

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

AMENDED

**School Committee Budget Forum &
Listening Session**

6:00PM

School Committee Business Meeting

7:00PM

Monday, October 21, 2024

SC Packet Checklist: NPS SC Budget Forum & Listening Session Presentation

SC Business Meeting Agenda October 21, 2024

SC Business Meeting Agenda Notes October 21, 2024

SC Warrant October 21, 2024

SC Business Meeting Minutes October 7, 2024

School Council / School Improvement Plan Links List

MASC Resolutions 6 thru 10

ADDED

A photograph of a white building with a clock tower and a golden dome against a clear blue sky. The building features a prominent clock tower with a golden dome and a balcony. The clock face is black with gold Roman numerals and hands. The building is set against a clear blue sky. The text "NPS School Committee Budget Forum & Listening Session" is overlaid on the left side of the image in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the main title, the text "Fall 2024" is displayed in a smaller, bold, black font.

NPS School Committee Budget Forum & Listening Session

Fall 2024


**What guides our
budget decisions?**



Guided by a Portrait of a Graduate Vision

- ◆ Literate across all disciplines
- ◆ Socially, emotionally, physically well
- ◆ Cooperative, collaborative problem-solver
- ◆ Engaged civically
- ◆ Prepared for life after graduation


PORTAIT OF A GRADUATE
ROURKE LEE
 Class of '25



At NHS, I have pursued honors level and AP level classes in math, science, and Spanish. I have met many friends through the swim and tennis teams and am part of the student council and government where I have a voice for my class and school. Through an NHS opportunity, I am currently working on a climate change awareness project with a college professor.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 724** Miles I've walked to and from school since 6th grade
- 05155** The ZIP code of the first ski mountain I skied at
- 2019** The year I moved to Newburyport in 6th grade



PORTAIT OF A GRADUATE
SOFIE LAFRANCHISE
 Class of '25




My fifth grade teacher infused me with a love of writing and reading through class book groups, story time, and continuous encouragement as we learned how to write persuasive essays and short stories. Community service has taught me how I can contribute to my community as an adult, as well as the impact I can make as a student. In addition, my involvement with Poetry Soup has taught me how to express myself and be civically engaged.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 2** Times I have seen the Boston Symphony Orchestra
- 5** Cats I've had during my life
- 11** Historical fiction novels I've read




PORTAIT OF A GRADUATE
SASHA LEYDON
 Class of '24



I am passionate about mental health awareness, medicine, equality in healthcare, and women's rights. With the support of the NHS College and Career Center, I worked at an infectious disease office at Newburyport, which confirmed my desire to go into medicine.

BY THE NUMBERS

- 8** Dual Enrollment classes I have taken
- 2** Internships (Chem lab w/ Taggart, CID at AJH)
- 100+** Students I've led in mental health advocacy activities



Focused on our REIMAGINE Strategies

REIMAGINE

Teaching & Learning

Supports so All Students can Learn

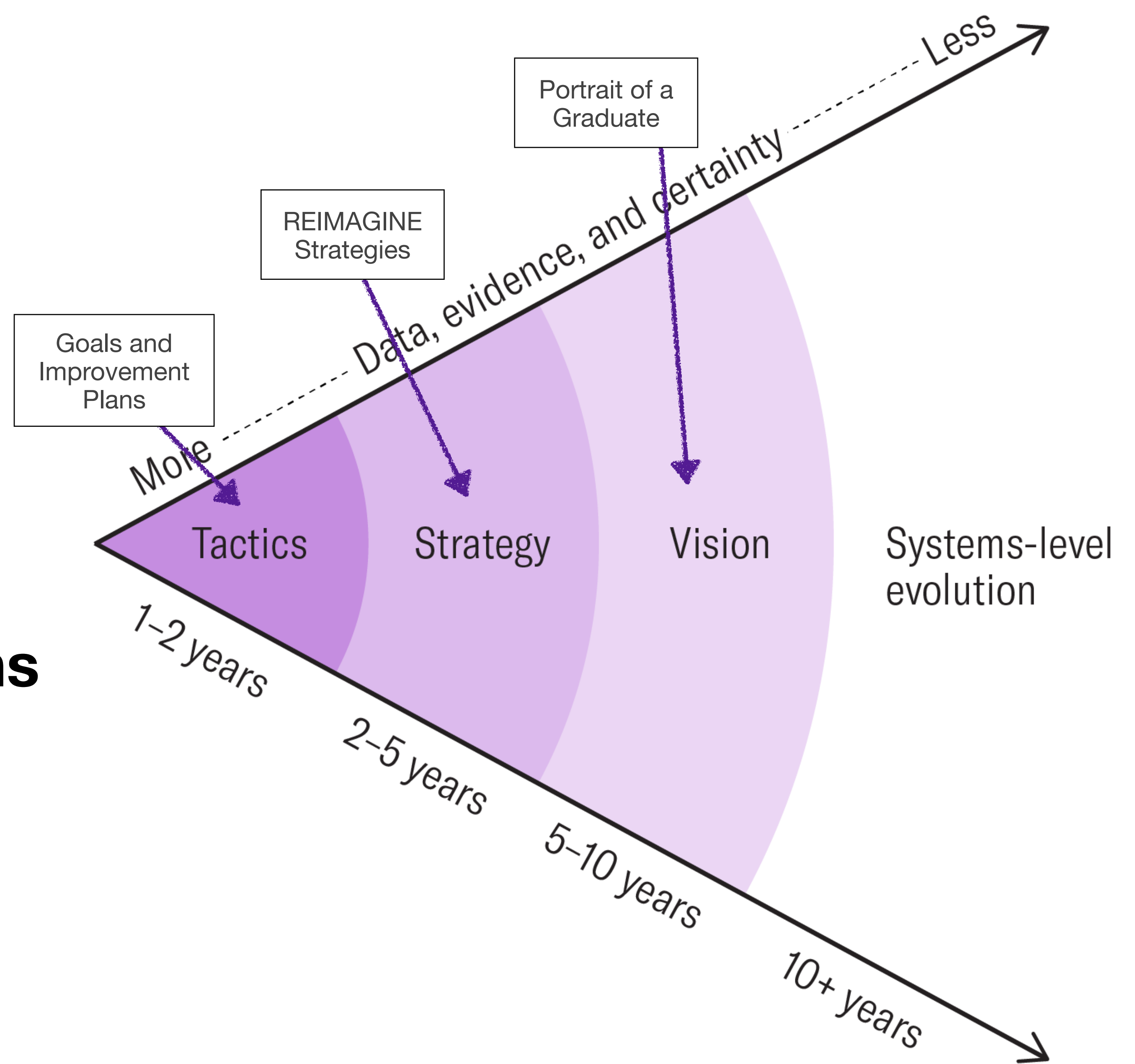
Culture of Discovery & Achievement

Organizational Design & Operations

Active Community of Stakeholders

We bring the strategic plan to life through our daily work.

**School Improvement Plans
Administrator Goals
Educator Goals**



Understanding the Budget Basics Video



FY25 Budget Details

- ◆ The full FY25 budget can be found on the [NPS Website](#)
- ◆ Within the budget, you will find **5 Cost Centers**
 1. System
 2. NHS (9-12)
 3. Nock Middle (6-8)
 4. Molin Upper Elementary (4-5)
 5. Bresnahan Elementary (PK-3)
- ◆ Each school has a budget based on **School Improvement Plan** goals that can be found on the [NPS Website](#)

FY26 Budget Process

There are many iterations to get to an adopted budget.

1. **What are the vision, strategy and goals for FY26?** What are our shared priorities (District, Schools, School Councils, community)?
2. **Level Services:** What would it cost to provide the same level of services and programs in FY26 as we have in FY25?
3. **What expenses are not flexible?**
 - Salaries, contractual obligations
 - Mandated Programs
 - Facility operational costs
4. **What are our expected revenues?** (City, grants, fees, reimbursement programs, tuition, school choice. Etc.)
5. **What are our priorities?** (School Improvement Plans, Student Needs, Community Interest)

**What are your
interests and
priorities?**



Newburyport Public Schools
School Committee Budget Forum / Listening Session (6:00PM)
and
School Committee Business Meeting (7:00PM)
Monday, October 21, 2024

Library @ High School – 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

The Mission of the Newburyport Public Schools, the port where tradition and innovation converge, is to ensure each student achieves intellectual and personal excellence and is equipped for life experiences through a system distinguished by students, staff, and community who: - practice kindness and perseverance - celebrate each unique individual - value creativity; experiential, rigorous educational opportunities; scholarly pursuits; and life-long learning - provide the nurturing environments for emotional, social, and physical growth - understand and embrace their role as global citizens.

Please note: The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. The meeting will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 & streamed via <https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/>.

School Committee Budget Forum / Listening Session

1. Presentation

School Committee Business Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. *Consent Agenda (Warrant and 10/7/24 Minutes) – *possible Vote*
4. Student Representative Report
5. Newburyport’s Whittier School Committee Reps - Check-in
6. School Councils / Principals Update
7. *Review MASC Resolutions 6 thru 10 – *possible Vote*
8. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Juliet Walker
 - c. Communications Subcommittee – Andy Boger
9. Superintendent’s Report
10. New Business
11. Executive Session – *Vote for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and/or legal matters, and will not reconvene in Open Session.*

Adjournment

*Possible Vote

The School Committee reserves the right to call **executive session, as provided under Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2), of the General Laws to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations, collective bargaining and/or potential litigation.

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and
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Monday, October 21, 2024
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AGENDA NOTES

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. The meeting will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 or stream via <https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/>.

School Committee Budget Forum / Listening Session

1. School Committee will have a short presentation describing the budget basics, followed by conversation related to the budget process, along with an opportunity for audience input and Q&A.

School Committee Business Meeting Agenda

3. Consent Agenda (Warrant & minutes 10/7/2024) – *possible Vote*
4. Student Representative Report: *NHS student representative will provide the report.*
5. Newburyport's Whittier School Committee Reps - Check-in
Brett Murphy and Mary DeLai, Newburyport's representatives on the Whittier Regional School Committee, will provide an update regarding recent school business.
6. School Councils / Principals Update: *Building principals and their School Council will present membership information, plans for the year and School Improvement Plan goals.*
7. *Review MASC Resolutions 6 thru 10 – *possible Vote*
MASC Resolutions 6 through 10 will be reviewed and members will decide if they wish to support the resolutions or not.
8. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Juliet Walker
 - c. Communications Subcommittee – Andy Boger
9. Superintendent's Report: Superintendent's Advisory Council, Business Manager Update, NHS Media Lab
10. New Business
11. Executive Session – *Vote*
for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and/or legal matters, and will not reconvene in Open Session.

FYI: Upcoming Dates:

- ✓ **Communications Subcommittee meeting:** Thursday, October 24 @6:30pm
- ✓ **CISL meeting:** Monday, October 28 @ 6:00pm
- ✓ **Bresnahan School Council meeting:** Tuesday, October 29 @ 8:10am
- ✓ **Superintendent's Advisory Council:** Tuesday, October 29 @ 6:30pm
- ✓ **NHS Parent Teacher Night:** Wednesday, October 30 @ 5:00-8:00pm
- ✓ **School Committee Business meeting:** Monday, November 4 @ 6:30pm @ NHS Library
- ✓ **Early Release Day:** Tuesday, November 5

*Possible Vote

School
Committee
Warrant

FY25-WARRANT 8133

FY24-WARRANT 8134

A-WARRANT

October 21, 2024

Warrant 8133	\$ 570,677.75
Warrant 8134	\$ 1,472.30
A-Warrant	\$ 6,648.00

TOTAL of Warrant **\$ 578,798.05**

Newburyport Public Schools

School Councils / Principals Update

Links to the School Councils and School Improvement Plans

Newburyport High School Council

<https://www.newburyport.k12.ma.us/Page/184>

Rupert A. Nock Middle School Council

<https://www.newburyport.k12.ma.us/Page/183>

Edward G. Molin School Council

<https://www.newburyport.k12.ma.us/Page/182>

Francis T. Bresnahan School Council

<https://www.newburyport.k12.ma.us/Page/185>

RESOLUTION 4: SCHOOL BUS STOP ARM SURVEILLANCE ACT AND ENFORCEMENT PENALTIES

(Sponsored by the Peabody School Committee)

WHEREAS it is against the law in Massachusetts to pass a stopped school bus with the stop arm extended and flashing lights while student passengers embark and disembark the bus. Unless witnessed by a police officer, the penalties for passing a stopped school bus are minimal. The danger to the passengers is extraordinary, and can prove fatal; and

WHEREAS a survey conducted in 2022 by the National Association of State Directors of Public Transportation Services (NASSDPTS) found that motorists illegally pass stopped school buses: "Throughout a 180-day school year sample results point to more than 41.8 million violations per year among America's motoring public;" and,

WHEREAS technical advances have now made public digital video violation detection monitoring systems to detect drivers failing to stop for school busses; and

WHEREAS penalties for passing a stopped school bus utilizing a digital video violation monitoring system need to be commensurate with the same penalties imposed for such action if witnessed by a police officer.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Massachusetts legislature to enact legislation to pass into law the ability for cities and towns to install on all school busses live digital video detection monitoring systems for the purpose of enforcing violations against the owner of a motor vehicle whose vehicle failed to stop for a school bus when required to do so by law.

SPONSOR RATIONALE: The significant safety concerns present when a vehicle passes a stopped school bus embarking or disembarking passengers are endangering our students in Massachusetts. Presently, unless witnessed by a police officer, the penalties for passing a school bus are minimal. If the registration plate of the offending vehicle is reported by the bus driver, there is a minimal fine.

Requiring a police officer to witness the violation prevents appropriate law enforcement action from taking place, especially for repeat offenders. Allowing the installation and utilization of digital video detection monitoring systems on school buses will allow for appropriate law enforcement action, provide for monitoring and data pertinent to this safety concern, and serve as a deterrent to drivers who are contributing to this safety issue. Protecting the safety of our students is a paramount concern.

RESOLUTIONS ON SCHOOL FINANCE

RESOLUTION 5: ALIGNING TAXING AUTHORITY WITH THE REQUIRED LOCAL CONTRIBUTION

(Sponsored by the Arlington School Committee)

WHEREAS Massachusetts General Laws (M.G.L. Ch. 70, Section 2), establishes a required local contribution which defines a minimum appropriation for education; and

WHEREAS one element of determining the required local contribution is local effort from property wealth, determined using a municipality's equalized valuation; and

WHEREAS the ability of municipalities to raise revenue is constrained by Proposition 2½ (M.G.L. Ch. 59, Sect. 21C) which limits the increase in levy limits by 2½% (plus new growth); and

WHEREAS the total statewide required local contribution in FY22 was \$6,827,673,657, in FY23 it was \$7,166,744,291, an increase of \$339,070,634 (4.97%); and

WHEREAS the total statewide required local contribution in FY23 was \$7,166,744,291, in FY24 it was \$7,566,302,116, an increase of \$399,557,825 (5.58%); and

WHEREAS the total statewide required local contribution in FY24 was \$7,566,302,116, and the FY25 Preliminary Chapter 70 Aid and Net School Spending Requirements released by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education is projected to be \$7,969,443,892 an increase of \$403,141,776 (5.33%); and

WHEREAS increases in required local contributions in excess of 2.5% strains the budgets of municipalities without excess levy capacity,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls for the enactment of legislation that would increase a municipality's levy limit by the amount of increase of the required local contribution in excess of 2.5%, granting the municipality the ability to raise local revenues mandated by M.G.L. Ch. 70.

RESOLUTION 6: SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE THE FISCAL HEALTH OF RURAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

(Sponsored by the Deerfield, Sunderland, Whatley and Frontier Regional School Committees)

WHEREAS rural school districts in Massachusetts face daunting threats to their financial sustainability and thus to their ability to provide rural students with the same quality of educational opportunity enjoyed by students in other parts of the state; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth has rightly touted the state's significant increase in education funding following passage of the 2019 Student Opportunity Act (SOA), however the most needy rural and declining enrollment districts have received less than 1% of that increase in funding; and

WHEREAS no fewer than four recent state and legislative commissions have reviewed the looming crisis facing rural schools and concluded that rural school districts are seriously under-resourced and under-funded; and

WHEREAS the most recent of these commissions was specifically created by the SOA "...to study and make recommendations concerning the long-term fiscal health of rural school districts that are facing or may face declining student enrollment...," including recommendations for, among other things, "expanding the rural school aid grant program" and "establishing and including a low and declining student enrollment factor within the foundation budget;" and

WHEREAS in its final report, issued in December 2022, the Commission on the Fiscal Health of Rural School Districts concluded that districts with very low student enrollments cost 16.7% per student more to operate than the state average and that small K-12 regional school districts cost 22.7% per student more to operate than their larger counterparts; and

WHEREAS rural school districts have closed schools, regionalized and shared services with other districts wherever possible in an effort to remain viable and serve their students.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC urges the Legislature to pass comprehensive legislation encompassing all recommendations from the Legislative Commission on the Fiscal Health of Rural Schools report: A Sustainable Future for Rural Schools.

RESOLUTION 7: FULLY ADJUSTING CHAPTER 70 AID FOR INFLATION (Sponsored by the Everett School Committee)

WHEREAS Chapter 70 of the General Laws provides a structure for allocation of school aid based on the Foundation Budgets that reflects the needs and costs for Massachusetts school districts; and

WHEREAS the "Foundation inflation index" is an essential element of the school aid formula needed to maintain the purchasing power of district Foundation Budgets; and

WHEREAS the Chapter 70 Section 2 definition of the Foundation inflation index limits each annual adjustment to no more than 4.5% when inflation exceeds that amount; and

WHEREAS application of that limit or cap on the Foundation inflation index in fiscal years 2023 and 2024 has reduced the base used to calculate Foundation Budgets for fiscal year 2025 and future years by about 6% below what is needed to maintain the purchasing power of Massachusetts schools; and

WHEREAS a legislative change is needed to (1) fully reflect recent inflation in the Chapter 70 definition of the Foundation inflation index and (2) to eliminate the cap in future years, so as to restore the purchasing power of district Foundation budgets to reflect the intended resource allocations of the Student Opportunity Act.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC calls on the Massachusetts Legislature to advance legislation mandating Inflation Index "Catch Ups" to Chapter 70 Foundation Aid that fully accounts for realized inflation that has occurred since the passage of the Student Opportunity Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC work with the Massachusetts Legislature to ensure in future years where realized inflation is above the 4.5% annual inflation cap, in subsequent years, Inflation Index "Catch Ups" are made to Chapter 70 aid and that realized inflation is used in the formulas to calculate Chapter 70 aid in perpetuity.

RESOLUTION 8: EQUITABLE FUNDING FOR NON-REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH HIGH TRANSPORTATION COSTS

(Sponsored by the Plymouth School Committee)

WHEREAS many non-regional school districts face significant financial burdens due to the extensive transportation costs and longer routes required to serve their students; and

WHEREAS non-regional school districts do not receive financial reimbursement benefits as regional districts do, which creates an imbalance in funding and resources; and

WHEREAS providing equitable financial support to non-regional school districts will help ensure that all students in the state receive an equal opportunity for quality education; and

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Massachusetts is committed to promoting fairness and equity in education and recognizing the unique challenges faced by non-regional school districts.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State recognizes the financial challenges faced by many non-regional school districts, due to their higher transportation costs and longer routes. The State acknowledges that non-regional school districts should have access to financial support similarly to regional districts, when costs are extraordinary. A special fund shall be established to provide financial assistance to non-regional school districts with higher transportation costs. This fund shall be known as the "Extraordinary Routes Relief Fund."

The funds provided through this program shall be used exclusively to offset transportation costs, including but not limited to, the purchase and maintenance of buses, fuel costs, and driver salaries.

Eligible non-regional school districts may apply for grants from the "Extraordinary Routes Relief Fund" to cover a portion of their transportation-related expenses.

An oversight committee, composed of representatives from non-regional school districts, regional districts, and the State's education department, shall be established to ensure the fair and transparent allocation of funds from the "Extraordinary Routes Relief Fund."

The State shall conduct an annual review of the effectiveness and impact of this resolution to ensure that non-regional school districts are receiving adequate support to address their transportation challenges.

RATIONALE: Reimbursement suggestion: Circuit Breaker-Like Component:

- Create a "Circuit Breaker" threshold for exceptionally high busing costs, similar to Massachusetts' approach for special education expenses.
- Once a district's transportation costs exceed a certain percentage (e.g., 125%) of the statewide average, they become eligible for additional reimbursement.
- The state would reimburse a percentage (e.g., 40%) of the excess costs beyond the threshold.

Annual Reporting and Adjustment:

Require school districts to submit annual reports detailing their actual busing costs, the number of buses used, and the miles traveled. Based on these reports, adjust the reimbursements for each district to ensure they are aligned with actual expenses.

This approach provides a systematic and fair process to reimburse school districts with extraordinary expenses, similar to the Circuit Breaker process for special education expenses in Massachusetts. The specific percentages, thresholds, and additional rates can be adjusted as needed to suit the State's budget and educational priorities.

VOCATIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOL GROUP

RESOLUTION 9: MSBA GRANTS EVALUATION FOR CHAPTER 74

(Sponsored by the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee)

WHEREAS Chapter 74 Vocational-Technical & Agricultural High Schools incur higher costs to build Chapter 74 educational training spaces; and,

WHEREAS MSBA currently assesses all school building projects at equal value; and,

WHEREAS Vocational-Technical & Agricultural High School renovation/building costs are disbursed to sending districts impacting local budgets.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature and MSBA to create an evaluated-tiered system to separately assess the cost of (1) elementary, (2) comprehensive high schools, and (3) vocational, technical and agricultural schools, resulting to true cost reimbursement for each school category.

RESOLUTION 10: EXPANSION IN CAPACITY IN CHAPTER 74 VOCATIONAL TECHNICAL PROGRAMS

(Sponsored by the Tri-County Regional Vocational Technical High School Committee)

WHEREAS Chapter 74 vocational-technical schools in Massachusetts are experiencing unprecedented applications for admission and more students from their sending districts are being waitlisted; and,

WHEREAS students applying from sending districts being waitlisted is preventing non-member and school choice students from attending; and,

WHEREAS there are 92 schools in Massachusetts that have Chapter 74 programs, but there are gaps across the Commonwealth where students do not have access to a Chapter 74 program school; and,

WHEREAS Chapter 74 schools serve a higher percentage of students with IEPs and 504s, and who are more economically disadvantaged than their sending districts, and, Massachusetts is in need of more skilled trade workers to keep pace with both the growth of industry and the retirement of the current workforce, and, all students in Massachusetts deserve the opportunity to pursue the best secondary education available.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to support the expansion of capacity at the current Chapter 74 schools, and to work with districts that lack access to vocational technical schools to create programs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the legislature to convene a special commission to consider changes to the current law and regulation relating to the overall authority of the Massachusetts School Building Authority, alternative overall financing structures, standards for project eligibility, appropriate financial assistance based on the nature of the school in the projects being considered, potential differential requirements for elementary, middle schools, comprehensive high schools, and vocational technical and agricultural schools, and other such matters as affects vocational and technical education.

EXPIRING RESOLUTIONS

The 2023 Delegate Assembly approved an amendment to the By-Laws that resolutions will expire at the conclusion of the Delegate Assembly three years after their adoption. Expiring resolutions may be reconsidered and readopted by the delegates at the annual meeting at which the resolutions would expire. The rationale for the amendment was that it:

- Permits three years of focus on resolutions which overlaps two legislative cycles.
- Provides an additional opportunity for school committees to be involved in the resolution process by championing resolutions that are set to expire.
- Allows the Association to affirm what's important to the current membership by re-adoption.
- Clears expired, less relevant, or no longer supported resolutions for new priorities.