

The Regional District 13 Board of Education School Naming Committee met in special session on Wednesday, October 14, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Committee Members Present: Mrs. Cowan, Ms. Kahnke, Mrs. Longley, Mr. Padilla, Mrs. Marteka, and Mr. Moore

Committee Members Absent: Mrs. Eddinger, Ms. Lynch, and Mrs. Schlicker

Administration Present: Dr. Leggett, Superintendent of Schools

Mrs. Cowan called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Public Comment

Approval of Agenda

Mrs. Kahnke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Longley, to approve the agenda as presented.

All in favor of approving the agenda as presented: Mrs. Cowan, Ms. Kahnke, Mrs. Longley, Mr. Padilla, and Mr. Moore. Motion passed.

Approval of Minutes – April 29, 2026 and May 13, 2026

Mrs. Longley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Padilla, to approve the April 29, 2026 and May 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented.

All in favor of approving the April 29, 2026 and May 13, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented: Mrs. Cowan, Ms. Kahnke, Mrs. Longley, Mr. Padilla, and Mr. Moore. Motion passed.

Discuss Mascot Naming

The committee plans to reopen suggestions for a school mascot now that the school's name is official, then narrow the ideas to three options for students and staff to vote on. Voting may use clear ballot boxes for younger students and a Google Form for others, with the goal of making the process transparent and inclusive. Separately, Dr. Leggett is working with a community knitting group that is exploring making acorn hats for next year's kindergarten class.

Discuss Naming of Common Areas

The committee discussed assigning the gym, cafetorium, and library to honor Lyman, Brewster, and Korn, but wants to learn more about each person's history before deciding which name fits each space or whether to seek community input. Committee members also revisited having high school students develop mascot designs after the mascot is chosen, with younger students voting on the final design. Committee members will check with the art teachers about what's feasible.

Before moving to Public Comment, the committee summarized next steps: send a survey for mascot suggestions, meet again in a few weeks to narrow the options, and then hold a school-wide vote. The committee will also develop a question about naming the common areas and revisit it at the next meeting.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

Mrs. Kahnke made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Longley, to adjourn the meeting.

All in favor of adjourning the meeting: Mrs. Cowan, Ms. Kahnke, Mrs. Longley, Mr. Padilla, Mrs. Marteka, and Mr. Moore. Motion passed and the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted by Meghan Shortell-Fratantonio