

**MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

**October 17, 2024
Via Zoom**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Carly Lavin (remote) and James Muse (remote).

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools (remote) and Melissa Wilcox, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent (remote).

Ms. Lavin called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Nelson introduced the budget process for FY2026. He shared the FY25 Budget Presentation and the approved FY25 budget for reference. He reminded the school committee of an upcoming Massachusetts Association of Regional Schools (M.A.R.S) meeting entitled [Uniting to Raise Awareness of the Financial Challenges Faced by Districts in Hold Harmless Status](#) which he had shared with all school committee members across our schools because each district is currently in ‘hold harmless’ status. This means the current Chapter 70 funding formula from the state is not meeting the needs of our schools and students.

Superintendent Nelson and the school committee agreed that last year the budget process with the Town was productive. He added that similar budget drivers will be factors again this year, such as special education costs, transportation and salaries. An increase in salaries will be budgeted as negotiations will take place this year with the Mattapoissett Educators Association. He also informed the school committee that there are no retirees at this time. He added that many items over the last few years were supported by grant funding, including curriculum initiatives and technology. This grant funding has decreased recently and will need to be accounted for during budget preparations.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Lavin and Mr. Muse agreed they would like the administration to share all of their requests. The school committee will provide feedback as well for consideration throughout the budget process for FY2026.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Motion by Mr. Muse

Motion Seconded by Ms. Lavin

Motion Passed 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael S. Nelson
Superintendent