

**MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE MINUTES**

January 21, 2025

Hybrid Meeting at Superintendent's Conference Room

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

ADMINISTRATORS PRESENT: Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools (in-person); Howard Barber, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations (in-person), Shari Fedorowicz, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning (in-person); Jaime Curley, Assistant Superintendent of Student Services (in-person); Linda Ashley, Principal –Center School (in-person); Stephanie Wells, Principal – Old Hammondtown School (remote).

Ms. Lavin called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:

Superintendent Nelson shared the goal of the meeting was to determine the preliminary draft FY2026 budget to share with Town Officials. Presently, the draft FY2026 budget is \$8,676,993 for level services. Mr. Barber shared summary information that explained the draft budget increase of \$612,560 was made up primarily of the following; \$302,138 increase in mandated expenses for tuition programs in special education, \$128,287 increase in Center School compensation based on contractual obligations, \$71,242 increase in Old Hammondtown School compensation based on contractual obligations and a decrease of \$44,810 in funding offsets.

Next, the administration reviewed the needs excluded from the proposed operating budget including increasing the Reading Specialist at Old Hammondtown School by .2FTE to become a full-time position, increasing the Math Specialist at Center School by .3FTE to become an .8FTE position and including an allocation of funding for math curriculum. The administration is monitoring current enrollment projections for the 2025-2026 school year and there are no known retirements to be accounted for.

School Committee Feedback:

Ms. Lavin and Mr. Muse agreed with submitting a level service draft budget to Town Officials but also to include their top three priorities of needs excluded from the proposal budget, which are increasing the Reading Specialist, increasing the Math Specialist and supporting math curriculum needs. The school committee discussed the need to have high-quality math curriculum in order to maintain progress for students and provide a strong math education, as the current math curriculum is no longer on the State's high quality list. Ms. Lavin and Mr. Muse agreed that the level service number is not ideal, but they agreed their responsibility is to support the students in Mattapoisett having the best education.

Motion by Mr. Muse to support sharing the level service preliminary FY2026 operating budget along with the top three priorities excluded with Town Officials.

Motion Seconded by Ms. Lavin
Motion Passed 2-0.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.
Motion by Mr. Muse
Motion Seconded by Ms. Lavin
Motion Passed 2-0.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "M~N~".

Michael S. Nelson
Superintendent