

**MATTAPOISETT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**Mattapoisett, Massachusetts**  
**BY: HYBRID FORMAT**

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**May 8, 2025**

Regular meeting of the Mattapoisett School Committee was held on Thursday, May 8, 2025, and called to order by Chairperson Carly Lavin at 12:07pm. Chairperson Lavin stated the meeting is being conducted via hybrid format and the public has the ability to participate remotely through zoom with the link provided.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Carly Lavin, Chairperson (remote), James Muse (remote), Cristin Cowles (remote) and Amanda Hastings (remote).

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jack LeBrun

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Michael S. Nelson, Superintendent of Schools; Dr. Linda Ashley, Principal – Center School; Stephanie Wells, Principal – Old Hammondtown School and Melissa Wilcox, Recording Secretary (all remote).

**MEETING TO ORDER:**

Chairperson Lavin stated in accordance with Massachusetts Open Meeting Law, the Agenda has been set, the meeting is being recorded, and unless there are any emergencies that need to be added, the Agenda will be followed as outlined.

**IV. General**

**A. Approval of Donation(s)**

Recommendation:

That the School Committee review a donation of \$82,000 to the Mattapoisett School District for salary expenses for a second-grade teacher at Center School for FY2026.

Superintendent Nelson explained that since the last meeting, the District has received an anonymous donation in the amount of \$82,000 to cover salary costs for a second-grade teaching position at Center School for Fiscal Year 2026. He continued that this very, very generous donation will prevent eliminating one staff member for FY2026 but he did want to be very clear that it is a one-time, one-year solution, and not additional funds added to the operating budget. He added the donation information was shared with the Town Administrator and Town Counsel and they did confirm the school committee could consider the donation.

School Committee Discussion:

Ms. Lavin thanked Superintendent Nelson for his information as she was going to ask if legal counsel reviewed the donation.

Ms. Cowles confirmed the 'grant terms' are the second-grade teacher parameters as listed on the donation check.

Superintendent Nelson confirmed.

Mr. Muse shared his gratitude and also reiterated this is a one-time fund and it is not a solution for declining enrollment in the schools.

Ms. Lavin thanked the generous donor again.

MOTION to accept the donation of \$82,000 to the Mattapoisett School District for salary expenses for a second-grade teacher at Center School for FY2026.

MOTION: James Muse

SECONDED: Carly Lavin

MOTION PASSED: 4:0

ROLL CALL: Lavin (yes); Muse (yes); Cowles (yes); Hastings (yes)

**ADJOURNMENT:**

That the School Committee adjourn the Regular Session of the Mattapoisett School Committee at 12:10pm.

MOTION: James Muse to adjourn at 12:10pm

SECONDED: Amanda Hastings

MOTION PASSED: 4:0

ROLL CALL: Lavin (yes); Muse (yes); Cowles (yes); Hastings (yes)

Respectfully Submitted,

Melissa Wilcox, Recording Secretary