AMENDED FINAL

REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT 12

SPECIAL APPEAL HEARING

Minutes

DATE: Thursday, September 11, 2025
TIME: 5:00 p.m.
PLACE: Washington Primary School Library, 11 School Street, Washington, CT

Attending Board Members: Jennifer Pote, Justin Ongley, and Angela Macchiarulo
Also in Attendance: Nicole Grant *(Director of Finance and Operations)*, Don Schels *(Superintendent)*, Kerry Schur (Appellant).
Attending Representatives for Region 12: *Shipman & Goodwin LLP* attorneys Tom Owen and Sarah Westby

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Call to Order

The meeting in accordance with Conn. Gen. Stat. § 10-222e to hear the appeal by Kerry Schur of the non-renewal of her coaching contract was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chairperson Jennifer Pote. The following Board members were also in attendance to serve with Chairperson Pote as the Hearing Panel: Jennifer Pote, Justin Ongley, and Angela Macchiarulo.

Meeting Summary

Attorney Sarah Westby made an opening statement on behalf of the administration.

The Committee heard testimony from Dr. Schels and Ms. Grant, on behalf of the Administration. They explained that the Administration notified Mrs. Schur that her contract to coach the cross country team and the spring track team will not be renewed for 2026 because the Board would be obligated to compensate her, as a non-certified employee of the Board, on an hourly basis for her time spent as coach instead of paying her the established stipend for the position.

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The Committee heard testimony contesting the decision of the Administration from Mrs. Schur, and **supporting witnesses:** Michael Abraham (parent), Jason Orletski (parent), Niki Orletski (parent), Jason Dickey (parent), Scott Fitch (parent), Joy Ruppert (parent), Robert Ostrosky (parent), Joanne Sterk (parent); students Joseph Dickey, Molly Sedito, Evan Ruppert; and faculty member John Spear.

Attorney Sarah Westby offered clarification regarding the testimony of the supporting witnesses.

The Committee deliberated in private.

The Board announced its unanimous decision that that the Administration acted with due diligence and did not act arbitrarily or capriciously in its decision not to renew the coaching contract of Mrs. Schur for the reasons explained at the hearing. However, the Board asked the administration to revisit the issue to explore whether there might be a legal and contractual workaround, based on community concerns raised during the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.