



**C.H.E.S.S. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, HOUSING,
EDUCATION, SOCIAL SERVICES, STATE &
COMMERCE**

Maureen Pollack, Co-Chair

Stephanie Sylvestre, Co-Chair

Committee Minutes

Date: Thursday, April 30, 2026
Time: 6:00 p.m.
Place: *This meeting was held remotely only via Zoom.*

The CHESSE Committee met as indicated above. In attendance were Co-Chairs Pollack and Sylvestre, and Committee Member Reps. Goldberg, Gross, McKeown, Price, Walston, and Wirz. Rep. Yeager was absent. Also in attendance were Reps. Camporeale, de la Cruz, Didelot, Finkel, Gardner, Hughes, Johnson, Shaw, and Shaw; Matthew Quiñones, Director of Operations; and Katherine LoBalbo, Director of BOE School Construction.

Co-Chair Pollack called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Item No.	Description	Committee Action
1. CHESS32.005	RESOLUTION: Authorizing a Project Labor Agreement (PLA) for the Roxbury School Construction Project 03/03/2026 – Submitted by Director Quiñones 03/17/2026 – Approved by Committee 8-0-1 04/06/2026 – Recommitted to Steering 24-13-0	APPROVED BY COMMITTEE 5-3-0

Director Quiñones discussed the proposed PLA and stated that the City's interest in pursuing it is primarily driven by its investment in building a strong labor force for Stamford residents in the construction industry. He also discussed the City's current project structure, noting that the construction manager has been involved from the beginning and that cost estimating is being reconciled throughout the design phase.

Director LoBalbo discussed the construction manager at risk model, explaining that it provides the City with greater visibility into the competitive bidding process. She also discussed differences between Roxbury and Strawberry Hill, noting that Strawberry Hill involved a renovation and expansion, while Roxbury involves new construction on the fields beyond the existing school with separation from the existing school building.

Director Quiñones reviewed written responses to questions submitted by Board members and, with Director LoBalbo, responded to additional questions at the meeting regarding the City's prior experience with PLAs, including the Strawberry Hill project; whether the PLA was a factor in the prior bid results; project schedule and market competitiveness; the construction manager at risk process; apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship opportunities; local workforce goals; legal restrictions on labor organization preference; the use of union and non-union labor; labor stability; safety and training requirements; and the timing of the Roxbury project.

Rep. McKeown moved to recommit the item; the motion was seconded by Rep. Goldberg. Following discussion regarding the project timeline and the risk that delaying action could jeopardize the PLA, Rep. McKeown withdrew the motion.

A motion to approve CHESS32.005 was made, seconded and approved by a vote of 5-3-0. (Reps. Sylvestre, Gross, Price, Walston, and Wirz in favor; Reps. Pollack, Goldberg, and McKeown opposed)

Co-Chair Pollack adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Maureen Pollack, Co-Chair

This meeting is on [video](#).