



Meeting Minutes for November 25, 2025

10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

Blake Room at Somers Public Library

Members and Staff in Attendance: Margot Martello, Dr. Jaime Rechenberg, Kim Littig, Gail Tishler, Kevin Dowe, Maureen Parsell, and Matthew Cox

Matthew called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Approval of Meeting Minutes: Margot moved to approve the minutes of the meeting of October 28, Kim seconded the motion. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

#### Sector Reports:

##### **Student Support & School Climate**

Dr. Rechenberg reported significant progress in building trust with SHS students. More students are now reporting incidents of feeling targeted or taunted based on race, ethnicity, gender, LGBTQ status, and other factors. A staff team has been formed to address inappropriate behaviors; support affected students and promote a more inclusive school culture.

She also requested updated restroom and hallway posters on the dangers of vaping, increased substance potency, and the physiological impacts of toxins on adolescent development.

##### **Middle School & Teen Center Updates**

Margot noted that the new middle school cell phone policy continues to be successful, with fewer in-school issues related to social media. She highlighted the Teen Center's ongoing role as an inclusive, supportive after-school environment.

In partnership with SHINE, motivational speaker and former MLB player Lance Thonvold will lead three sessions at SHS on December 1st—one each for high school students, middle school students, and faculty/staff. SHINE will also fund stipends for academic help after school.

A parent inquiry about support for a student caught vaping at home prompted discussion; Matthew encouraged referral to the Health Futures program and suggested contacting Arianna after Thanksgiving.

##### **Curriculum & Student Wellness**

Margot shared that The Network Against Domestic Abuse completed a four-week program on boundaries and healthy relationships. The curriculum was well received. The next session will focus on "ending relationships with grace," will begin for 8th graders in January.

Kevin reported rising levels of student anxiety across all schools, especially at the middle and high school levels, including an increase in home visits, missed school, and in disenrollments due to anxiety. Dr. Rechenberg and Margot agreed that student anxiety was a growing concern.

**Community Safety & Education**

Kim recommended hosting SHINE-led displays or an informational event with law enforcement to help parents identify various drug-related delivery devices, hiding methods, and disguised substances.

She also noted that toy donations to the annual Stuff-a-Cruiser program will begin after Thanksgiving and an E-Bike Safety Training class, offered in collaboration with Youth Services, will be held in January.

Adjournment: With no further business or announcements, Maureen moved, and Kevin seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Matthew Cox