spending freeze for the remainder of the fiscal year
- updates on the status of the potential cost overrun will be provided on a regular basis

4- Budget

FY '27 Proposed Budget

Motion

Gary Steinkohl Made a motion to approve the FY '27 Budget Proposal of \$8,924,433, and to forward the proposal to the electors and citizens for consideration at the Town Meeting of 5.15.26

Zejke Hermann Seconded the motion.

Motion passed unanimously.

5- Reports

Board of Selectmen

First Selectman Ridgway reported on the following items.

- Passage of the Regional Budget at the recent referendum
- Ongoing regional waste management efforts
- Open DPW position and applications received
- America 250 celebration and planned events
- Assessment revaluation

6 - Public

Public Comment

Chairman Pryor reminded members that a quorum is necessary at the 5/15/26 meeting to set the Mil rate for FY '26. This meeting directly follows the town meeting.

#3 - Adjourn

7:33 PM

Minutes remain "Draft" until accepted at the next regular meeting, please see subsequent meeting minutes for any corrections.

Barbara E. Herbst, Board Clerk



letter - tuition students

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
246 Warren Turnpike Road
Falls Village, CT 06031
Central Office (860) 824-0855
mbrady-shanley@region1schools.org

April 7, 2026

Dear Members of the Board of Finance,

I am writing to inform you that the Cornwall Board of Education anticipates ending the current fiscal year over budget due to unanticipated expenses in two primary areas: transportation and legal services.

Transportation (Account 5192720)

The transportation budget was established at \$170,746. However, we have incurred unbudgeted expenses totaling \$13,709.50 related to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. These costs reflect required services to ensure students are able to access their educational programs, including transportation to school(s) out of our District.

Legal Fees (Account 3402410)

The legal services budget was set at \$500. To date, we have incurred \$4,372.00 in unbudgeted legal expenses, primarily associated with matters requiring counsel. We do expect to incur an additional \$15,000 to \$20,000 in legal fees associated with an on-going situation. These situations, while not routine, require timely and appropriate legal guidance.

While we make every effort to anticipate and manage expenses within our approved budget, both transportation and legal costs can be difficult to predict and are largely driven by circumstances beyond the District's control, including student needs and legal requirements.

We will continue to closely monitor all remaining expenditures for the fiscal year and implement cost-saving measures where and when possible. However, given the nature of these obligations, we expect that these overages will remain through year-end.

Please feel free to reach out should you have any questions or require additional information. We appreciate your understanding and continued support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Melony Brady-Shanley", written over a printed name.

Melony Brady-Shanley on behalf of the Cornwall Board of Education

cc: Board of Education Members, Principal, Board Clerk

Superintendent: Melony Brady-Shanley
mbrady-shanley@region1schools.org

Asst. Superintendent: Dr. Jeanine Rose
jrose@region1schools.org

Business Manager: Samuel Herrick
sherrick@region1schools.org

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER