

The Regional District 13 Board of Education School District Climate Committee met in special session on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Committee members present: Dr. Darcy, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback (entered at 4:14 p.m.)

Community members present: Mrs. Almodovar

Community members absent: Mr. Larsen

Administration present: Dr. Leggett, Superintendent of Schools; Mrs. Keane, Director of Student Services and Special Education and Mrs. Neubig, Director of Finance

Dr. Darcy called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public comment

There was no public comment.

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Petrella made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Cowan, to approve the agenda as presented.

All in favor of approving the agenda as presented: Mrs. Almodovar, Dr. Darcy, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Motion passed.

Wellness Policy Review

Mrs. Neubig presented the district Wellness Policy for the committee to review and determine which Wellness Policy items are currently being implemented and identify items for revision or removal from policy. No vote was required.

The committee members reviewed the district's Wellness Policy requirements, focusing on Nutrition Education and Promotion and Physical Activity components. Most items are being implemented districtwide through nutrition education covered in health classes, literacy posted in flyers in cafeterias and school health offices, as well as literature sent home to families, and various school activities and partnerships with community health agencies. Some areas were identified for improvement, including increasing healthy-eating resources on the food service website, creating a student health council, offering more staff wellness opportunities, exploring Screen-Free Week activities, and investigating bike safety partnerships.

Review of Beginning of Year Behavior Data

Dr. Leggett presented the district's new K–12 behavior data system using the LinkIt platform, provided updates on challenging behavior reports, and discussed the ongoing work to improve school climate through restorative practices and the district's core ethical values. The data categorizes the following information: Incidents by school, Incidents by grade level, Incidents by location, Basic concern categories (disrespect, disruption, insubordination, cell phone violations, plagiarism, etc.), and Core Ethical Values violated.

The Committee Members reviewed the first round of district-wide behavior data, noted trends (e.g., elevated incidents in Kindergarten and Grade 8, significant bus-related behaviors), and requested additional data points for future reporting—particularly around student counts, incident clustering, escalated behaviors, SRO involvement, and interpretation of consequences, in which restorative practices emphasize learning-focused consequences rather than punitive responses. Data will be reviewed at every meeting so the committee can continue to monitor and to review areas of improvement as well as the areas that need to be addressed to support student needs.

Review of School Climate Guidelines

Dr. Leggett asked committee members to review the school district climate committee folder before the next meeting. The goal is to develop a comprehensive document that encompasses all the elements of school climate work.

Outline Meeting Schedule Topics by Quarterly Meetings

The committee continued its discussion on setting standardized agenda items for future meetings. Members emphasized the importance of regularly reviewing building-level efforts that support student belonging, especially during sensitive times such as the holiday season. The committee discussed district initiatives tied to restorative practices and core ethical values, as well as the need to measure progress through a consistent, homegrown climate survey. Concerns about survey anonymity, return rates, and methods of administration were addressed. The district has worked to address these concerns by using SurveyMonkey as an anonymous source for collecting data. Members also raised the importance of including regular updates on bullying and challenging behaviors. Dr. Darcy reminded members to send additional topics for future agendas.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Mrs. Cowan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Moore, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Almodovar, Dr. Darcy, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Cowan, Mrs. Petrella and Mr. Roraback. Motion passed; meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Meghan Shortell-Fratantonio