

TOWN OF DURHAM - ETHICS COMMISSION

DURHAM TOWN HALL, 30 TOWNHOUSE ROAD, DURHAM, CT 06422

COMPLAINT PETITION – PAGE 1 OF 2

Print or type the following information:

Your Name: Anthony DeFilio

Your Address: 66 Cesca Lane, Durham, CT 06422

Telephone Number(s): (203)314 -8560 My attorney's telephone number is (203)265-2895

Email Address: anthony@defiliocpa.com My attorney's email address is ccf@fishbeinlaw.com

1. What is the full name of the person you believe has violated the Town Code of Ethics?

Lyndsay Dahlheimer

2. What position did this person hold at the time of the alleged violation?

Chair/Member of Board of Education

3. What **specific** section(s) of the Town Code of Ethics do you believe was violated?

§ 2-51 ("the independent and impartial clause" and § 2-53(c) "conflict of interest"

4. Date, time and place alleged violation(s) occurred:

At least July 16, 2025, as well as August 13, 2025.

5. Provide details on the alleged violation. Attach a statement of facts and circumstances, names and addresses of any witnesses and/or persons involved. Please note: Sufficient evidence must be provided in order for the Ethics Commission to evaluate acceptances of jurisdiction.

NOTE:

- 1) This complaint must be filed within 3 years from the date of the alleged violation.
- 2) This Complaint will not be effective unless it is properly signed, dated and witnessed, see (6) below.
- 3) The Durham Ethics Commission cannot act on any complaint that does not provide all the information requested on the Complaint Petition.
- 4) Once filed, the Complainant may not withdraw this Complaint.
- 5) The preliminary investigation into a complaint is confidential, unless the Respondent requests that it be open. Unless the Durham Ethics Commission advises you otherwise, the Complainant or Respondent shall not disclose the allegations in the complaint or any information supplied to or received from the Durham Ethics Commission during the investigation to any third party except as provided by appropriate statutory authority.

TOWN OF DURHAM - ETHICS COMMISSION

DURHAM TOWN HALL, 30 TOWNHOUSE ROAD, DURHAM, CT 06422

COMPLAINT PETITION – PAGE 2 OF 2

- 6) This complaint must be sworn to before:
- a) A judge of a court of record;
 - b) A clerk or a deputy clerk of a court having a seal;
 - c) A Town Clerk;
 - d) A notary public;
 - e) An attorney admitted to the bar of this state; or
 - f) A Justice of the Peace

OATH:

I, the person bringing this Complaint, do depose on oath or affirmation and say that the facts set forth in the foregoing Complaint and attachments thereto are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.


Signature Complainant

WITNESS:

Sworn before me this 15th day of August of 2025. I hereby certify that I hold a position described in 6) above, and if I am a notary public, my authority expires on 08-31-2028


Signature of witness Heidi Bagenski, Notary Public
My Commisison Expires: 08-31/2025

Send by Certified Mail or hand-deliver this request to the:
Chairman, Durham Ethics Commission
Durham Town Hall, 30 Townhouse Road, Durham, Ct 06422

Durham Ethics Commission use only:

Date Received Town Hall _____
Date received, Chairman DEC _____
Date of DEC initial review _____

DEC revised Jan/2010

DEC revised Feb 2021

ANTHONY DEFILIO : TOWN OF DURHAM
v. : ETHICS COMMISSION
LYNDSAY DAHLHEIMER, BOE : AUGUST 15, 2025

EXHIBIT LIST

- A. Agenda for Special Meeting of Regional School District 13 for July 16, 2025.
- B. Minutes of Special Meeting of Regional School District 13 for July 16, 2025.
- C. Agenda of Special Meeting of Regional School District 13 for August 13, 2025.
- D. BOE Policy 9367.

COMPLAINT

1. I, ANTHONY DEFILIO, the Complainant, am a resident of the Town of Durham, CT, residing at 66 Cesca Lane, Durham, CT 06422.
2. For the purposes of this Complaint, I am represented by Attorney Craig C. Fishbein of Fishbein Law Firm, LLC, 100 South Main Street, Wallingford, CT. Attorney Fishbein's telephone number is (203)265-2895 x112, and his email address is ccf@fishbeinlaw.com.
3. The Respondent LYNDSAY DAHLHEIMER, is also a resident of the Town of Durham, CT, residing at 62 Casa Lane, Durham, CT 06422.
4. At all times herein, the Town of Durham, is served by and through Regional School District 13 ("the District") for educational purposes.
5. District actions are directed through its Board of Education ("the BOE"), which is comprised of ten elected officials, elected by the public at large.

6. Within the Charter of the Town of Durham, specifically Sec. 2.1, titled “General town elections,” it is stated that :

A meeting of the electors of the Town of Durham for the election of the municipal officers shall be held biennially on the Tuesday following the first Monday of November in the odd-numbered years. At such meeting the following shall be elected on voting machines, between hours to be set in accordance with General Statutes:

- (1) A Board of Selectmen consisting of a First Selectmen and two additional members; a Town Clerk; a Tax Collector; a Town Treasurer, and two Registrars of Voters, all for terms of four years each.
- (2) Two members of the six-member Board of Finance for the term of six years each.
- (3) One member of the three-member Board of Assessment Appeals for the term of six years each.
- (4) Two or three regular members and one or two alternate members of the five member Zoning Board of Appeals for terms of four years.
- (5) Four or five regular members and one or two alternate members of the nine member Planning and Zoning commission, for terms of four years.
- (6) Sufficient members to maintain a full delegation to represent the town on the Regional District 13 Board of Education, for terms of four years each. (Emphasis added)**

7. On November 2, 2021, the voters of the Town of Durham elected the Respondent, LYNDSEY DAHLHEIMER (hereafter “Dahlheimer”), to serve on the BOE; and she was sworn into office the following month.
8. On July 10, 2024, Dahlheimer was voted in by her fellow board members as Chair.

9. Within the Ordinances of the Town of Durham, in Division Three, §§ 2-51 through 2-60, are contained what is known as the Durham Code of Ethics (“the Code”).
10. The Code states, specifically at § 2-51, titled “Statement of Purpose,” that:

The proper operation of the Town government requires that public officers, officials and employees be independent, impartial and responsible to the people; that governmental decisions and policies be made in the proper channels of governmental structure; that public office and employment not be used for personal gain; and that the public has confidence in the integrity of its government.
11. Further, it states in § 2-52, titled “Definitions,” that:

“Officer, Official or Employee of the Town” means, “Public officers, officials, or employees of the Town, and members of boards, committees and commissions;

“Personal Interest” means, “Any personal interest in any Town matter which goes beyond that of the public generally and shall include any interest arising from a blood or marriage relationship or close business association;” and that,

“Private Financial Interest” means “Any actual, or potential, economic gain in excess of that expected to be, or is, derived by members of the public generally and shall include the private financial interest of a spouse or minor child of an officer, official or employee of the Town.”
12. As an elected official of the Town of Durham, Dahlheimer is an officer, official or Employee of the Town for the purposes of the Town of Durham’s Code of Ethics.
13. Additionally, within § 2-53 of the Code, which is titled, “Standards of Ethical Conduct, specifically at subsection (c), it provides:

Conflict of interest: No officer, official or employee of the Town shall engage in any business, employment or transaction, or shall have a private financial

interest or personal interest, direct or indirect, which is incompatible with the proper discharge of his or her official duties in the public interest or which would tend to impair his or her judgment, independence or action in the performance of official duties.

And, within the same section, under what appears to be the heading “Disclosure and disqualification in matters involving a private financial interest or a personal interest” it says:

Any officer, official or employee of the Town who has a private financial interest or a personal interest in any matter coming before any board, commission, committee or agency of the Town shall make that interest known to such body. Such disclosure shall be included in the official record of the relevant board, commission, committee or agency.

Furthermore, if such officer, official or employee is a member of such body, he or she shall refrain from voting upon or otherwise participating in the body's consideration of the matter. No officer, official or employee of the Town shall appear for or represent any person in any matter pending before any board, commission, committee or agency of which he or she is a member. (Emphasis added.)

14. On June 23, 2025, Dahlheimer was served with a civil lawsuit instituted by Anthony DeFilio, head football coach at Coginchaug High School alleging that Dahlheimer, in her individual capacity, undertook harmful acts directed at DeFilio, attempting to get him fired from his job as and to place him in a bad light among his colleagues, superiors, players, and the players’ parents.
15. At no point in time did the district ever condone, nor authorize Dahlheimer’s actions.

16. On or about July 15, 2025, Dahlheimer, in her official capacity at Chair of the Board of Education, scheduled and announced a previously unscheduled, "Special Meeting" issuing an agenda related thereto. *EXHIBIT A*.
17. There were five substantive items on Dahlheimer's agenda, those below in bold are the subject of this complaint.
 2. **Approval of Agenda;**
 3. **Discussion of attorney-client privileged communication regarding indemnification of Board members (proposed for executive session);**
 4. Discussion of student matter (proposed for executive session)
 5. **Discussion and possible action on request for indemnification**
 6. **Discussion and possible action on request for investigation of Board member;**
18. At the July 16, 2025 special meeting, Dahlheimer presided over its entirety, announcing items, asking for motions and votes, tallying votes, and announcing the vote results. This was even though her Vice Chair, Robert Moore was also in attendance for its entirety.
19. During the meeting, upon vote called for by Dahlheimer, the BOE went into Executive Session for two hours, ostensibly to discuss items 3, 4, and 5. *EXHIBIT B*.

20. Following the BOE's Executive Session, it took up Item 5, and Dahlheimer presided over the motion to provide herself with use of BOE resources to protect herself from the DeFilio lawsuit. *EXHIBIT B*.
21. Initially, the motion was made by Vice Chair Moore, however there was not a second. Dahlheimer called for a second on the motion and members of the public objected orally. Eventually, a second was had, and the item passed by the BOE.
22. Even though the motion passed, the BOE never made (in public at least) a finding that Dahlheimer "was acting in the discharge of his or her duties or within the scope of employment or under the direction of such board of education" as required for such indemnification to be appropriate.
23. At no time during the meeting did Dahlheimer recuse herself from the matter in which she had a direct interest.
24. During the vote on the item, apparently Dahlheimer did not expressly vote, however due to a lack of recusal, due to BOE Policy 9367¹, "[a] member may abstain from voting (with the knowledge that the effect is the same as if the Board member had voted on the

¹ *EXHIBIT D*.

25. Therefore, due to Dahlheimer's failure to recuse herself, and in the wake of her apparent silence, by BOE policy she voted in the affirmative on a matter in which she has a direct interest.
26. The next item addressed by the BOE was whether or not to add to the next regular meeting agenda, and item to conduct an investigation of Dahlheimer as a Board Member. Once properly before the body, Dahlheimer called for a voice vote on the motion, and it passed, apparently unanimously.
27. Once again, with this agenda item directed solely at Dahlheimer, she did not recuse herself from the vote, and according to BOE Policy 9367 her silence converted into an affirmative vote on an agenda item in which she has a direct interest.
28. Following this special meeting, having secured her own personal benefit from her position as BOE Chair, Dahlheimer resigned as Chair of the BOE.
29. As a result of the above-described vote regarding a possible investigation, on the BOE agenda for its next meeting (August 13, 2025), there appeared an item "Discussion of Investigation of Board Member (proposed for Executive Session)."
30. At the August 13, 2025 meeting, presided over by the new BOE Chair, a motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss the item – the issue being whether or not to order an investigation of Dahlheimer.
31. Once again, Dahlheimer did not recuse herself from the vote, and it passed by voice vote, apparently with Dahlheimer's support given BOE policy 9367.

32. Following passage of the motion, the Board (including Dahlheimer) left the meeting room and went into Executive Session to discuss, outside of the public eye, whether or not to order an investigation of Dahlheimer.
33. Following the Executive Session, there was a motion made to investigate Dahlheimer, and voice vote took place, during which Dahlheimer expressly stated that she was abstaining from the vote. The remainder of the BOE voted against the investigation.
34. As a result of Dahlheimer's abstention, in conjunction with Board Policy 9367, her action had the effect of her voting against an investigation of herself.
35. Dahlheimer's actions on behalf of herself were and are in direct conflict with her sworn duties as an elected public official, Dahlheimer knew of the significant conflicts, or she should have recognized such, and totally distanced herself from any aspect of the various matters complained of herein.
36. Dahlheimer's actions undermine the integrity of government, diminish the actions of elected officials in the eyes of the public at large, and ultimately violate the Town of Durham's Code of Ethics.

For all of the above reasons, I respectfully request that the Town of Durham's Ethics Commission find that Board of Education Member Lindsay Dahlheimer violated the Town of Durham's Code of Ethics, and that she be punished accordingly.

I hereby submit this complaint under the penalties of false statement.



ANTHONY DEFILIO
COMPLAINANT

Personally appeared ANTHONY DEFILIO, proven to me to be the same, and sworn to the fact that he believes the content of the complaint to be accurate to the best of his knowledge and belief, and submits the same under the penalties of false statement.



Heidi Bagenski

Notary Public

My Commission Expires: 08-31-2025



EXHIBIT A

Regional School District 13
Board of Education Special Meeting Notice
July 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education will meet in special session on Wednesday, July 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the library Coginchaug Regional High School.

Empowering Students to Thrive and Contribute as Global Citizens

Agenda

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Discussion of attorney-client privileged communication regarding indemnification of Board members (proposed for executive session)
4. Discussion of student matter (proposed for executive session)
5. Discussion and possible action on request for indemnification
6. Discussion and possible action on request for investigation of Board member
7. Public Comment
8. Adjournment

Public comment is limited to three minutes per speaker. As specified by board policy, Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings, the chairman of the board may at their discretion restrict, extend or curtail comments at any time. All comments must refer to the educational program of RSD 13 and conform in manner and content to the district's core ethical values. Comments at the beginning of the meeting are limited to items on the meeting agenda. It is board practice not to respond to comments during the meeting.

The Regional School District 13 community honors, upholds, and models the core ethical values of respect, responsibility, honesty, kindness, and courage.

Remote Access Instructions for the July 16, 2025 Special Board of Education Meeting

Zoom Video Information

Click on this

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81452348887?pwd=3jdEeqkjbFvIjGbnNfgYSLBL5GY2SXm.1>

Passcode: 224442

When prompted, enter your full name and email address

Click continue

Zoom Audio Only Information

Call 646-558-8656 or 646-931-3860 (Zoom offers several phone numbers in the event of high call volume)

Enter Webinar ID: 889 3055 1034 and press #

Passcode: 224442

Press # again when asked for participant ID

YouTube Live Stream View Only Information

<https://youtube.com/live/NXIW4tTCHZ8?feature=share>

Public comment is limited to three minutes per speaker. As specified by board policy, Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings, the chairman of the board may at their discretion restrict, extend or curtail comments at any time. All comments must refer to the educational program of RSD 13 and conform in manner and content to the district's core ethical values. Comments at the beginning of the meeting are limited to items on the meeting agenda. It is board practice not to respond to comments during the meeting.

The Regional School District 13 community honors, upholds, and models the core ethical values of respect, responsibility, honesty, kindness, and courage.

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education met in special session on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, at 7:00 PM in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Board members present: Mrs. Caramanello (arrived late), Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella (arrived late, via Zoom), Mr. Roraback, Mr. Stone
Board members absent: None.

Guest: Mr. Thomas Mooney, Shipman & Goodwin

Administration present: Dr. Leggett, Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Dahlheimer called the special meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda

Dr. Darcy made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to approve the agenda, as presented.

In favor of approving the agenda, as presented: Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Moore, Mr. Roraback, and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Executive Session

- **Discussion of attorney-client privileged communication regarding indemnification of Board members (proposed for executive session)**
- **Discussion of student matter (proposed for executive session)**
- **Discussion and possible action on request for investigation of Board member**

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Dr. Darcy, to enter into executive session for the discussion of the attorney-client privileged communication regarding indemnification of Board members, the discussion of student matter, and the discussion and possible action on request for investigation of a Board member.

In favor of entering into executive session for the discussion of the attorney-client privileged communication regarding indemnification of Board members, the discussion of student matter, and the discussion and possible action on request for investigation of a Board member: Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. DelVecchio, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Roraback, and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

The Board of Education then moved into Executive Session. Invited into Executive Session were Dr. Sydney Leggett, Superintendent, and Mr. Tom Mooney, attorney. Mr. Mooney left the Executive Session at 8:47 pm.

The Board of Education returned from Executive Session at 9:07 PM.

Discussion and possible action on request for indemnification

Mr. Moore stated that, in accordance with Connecticut General Statutes Section 10-235, the Board of Education has approved Mrs. Dahlheimer's request to be indemnified in her role as Board Chair.

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mennone, to approve the indemnification of the Board Chair, Mrs. Dahlheimer.

Mrs. Cowan noted to community members that anything said during executive session cannot be repeated. Mrs. Cowan also stated that she personally believes it is very difficult to distinguish the difference between how a person acts in a Board role versus as a parent/resident of the district.

Mrs. Petrella explained that individuals appointed to public positions may, at any time, face the risk of being sued for statements or votes that others may disagree with. She emphasized the importance of indemnification as a form of protection, noting that such coverage depends on whether the actions in question were carried out with malice.

Mrs. Caramanello explained to her personally there is a difference between having a role on the Board of Education and general decisions made. Those decisions can subject a person to retaliation from the community or prove to be inappropriate.

ROLL CALL VOTE: In favor of approving the indemnification of the Board Chair, Mrs. Dahlheimer

- Mrs. Caramanello: Nay
- Mrs. Cowan: Nay
- Dr. Darcy: Aye
- Mr. DelVecchio: Nay
- Mr. Mennone: Aye
- Mr. Moore: Aye
- Mrs. Petrella: Aye
- Mr. Roraback: Aye
- Mr. Stone: Aye

Result: Motion passed (6 Ayes, 3 Nays).

Discussion and possible action on request for investigation of Board member

Dr. Leggett explained the process and legal issues surrounding the investigation of a Board of Education member. A complaint would need to be issued to Dr. Leggett with specific evidence and then the Board of Education would place that complaint on the agenda to discuss and review in executive session. If an investigation is held and there are no findings, business proceeds as usual. If an investigation is held and there are findings of wrongdoing, there are two outcomes. The first option would be for the Board to add a separate agenda item to consider removing the member from their officer position. The second option would be for the Board to discuss and vote on whether to issue an official censure of the member. Dr.

Leggett noted there is no action that the Board can take that will remove a member from the Board. The only two ways for a member of the Board to be removed is if the Board member is not re-elected or if they are no longer a resident of the district.

Mr. DelVecchio made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to add the investigation of a Board member as an agenda item for the next Board of Education meeting.

All in favor of adding the investigation of a Board member as an agenda item for the next Board of Education meeting: Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Dr. Darcy, Mr. Memnone, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

Public Comment

A. In-person Public Comment

Karen Buckley, from Durham, inquired as to why Mrs. Dahlheimer did not remove herself from the room when the Board went into executive session so as to not duly influence the discussion. She also questioned whether the agenda item "Discussion and possible action on request for investigation of Board member" was spoken about in executive session, seeing as how it was said during the meeting that it was part of the executive session but not noted on the agenda. Dr. Leggett explained that Board of Education members do not need to leave the room during discussion. Secondly, she noted that the agenda item Mrs. Buckley referenced was discussed during the executive session but remained on the agenda to allow for the sharing of specific information with the public.

Juliana DeFilio, from Durham, voiced concerns over abuse of power and harassment. Ms. DeFilio believes that the actions taken by the Chair toward Coach Anthony DeFilio were separate from her duties on the Board of Education. She expressed her disappointment regarding the vote, noting that she believes it does not represent the community.

Tyler Meeker, from Durham, requested that a member of the Board who voted in favor explain their position, specifically how they believe this action will benefit the town.

Craig Bradanini, from Durham, stated that he and the community members are in attendance tonight in support of students, families, and community members. Mr. Bradanini emphasized the importance of leaders being held accountable for their actions, ensuring that the values instilled in the students are consistently upheld by those who serve the schools.

Ryan Walsh, from Middlefield, stated that culture is set by what leadership is willing to tolerate. Mr. Walsh expressed his disappointment that the Chair will not listen to community feedback. He believes the Board Chair has set an authoritarian culture of fear, mistrust, and division. Mr. Walsh explained that the members of the Board have an opportunity to set a course for an improved culture where the community can mend and grow. Mr. Walsh urged the Board members to remove the Chair.

Elizabeth Shoudy, from Durham, expressed concerns over text messages. Ms. Shoudy urged the Chair to resign, stating that she believes it is what's best for the community.

Jennifer Sass, from Durham, expressed that the Board Chair had made remarks to her that she found unkind. Ms. Sass stated that her son was spoken about in a hostile manner by the Board Chair. She also questioned the Board as to how much the attorney will cost and if insurance will cover it.

Christina Levesque, from Middlefield, thanked the three Board members who voted against the indemnification. Ms. Levesque stated that she believes that the Chair has demeaned the Board members and should no longer be protected. She stated that the Chair's actions have caused harm to the community and expressed her belief that any fiscal responsibility resulting from those actions should rest solely with the Chair. She also expressed that the Board of Education's valuable resources should be given to real matters and discussions that will better the community. Ms. Levesque called for the removal of the Chair.

Tyler Meeker, from Durham, expressed his disappointment at the lack of eye contact from the Chair during public comment. Mrs. Dahlheimer assured Mr. Meeker that she is listening to everything that is being said.

Thomas Hanchuruck, from Durham, called for the Chair to resign.

Meaghan Onofrio, from Durham, called for the Chair to resign.

Karen Buckley, from Durham, asked the Board to answer questions that the public has asked them during this meeting. Mrs. Buckley also inquired as to whether or not the Chair will be involved in the discussions on future agendas regarding the investigation, suggesting that Mrs. Dahlheimer recuse herself. Dr. Leggett explained that if a Board member is under investigation they will recuse themselves from any actions. Due process requires that the Chair be present during certain portions of the investigation. Mrs. Buckley expressed concerns about taxpayer money going toward two attorneys for the Chair and Board. Dr. Leggett noted that, in general terms, indemnification is covered by school insurance. Anything personal or private will be separate. Mrs. Buckley inquired about the amount that the school insurance will cover. Dr. Leggett responded that she does not have an exact amount to share. Mrs. Buckley suggested that an amount be shared at the next Board meeting. She also recommended that the financial aspects of the Curriculum Director position be re-evaluated.

Julie Sass, from Middlefield, stated that the Board members should be doing what is best for the children and community. Mrs. Sass also expressed concern that her children would not be treated fairly by the Board because of the actions of the Chair. She encouraged the Board to change the Chair's responsibilities.

Jason Levesque, from Middlefield, expressed concern that the Board is not focusing on the children. Mr. Levesque called for the Chair to resign.

Juliana DeFilio, from Durham, inquired about the school insurance coverage for the attorneys. Ms. DeFilio asked for clarification on what qualifies as personal or private matters. She also expressed concern over a lack of accountability from the Chair.

Nicholas Constantino, from Durham, expressed disappointment at the lack of eye contact from the Chair during public comment.

Jeff Quinn, from Durham, thanked the Board of Education for giving community members the opportunity to speak. Mr. Quinn praised Coach DeFilio, noting the amount of effort he puts in every day for the children. Mr. Quinn noted that he believes there is no support from the Board Chair.

Dominic DelVecchio, from Durham, explained that the general statute pursuing indemnification indicates that the Board member must be acting in a discharge of her duties or within the scope of employment or under the direction of such Board of Education. Mr. DelVecchio asked the members of the Board who supported the indemnification if they believed that the Chair sought the opinion of the Board or discussed these matters with the Board of Education. He asked if the Chair requested a vote or motion for the support. Mr. DelVecchio believes that the Chair's actions are those of a private citizen, a parent regarding concern for their own children, and not in her official capacity as Board Chair. He suggested the Board members reread and reflect on the language of the statute.

Elaine Diaz, from Middlefield, expressed concerns over unkind comments made about her by the Chair.

Thomas Hanchuruck, from Durham, asked the members of the Board who voted to approve the indemnification to explain their reasoning. He asked for the Chair to resign.

Skyler Kaczor, from Durham, stated that he graduated with the class of 2025 and was a member of the football team. Mr. Kaczor expressed disappointment with the Chair's actions regarding the football coaches. He also noted that he believes the Board does not act with judgement or care for the community.

Carmen DeFilio, from Durham, has been playing football for four years at Coginchaug High School. Mr. DeFilio expressed disappointment at the Board of Education in regard to the handling of the situation at hand.

A.J. DeFilio, from Durham, spoke positively about his father, Coach Anthony DeFilio. Mr. DeFilio also expressed his concerns about the Board Chair's actions.

Emily Smith, from Durham, thanked the members of the Board who voted against the indemnification. Ms. Smith noted that she would continue to fight for her father, Coach Smith, and Coach DeFilio.

Dalton Bates, from Durham, stated that as a former Coginchaug football player he had nothing but good experiences with the coaches. Mr. Bates noted that he has seen no support from the Board of Education and believes it has ruined the district.

Jen Smith, from Durham, explained that her husband, Coach Bill Smith, was one of the coaches targeted with allegations made by the Chair at the school and also state level. Mrs. Smith emphasized the negative effects of false accusations. She also stated that the degrading comments made by Mrs. Dahlmeier were not made as a Board Chair, but rather as a private citizen.

Skyler Kaczor, from Durham, expressed his support for Coach DeFilio and Coach Smith.

B. Remote Public Comment

Ed Remillard, from Durham, explained that he believes he has seen the Board of Education, including the Chair, do tremendous things for the students that other Boards would not have been able to accomplish. He stated examples including Pickett Road, the fieldhouse, athletic lighting, the new track, and the full-time athletic trainer now on staff. Mr. Remillard complimented the Chair and noted that she has the courage to make tough decisions. Tyler Meeker, from Durham, expressed (in person) that he believes Mr. Remillard is friends with the Chair and has used inappropriate language with him in the past.

Katie Ayotte, from Durham, noted that in the last Board meeting there was discussion about using restorative practices in the schools. Ms. Ayotte explained some of the key components to restorative practices, including building healthy relationships, reducing and preventing harmful behaviors, repairing harm and restoring positive relationships, resolving conflict and holding individuals accountable for their actions, and addressing and discussing the needs of the school and community. Ms. Ayotte stated that she believes the Board is not practicing these principles currently.

Adjournment

Dr. Darcy made a motion, seconded by Mr. DelVecchio, to adjourn the special meeting of the Board of Education.

In favor of adjourning the special meeting of the Board of Education: Mrs. Caramanello, Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Dahlheimer, Mr. Mennone, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Petrella, Mr. Roraback and Mr. Stone. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Scarozzo

EXHIBIT C

Regional School District 13
Board of Education Meeting Notice
August 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.

The Regional School District 13 Board of Education will meet in regular session on Wednesday, August 13, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the library Coginchaug Regional High School.

Empowering Students to Thrive and Contribute as Global Citizens

Revised Agenda

1. Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Election of Officers
4. Student Presentation - Senior Class President
5. Public Comment - at the beginning of the meeting public comment shall refer to items on the agenda
 - A. In-person public comment
 - B. Remote public comment (please go to www.rsd13ct.org or the end of the agenda for instructions on how to participate)
6. Approval of Minutes
 - A. Board of Education Regular Meeting - July 9, 2025
 - B. Board of Education Special Meeting - July 16, 2025
7. Superintendent's Report
8. Chairman's Update
9. Staff Reports
 - A. Director of Finance – Kim Neubig
10. Update on Strong/Memorial Projects
11. Board Communications and Professional Development

Public comment is limited to three minutes per speaker. As specified by board policy, Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings, the chairman of the board may at their discretion restrict, extend or curtail comments at any time. All comments must refer to the educational program of RSD 13 and conform in manner and content to the district's core ethical values. Comments at the beginning of the meeting are limited to items on the meeting agenda. It is board practice not to respond to comments during the meeting.

The Regional School District 13 community honors, upholds, and models the core ethical values of respect, responsibility, honesty, kindness, and courage.

12. Committee Reports

- A. Building Committee Special Meeting - July 29, 2025

13. New Business and Possible Votes

- A. NEASC Final Transmittal Letter and Collaborative Conference Report
- B. Discussion of School District Resolution Procedure
- C. Proposal for Long-Term Substitute Rates
- D. Discussion of Investigation of Board Member (proposed for Executive Session)

14. Public Comment - at the end of the meeting public comment shall refer to items not on the agenda

- A. In-person public comment
- B. Remote public comment (please go to www.rsd13ct.org or the end of the agenda for instructions on how to participate)

15. Adjournment

Public comment is limited to three minutes per speaker. As specified by board policy, Public Participation at Board of Education Meetings, the chairman of the board may at their discretion restrict, extend or curtail comments at any time. All comments must refer to the educational program of RSD 13 and conform in manner and content to the district's core ethical values. Comments at the beginning of the meeting are limited to items on the meeting agenda. It is board practice not to respond to comments during the meeting.

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Remote Access Instructions for the August 13, 2025 Board of Education Meeting

Zoom Video Information

Click on this

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81654915521?pwd=16wjxUrVRabZ9PAvQrlbzaiSOAvWrS.1>

Passcode: 703396

When prompted, enter your full name and email address

Click continue

Zoom Audio Only Information

Call 646-558-8656 or 646-931-3860 (Zoom offers several phone numbers in the event of high call volume)

Enter Webinar ID: 816 5491 5521 and press #

Passcode: 703396

Press # again when asked for participant ID

Dial *9 anytime to "raise your hand" to indicate to the host that you wish to speak during public comment

When called upon, dial *6 to unmute yourself

YouTube Live Stream View Only Information

<https://youtube.com/live/XTUPWP0mTcl?feature=share>

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BYLAWS OF THE BOARD

QUORUM AND VOTING PROCEDURES

1. Quorum:
 - A. The majority of all members of the Regional School District 13 Board (the "Board") shall be necessary to constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
 - B. If, in accordance with applicable law, the Board provides Board members the opportunity to participate in meetings by means of electronic equipment, the Board is not required to adjourn or postpone a meeting if a Board member loses the ability to participate because of an interruption, failure, or degradation of that member's connection by electronic equipment, unless the member's participation is necessary to form a quorum. If a quorum of the Board members attend a meeting, other than an executive session, by means of electronic equipment from the same physical location, members of the public must be permitted to attend such meeting in such physical location.
 - C. If, in accordance with applicable law, the Board holds a meeting solely by means of electronic equipment, and if a quorum of Board members attend a meeting by means of electronic equipment from the same physical location, the Board shall permit members of the public to attend such meeting in such physical location.
2. Voting Procedures:
 - A. No member can vote on a question in which the Board member has a direct personal or pecuniary interest.
 - B. Members may vote for themselves for any office or other position.
 - C. While it is the duty of every member who has an opinion on a question to express it by vote, a Board member cannot be compelled to do so.
 - D. A member may abstain from voting (with the knowledge that the effect is the same as if the Board member had voted on the prevailing side).
 - E. The votes of each member of the Board upon any issue before the Board shall be recorded in the minutes of the session at which taken.
 - F. Board members shall have the opportunity to explain their votes, with the explanation to be recorded in the minutes.

POLICY 9367

- G. Any vote taken at a meeting during which a Board member participates by means of electronic equipment shall be taken by roll call, unless the vote is unanimous.

Legal References:

Public Act 22-3, "An Act Concerning Remote Meetings Under the Freedom of Information Act."

Bylaw Approved:	January 16, 1972
Bylaw Reaffirmed:	April 29, 1992
Bylaw Revised:	November 13, 2002
Bylaw Reaffirmed:	September 8, 2014
Bylaw Revised:	June 5, 2024