

31ST BOARD OF REPRESENTATIVES CITY OF STAMFORD

President
JEFF CURTIS

Clerk of the Board
MEGAN COTTRELL

Majority Leader
NINA SHERWOOD

Minority Leader
MARY L. FEDELI

MINUTES

Chair Nina Sherwood called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Chair Sherwood read the call of the meeting: The Board of Representatives will be holding a meeting at the following time and place:

Thursday, May 1, 2025

8:00 p.m.

Legislative Chambers, 4th Floor
Government Center
888 Washington Boulevard
Stamford, CT 06904-2152

or by computer, tablet or smartphone at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81881842892>

or www.zoom.com – Webinar ID - 818 8184 2892

or by phone 1-646-558-8656

Webinar ID - 818 8184 2892

to consider and act upon the following:

The General Fund Operating (including Board of Education budget), Capital, Board of Education, Debt Service Fund, Anti-Blight Fund, Grants Fund, Stamford Harbor Management Fund, Marina Fund, Parking Fund, Police Extra Duty Fund, E.G. Brennan Golf Course Fund, Terry Conner's Ice Rink Fund, Active Medical Fund, Risk Management Fund, and the Water Pollution Control Authority Fund budgets for the fiscal year 2025/2026, as transmitted by the Board of Finance on April 16, 2025, pursuant to provisions of Section C8-30-7 of the Stamford Charter and [RESOLUTIONS](#) associated therewith.

AGENDA

INVOCATION: Led by Clerk Megan Cottrell.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Led by Chair Nina Sherwood.

ROLL CALL: Conducted by Clerk of the Board Megan Cottrell. There were 39 members present (in person and online) and 1 member excused (Reps. Adams, Baines, Berns, Blank, Boeger, Campbell, Camporeale, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Figueroa, Gilbride, Goldberg, Graham, Grunberger, Kuczynski, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Moore, Morson, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Saftic, Sanford, Shaw, Sherwood, Stella, Strain, Summerville, Tomas, Vandervoort, Walston, Watkins, Weinberg, and Williams were present; Rep. Roqueta was absent/excused)

A quorum was declared.

Under Board rules 285, a motion to elect a chairperson to preside over the meeting was made and seconded. Rep. Sherwood opened the floor to nominations for a chairperson to preside over the balance of the meeting. Rep. Cottrell nominated Rep. Sherwood to be the meeting chairperson. The nomination was moved and seconded (multiple representatives). There were no other nominations from the floor. Rep. Sherwood declared nominations closed. There was no discussion on the nomination.

The nomination was approved unanimously by voice vote of 37-0-1 with Rep. Sherwood abstaining.

A Point of Order from Rep. Gilbride was made to ask why the meeting required a meeting Chairperson if Pres. Curtis was attending the meeting virtually.

Also present virtually were Bill Maguire, Assistant Director, Office of Policy & Management (OPM), Chief of Staff Bridget Fox, and Lauren Meyer, Special Assistant to the Mayor.

COMMUNICATIONS: Red by Clerk of the Board Megan Cottrell

1. All votes at tonight's meeting will be conducted by roll call.
2. If you need assistance with Zoom you can call IT at [REDACTED]. Please do not call other members of the Board or the Board office staff. If you are having problems speaking or hearing with your computer, you can always access the meeting through a telephone by dialing the phone number on the Agenda - [REDACTED], and using the Webinar ID on the agenda: [REDACTED]. Please call or text IT at [REDACTED] or text the Clerk at [REDACTED] to let us know you are coming on, with the phone number you are using, and we will make sure you are able to speak during the meeting.
3. If you decide to leave the meeting, you must text the Clerk when you leave. If you need to leave the meeting for a short period, text the Clerk when you leave and return. Members who do not text the Clerk when they leave the meeting will be presumed to be present for all consent items.
4. If you do not respond during a roll call vote, your name will be called 2 more times after the conclusion of the vote. If you do not respond, you will be assumed to have left the meeting and your name will not be called on the next roll call vote.

COMMITTEE/BUDGET PRESENTATION: Mary Fedeli, Co-Chair, Fiscal Committee gave budget hearings series overall report and presented the four (4) draft budget resolutions as transmitted by the Board of Finance:

1. [RES. NO. 4369](#) **RESOLUTION:** Adoption of the Board of Education Budget Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 **APPROVED AS AMENDED 33-4-1**

Motion to approve the Board of Education Budget of \$347,026,867 as transmitted by the Board of Finance was made, seconded, and during discussion, a motion to amend the Board of Education Budget by a symbolic \$1 reduction was made, seconded, and presented by Rep. Cottrell. After discussion (focused on various topics of parent and educator complaints regarding the Board of Education) the motion to amend by reducing the Board of Education budget by \$1 (new amount: \$347,026,866) passed via roll call vote of 25-8-5 (Reps. Baines, Berns, Blank, Campbell, Camporeale, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Grunberger, Kuczynski, Ley, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pavia, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Sherwood, Strain, Tomas, Vandervoort, Watkins and Williams voted in favor. Reps. Figueroa, Goldberg, Graham, Mays, Morson, Pierre-Louis, Walston and Weinberg voted against. Reps. Adams, Boeger, Gilbride, Stella and Summerville abstained and Rep. Saftic did not vote.)

Motion to approve the Board of Education Budget as amended (new amount: \$347,026,866) was approved by a vote of 33-4-1. (Reps. Adams, Baines, Berns, Blank, Boeger, Campbell, Camporeale, Curtis, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Graham, Grunberger, Kuczynski, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Moore, Morson, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Sherwood, Strain, Tomas, Vandervoort, Walston, Watkins and Weinberg were in favor. Reps. Cottrell, Figueroa, Stella and Williams voted against, Rep. Summerville abstained and Rep. Saftic not to vote)

2. [RES. NO. 4370](#) **RESOLUTION:** Adoption of the Operating Budget (including General Fund Support to the Board of Education Budget) Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 To June 30, 2026 **APPROVED AS AMENDED 36-1-1**

Motion to approve the item as amended by \$1 (due to amendment to the Board of Education Budget cut of \$1; new Operating Budget figure of \$347,026,866) was made, seconded, and approved by a roll call vote of 36-1-1. (Reps. Adams, Baines, Berns, Blank, Boeger, Campbell, Camporeale, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Graham, Grunberger, Kuczynski, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Moore, Morson, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Stella, Strain, Summerville, Tomas, Vandervoort, Walston, Watkins, Weinberg and Williams in favor. Rep. Sherwood voted against, Rep. Figueroa abstained and Rep. Saftic did not to vote)

3. [RES. NO. 4371](#) **RESOLUTION:** Adoption of the Capital Budget Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 **APPROVED AS AMENDED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE**

Motion to approve the Capital Budget amount of \$62,002,500 as transmitted by the Board of Finance was made, seconded, and during discussion, a motion to amend the Capital Budget by a \$350,000 reduction to page 39: Eastside branch of Ferguson Library at Cortland Park was made, seconded, and discussed. After discussion (focused on deed restriction of land donor, federal grants to the City, reduction of City parklands, and location of branch being the issue, not the need for the branch) the motion to amend by reducing the capital budget by \$350,000 (new amount: \$61,652,500) passed via roll call vote of 24-15-0 (Reps. Baines, Berns, Boeger, Campbell, Camporeale, Cottrell, Curtis, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Graham, Kuczynski, Matheny, Moore, Patterson, Pierre-Louis, Saftic, Sherwood, Stella, Strain, Summerville, Tomas, Walston, Watkins and Williams voted in favor; Reps. Adams, Blank, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Grunberger, Ley, Mays, Morson, Pavia, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Vandervoort and Weinberg voted against; there were no abstentions).

An additional motion to amend to reduce the Capital Budget by an additional \$250,000 reduction to page 98: funds to repair and install artificial turf baseball fields was made, seconded, and presented on by Rep. de la Cruz. After discussion, the motion for the additional amendment failed by a roll call vote of 8-20-3. (Reps. Adams, Camporeale, de la Cruz, Figueroa, Kuczynski, Saftic, Sherwood and Walston voted in support of proposed amendment. Reps. Blank, Campbell, Cottrell, Fedeli, Goldberg, Ley, Matheny, Mays, Morson, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Tomas, Vandervoort, Watkins, Weinberg and Williams voted against. Reps. Boeger, Graham and Summerville abstained. Rep. Gilbride did not vote. Reps. Baines, Berns, Curtis, Grunberger, Moore, Stella and Strain left the meeting prior to the vote being conducted)

Motion to approve the Capital Budget as Amended (new amount: \$61,652,500) was made, seconded, and was approved by a unanimous voice vote.

4. [RES. NO. 4372](#) **RESOLUTION;** Adoption of the Debt Service Fund, Anti-Blight Programs Fund, Grants Fund, Stamford Harbor Management Fund, Marina Operating Fund, Parking Fund, Police Extra Duty Fund, E.G. Brennan Golf Course Fund, Terry Connors Ice Rink Fund, Active Medical Fund, Risk Management Fund, and WPCA Fund Budgets for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 **APPROVED 29-0-0**

Motion to approve the Special Funds Budgets as transmitted by the Board of Finance was made, seconded, and a voice vote was attempted. Voice vote received a Nay vote, so item vote was again conducted via roll call vote. Item was approved by a roll call vote of 29-0-0. (Reps. Adams, Blank, Boeger, Camporeale, Cottrell, de la Cruz, Fedeli, Gilbride, Goldberg, Graham, Kuczynski, Ley, Mays, Morson, Patterson, Pavia, Pierre-Louis, Pollack, Sandford, Shaw, Sherwood, Summerville, Tomas, Vandervoort, Walston, Weinberg and Williams in favor. There were no abstentions. Rep. Campbell did not to vote)

ADJOURNMENT: Chair Sherwood adjourned the meeting at 1:12 a.m.

This meeting is on [video](#)