Regional District 13 **Board of Education** **October 28, 2026**
School District Climate Committee

The Regional District 13 Board of Education School District Climate Committee met in regular session on Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 4:00 p.m. in the library at Coginchaug Regional High School.

Committee Members Present: Dr. Darcy, Mrs. Almodovar, Mr. Moore, and Mrs. Petrella (arrived 4:03)
Student Member: Madison Allen
Committee Members Absent: Mr. Finch and Mrs. Cowan
Administration Present: Dr. Leggett, Superintendent of Schools

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

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Almodovar, to approve the agenda as presented.

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

Discussion and Action Items

Creation of Climate Survey

The committee discussed setting clear goals for the climate survey and separating questions into long-term measures, such as belonging, safety, and trusted adult connections, and shorter-term topics like workload, stress, inclusion, bullying, and awareness of core ethical values. Ms. Allen emphasized that student experiences vary widely and suggested gathering input from a broader range of students, balancing extracurricular opportunities, and sharing survey results in a way that shows students their feedback leads to action.

The committee agreed to share survey findings with students in accessible, school-specific ways so they can see how their feedback is being used. A survey for students, a survey for families, and a survey for staff will be developed. Drafts will return for review and student feedback before the spring survey.

Presentation of Behavior and Attendance Data

The committee reviewed the Behavior and Attendance Data. From the start of the school year through October 15, the district recorded 101 behavior incidents involving 55 K–12 students, excluding preschool and MTA; 31 incidents involved students with an IEP or 504 plan. Middle school had the most incidents (53), followed by high school (28), and elementary school (20). The committee noted that subjective categories, especially insubordination and disrespect, may be applied inconsistently, and administrators will continue working to calibrate staff reporting. Members also discussed incident locations, bathroom concerns, and the plan to include room-clear data in future reports.

September attendance was reported by school over 23 school days, excluding preschool, COG Academy, and MTA. Attendance rates ranged from 95% at the high school to 97.8% at Brewster. The district will review and share attendance data monthly. The committee discussed that students reaching five absences may receive a supportive home visit from the SRO and a school administrator or counselor, and the district is working with DMYFS through a new grant on strategies for chronic absences and tardiness. Committee members requested high-school tardiness data by grade, and the district plans to use this year to research and build a more structured attendance approach for next year.

Input on Committee Work for 26-27

The committee members discussed their goals, which include meaningful student input, not just survey review. Members discussed organizing student-led focus groups or school visits, with volunteers given simple prompts and encouraged to listen. They also considered ways to gather high school students' perspectives through advisory without adding another survey, including questions on assessment workload. The committee hopes to develop the focus-group plan at the next meeting, review what students share at a later meeting, and use that input to guide future recommendations and work.

Approval of Minutes – June 3, 2026

Mr. Moore made a motion, seconded by Dr. Darcy, to approve the June 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented.

All in favor of approving the June 3, 2026 Meeting Minutes as presented: *Dr. Darcy, Mrs. Almodovar, Mrs. Petrella, and Mr. Moore. Motion passed.*

Public Comment

Lindsay Dahlheimer requested a review of anonymous reporting data at the next meeting, including whether reports have been received and how useful they've been. The district agreed to prepare the information. Dr. Leggett noted that only a few reports have come in so far this year, though the system received more reports last year.

Adjournment

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

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

Respectfully submitted by Meghan Shortell-Fratantonio