

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

School Committee
Budget Listening Session - 6:00PM
&
Business Meeting - 7:00PM

Monday, November 3, 2025

SC Business Meeting Agenda November 3, 2025

SC Business Meeting Agenda Notes November 3, 2025

SC Warrant November 3, 2025

SC Business Meeting Minutes October 20, 2025

FY26 Qtr 1 Budget Report

MASC Resolutions

Policies – 1st Read

IKF - Graduation Requirements & Competency Determination Policy

EEAA – Walkers and Riders

GBEE – Personnel Use of Technology

IJND – Access to Digital Resources

IJNDC – Acceptable Use of Digital Resources

KDCB – District Website and Social Media

Superintendent's Report

Newburyport Public Schools
School Committee FY27 Budget Listening Session (6:00PM)
and
School Committee Business Meeting (7:00PM)

Monday, November 3, 2025

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

link to School Committee Business Meeting only

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89812191027?pwd=hBQcWK0AEnkapGlwMYdskf0f8xxZAO.1>

Meeting ID: 898 1219 1027 Passcode: 432727

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://nemhub.org/share/channel-9/>.

School Committee FY27 Budget Listening Session (6:00PM) (in person only)

School Committee Business Meeting Agenda (7:00PM) (in person & virtual)

1. Call to Order
2. Public Comment
3. *Warrant – *possible Vote*
4. *Meeting Minutes 10/20/2025 – *possible Vote*
5. School Committee Student Representative Report
6. FY26 Qtr 1 Budget Report
7. Graduation Requirements & Competency Determination Policy (IKF) – 1st read
8. *MASC Resolutions Review – *possible Vote*
9. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Kathleen Shaw
 - Proposed new and/or changes to the following policies – *1st read*
 - EEAA – Walkers and Riders
 - GBEE – Personnel Use Of Technology (NEW)
 - IJND – Access to Digital Resources
 - IJNDC – Acceptable Use of Digital Resources
 - KDCB – District Website and Social Media (NEW)
 - c. Communications Subcommittee – Sarah Hall
 - d. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – Breanna Higgins
10. Superintendent's Report
11. New Business

* Possible Vote

Adjournment

** 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.

Newburyport Public Schools
School Committee FY27 Budget Listening Session (6:00PM)
and
School Committee Business Meeting (7:00PM)

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AGENDA NOTES

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School Committee FY27 Budget Listening Session (6:00PM) (in person only)

School Committee Business Meeting Agenda (7:00PM) (in person & virtual)

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Comment
3. *Warrant – *possible Vote*
4. *Meeting Minutes 10/20/2025 – *possible Vote*
5. School Committee Student Representative Report
High school students will provide the student report.
6. *FY26 Qtr 1 Budget Report*
Finance Director Ethan Manning will present the Quarter 1 Budget Report for FY26. (attached)
7. Graduation Requirements & Competency Determination Policy (IKF) – 1st read
Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong will review the new Graduation Requirements & Competency Determination Policy. (attached)
8. *MASC Resolutions Review - *possible Vote*
School Committee members will review resolutions that will be presented at the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. Members will vote if they wish to support the resolution or not. (attached)
9. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Kathleen Shaw
 - Proposed new and/or changes to the following policies – *1st read*
 - EEAA – Walkers and Riders
 - GBEE – Personnel Use of Technology (NEW)
 - IJND – Access to Digital Resources
 - IJNDC – Acceptable Use of Digital Resources
 - KDCB – District Website and Social Media (NEW)
 - c. Communications Subcommittee – Sarah Hall
 - d. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – Breanna Higgins

10. Superintendent's Report: *Essex County Asset Builder Breakfast, Our Neighbors Table Annual Breakfast, Rotary's Dictionary Distribution, and DESE On-site Circuit Breaker Audit*
11. New Business

* possible vote

- FYI: Upcoming Dates:**
- ✓ Early Release Day: Tuesday, November 4
 - ✓ NHS School Council meeting: Tuesday, @ 5:00PM
 - ✓ NEF Auction: Saturday, November 8 @ 6:00PM
 - ✓ Veteran's Day – closed: Tuesday, November 11
 - ✓ Joint Meeting City Council & School Committee: Tuesday, November 18 @ 6:00PM
 - ✓ Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meeting: Thursday, November 19 @ 6:00PM
 - ✓ SEPAC meeting: Thursday, November 19 @ 6:00PM
 - ✓ Finance Subcommittee meeting: Thursday, November 20 @ 8:30am
 - ✓ Bresnahan School Council: Tuesday, November 25 @ 8:10AM

School Committee

Warrant(s)

November 3, 2025

Warrant 8166 FY26	\$ 366,822.82
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A-Warrant(s)	<u>\$ 3,248.98</u>
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Total of Warrants:	\$ 370,071.80
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NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Monday, October 20, 2025

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Vice Chair Juliet Walker called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call found all members present except Mayor Sean Reardon, Brian Callahan and Breanna Higgins. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments: none

Warrant

On a motion by Andrew Boger and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$502,616.74 as presented.

Warrant 8165 (FY26)	\$456,489.71
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 8,566.71</u>
	\$502,616.74

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon, Brian Callahan, Breanna Higgins absent

Minutes

Motion:

On a motion by Kathleen Shaw and seconded by Andrew Boger it was

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the October 6th School Committee meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon, Brian Callahan, Breanna Higgins absent

Student Representative Report

Maddie Jackman provided the student report which included the Bresnahan's upcoming costume parade and Caregiver Conversations Coffee Hour on October 29th, Molin Parent Conferences on November 12th & 18th, town hall styled meetings at the Nock, and the NHS Band performance with the UMASS band on October 18th. (attached)

MCIEA Presentation

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong and Dr. Tom Abrams presented a background of work being done in the district over the past year with the Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment (MCIEA). They reviewed the School Quality Measure Framework, including categories, indicators and data sources that inform the SQM. An overview of the dashboard was provided, along with a review of the timeline through March 2027 and school-level focus areas.

Budget Listening Session

The School Committee will hold the FY27 Budget Listening Session on November 3, 2025 at 6:00PM in the high school library. Superintendent Gallagher will email event information to the PTO and Superintendent's Advisory Counsel. Ethan Manning will provide a budget overview video.

November 17th School Committee Meeting

School Committee members discussed canceling their business meeting scheduled for November 17, 2025 as the City Council has a meeting on the same night. If necessary, a business meeting could be scheduled after the Joint City Council/School Committee meeting on November 18th.

Motion:

On a motion by Andrew Boger and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

VOTED: not to have the November 17th School Committee meeting.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon, Brian Callahan, Breanna Higgins absent

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Andrew Boger stated the next meeting will be held on Thursday, October 23, 2025 at 8:30AM.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw stated the committee will meet in January.

Communications Subcommittee

Sarah Hall said they will not meet in October. The next meeting will be in November.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins stated they met on October 15th. The meeting consisted of an MCIEA presentation by Lisa Furlong and Dr. Tom Abrams.

Superintendent's Report

Assessment Data Presentation Plan: The district's MCAS Assessment Data will be presented to the Teaching & Learning Subcommittee on November 19th, then to the School Committee on December 1st. School Improvement Plans will be presented to School Committee on December 15th.

Ad-Hoc Superintendent Advisory Council Meeting: The SAC held their first meeting on October 7th. Members reviewed the District Improvement Plan, brainstormed ideas to communicate more effectively with the community, and discussed setting up an ad-hoc committee to look at AI. The Superintendent will work with Marianne Vesey to speak about NPS at the Senior / Community Center.

FY26 Innovation Career Pathways Implementation Grant Meeting: The Superintendent announced that NHS was awarded an additional \$50K to support current Career Pathways. They are also applying for two new pathways: Multi Media Productions & Broadcasting and Early Childhood. The district is also exploring an upcoming Capital Skills Grant opportunity.

Federal Layoffs at DESE: Superintendent Gallagher shared Governor Maura Healey's news release regarding Federal layoffs at the Department of Education, which also contained a list of the various departments impacted by the layoffs.

Congratulations NHS Teacher AJ Smith: The Superintendent congratulated NHS Art Teacher AJ Smith on the publication of his children's picture book, "Catnip Mouse".

New Business: none

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Kathleen Shaw it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:37PM.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon, Brian Callahan, Breanna Higgins absent

Submitted by: Madison Jackman

Location: Newburyport High School Library

Bresnahan News:

We are getting ready for our annual costume parade on Halloween! All parents and guardians are invited to attend along the sidewalk between Door 1 and Door 4.

We are also hosting our second Caregiver Conversations Coffee Hour next Wednesday 10/29 at 8:45 in the Bresnahan cafeteria. This conversation will be centered around our standards-based report card. We will be discussing how to interpret the standards based scoring and parents will have the opportunity to connect with our instructional coaching team. All caregivers are invited to join!

Molin News:

Molin Parent Conferences are Wednesday, November 12th and Tuesday, November 18th. Please contact your child's teacher to schedule one.

Molin 5th graders and Nock 8th graders are "Molin Buddies" again this year. They meet monthly to build connections, share experiences, and learn from one another.

Molin 4th graders had a successful trip to Spencer-Peirce-Little Farm participating in their educational program about archaeology that ties into their social studies curriculum.

Nock Middle School News:

October Sock Drive at the Nock! Our student leaders were excited to kick off this year's October Drive, and we need your help to reach our goal of collecting 2,000+ pairs of socks. In partnership with Pettengill, we've learned that socks are the most urgently needed item for those in need. In fact, 2,000 pairs typically last less than 72 hours once distributed — that's how great the need is. All donations are welcome. Please drop off new socks at the main office anytime during the drive. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

Lately, students have been leaving school on early release days happier than ever — and it's not just because we're heading out at 11 AM! The real reason is the awesome community time we share during the last 30 minutes of the day.

Everyone, students, teachers, and staff comes together for town hall-style meetings where we:

Share updates and celebrate good news, Go over expectations, and Recognize and celebrate classmates who show the Nock values of Kindness, Responsibility, Awareness, and Respect. These moments have brought the Nock community even closer together — and it's something we all look forward to every early release day!

High School News:

On Saturday, October 18th, the NHS band travelled to Amherst to perform on the field with the UMass band and 2000 other high school band members during the halftime of a football game. The rose early for the long drive, rehearsed all morning with the giant band, performed to wild enthusiasm and applause from the football audience, and stayed for a performance by the amazing UMass band. It was a long but very successful and educational day!

The Global Scholars Club and members of the Global Citizenship Program volunteered at the Indigenous Peoples Day Festival on Oct 11th. This was a great way to connect their hands on work helping with the "mishoon" (dugout canoe) as they got to participate in its launch into the Merrimack River. Students also assisted Indigenous performers, story tellers, and crafts people and worked with the organizers of the event.

Last week during the onward block the entire school participated in an activities fair to practice networking as well as encouraging more students to get involved in a school activity.



Newburyport Public Schools FY2026 Q1 Budget Report

October 28, 2025

FY25 to FY26 First Quarter Spending Comparison

General Fund Appropriation (Regular Budget)

	FY25 Revised Budget	FY25Q1 Actual	FY25 % Spent	FY26 Revised Budget	FY26Q1 Actual	FY26 % Spent	Variance (%)
5-Personnel							
19-Bresnahan School	7,889,738	725,600	9.2%	8,675,022	729,626	8.4%	-0.8%
39-E.G. Molin Upper Elementary	3,763,980	363,237	9.7%	3,686,767	369,521	10.0%	0.4%
59-Middle School	6,013,448	549,404	9.1%	6,212,638	610,754	9.8%	0.7%
69-High School	8,135,599	949,322	11.7%	9,745,749	979,805	10.1%	-1.6%
09-System-Wide	4,392,279	764,403	17.4%	3,702,630	898,808	24.3%	6.9%
5-Personnel Total	30,195,044	3,351,964	11.1%	32,022,806	3,588,514	11.2%	0.1%
6-Non Personnel							
19-Bresnahan School	384,122	137,191	35.7%	430,215	93,983	21.8%	-13.9%
39-E.G. Molin Upper Elementary	107,882	11,456	10.6%	99,097	6,709	6.8%	-3.8%
59-Middle School	467,311	84,256	18.0%	554,248	103,582	18.7%	0.7%
69-High School	1,243,551	272,689	21.9%	1,205,688	263,163	21.8%	-0.1%
09-System-Wide	5,978,826	1,639,507	27.4%	5,124,610	1,904,893	37.2%	9.7%
6-Non Personnel Total	8,181,691	2,145,099	26.2%	7,413,858	2,372,330	32.0%	5.8%
Grand Total	38,376,735	5,497,063	14.3%	39,436,665	5,960,844	15.1%	0.8%

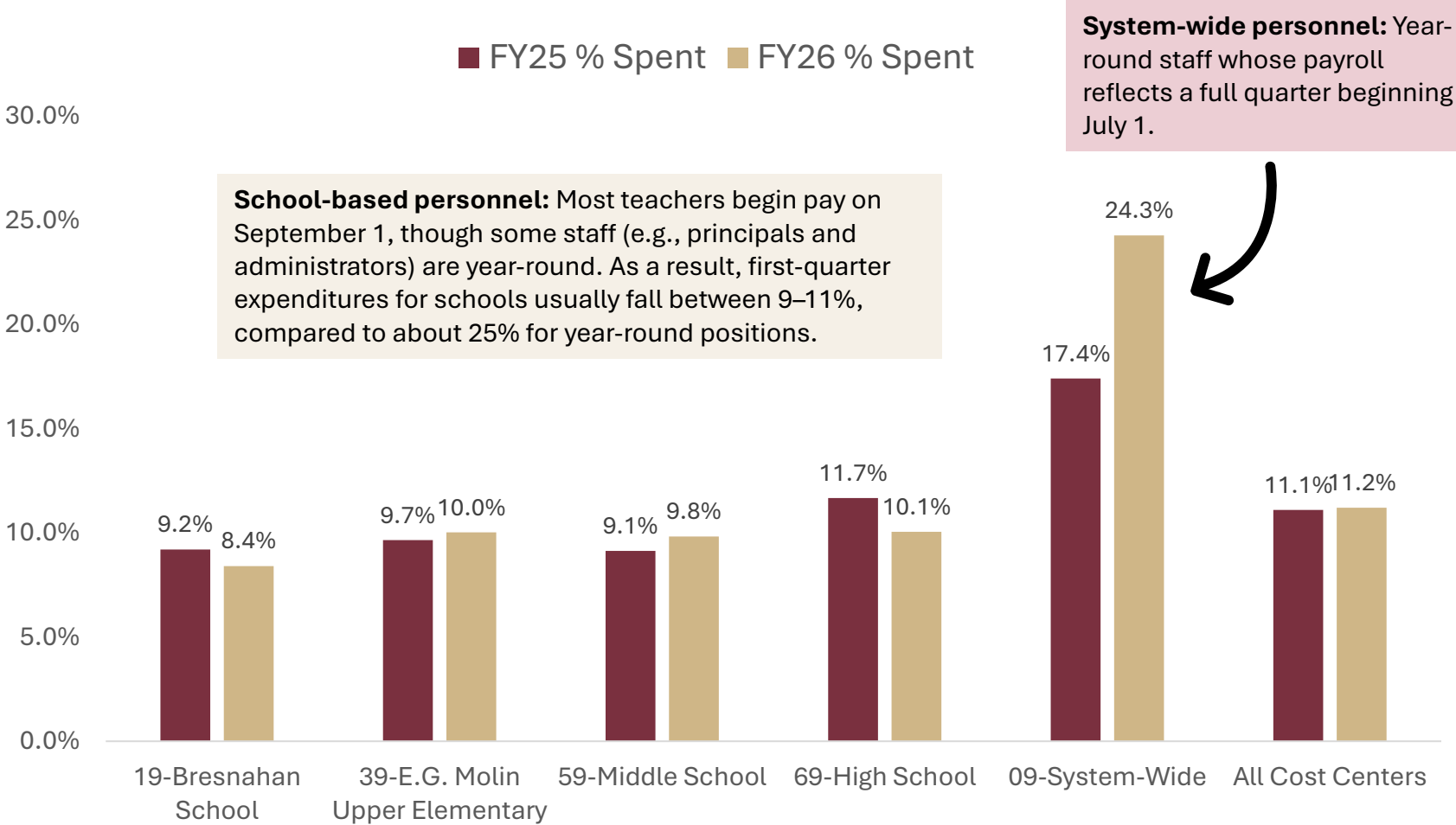
FY26 first-quarter expenditures are within **0.8%** of FY25 levels, showing consistent spending patterns and stable budget performance.



FY25 to FY26 First Quarter Spending Comparison

General Fund Appropriation (Regular Budget)

Personnel

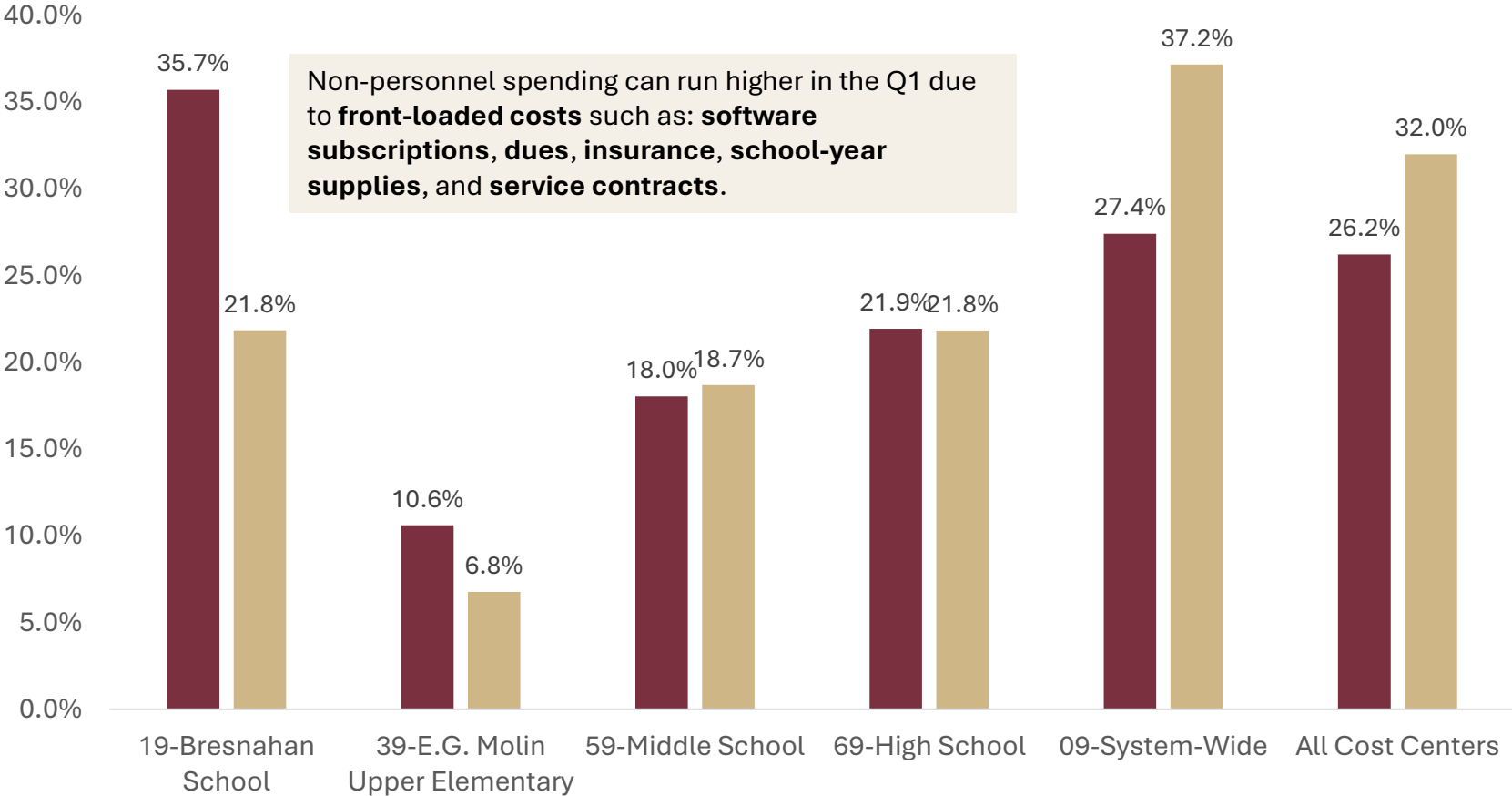


FY25 to FY26 First Quarter Spending Comparison

General Fund Appropriation (Regular Budget)

Non-Personnel

■ FY25 % Spent ■ FY26 % Spent



Revolving & Special Revenue Fund Tracking

Code	Description	Opening Balance 7/1/25	Estimated Receipts FY26	Budgeted Expenses FY26	Other Expenses FY26	Projected Ending Balance FY26	YTD Receipts Thru 9/30/25	YTD Expenses Thru 9/30/25	Fund Balance on 9/30/25
0054	Food Services	\$380,045	\$910,000	(\$399,600)	(\$750,000)	\$140,445	\$19,547	(\$49,894)	\$349,698
0064	School Choice	\$1,233,580	\$958,820	(\$971,913)	(\$350,000)	\$870,487	\$79,901	(\$104,328)	\$1,209,153
0074	Transportation	\$330,868	\$155,000	(\$140,000)	\$0	\$345,868	\$39,315	\$0	\$370,183
0084	One to One Program	\$148,077	\$95,000	(\$73,758)	\$0	\$169,319	\$35,379	(\$97,713)	\$85,743
0094	Foreign Student Program	\$272,564	\$150,000	(\$55,000)	(\$300,000)	\$67,564	\$8,750	\$0	\$281,314
0104	Daycare	\$27,503	\$100,000	\$0	(\$100,000)	\$27,503	\$24,410	(\$14,999)	\$36,914
3401	Athletics	\$201,762	\$360,000	(\$210,686)	(\$123,000)	\$228,076	\$124,306	(\$74,670)	\$251,398
3402	Building Usage	\$319	\$30,000	\$0	\$0	\$30,319	\$4,960	\$0	\$5,279
3403	Adult Education	\$88,864	\$160,000	(\$75,000)	(\$85,000)	\$88,864	\$65,428	(\$34,500)	\$119,792
3404	Learning & Enrichment	\$90,050	\$0	\$0	(\$15,000)	\$75,050	\$0	(\$301)	\$89,749
3405	Student Club Fees	\$21,639	\$60,000	\$0	(\$60,000)	\$21,639	\$11,783	\$0	\$33,422
3406	Preschool Tuition	\$50,912	\$175,000	(\$240,000)	\$0	(\$14,088)	\$70,651	(\$39,261)	\$82,302
3407	Curriculum / Development	\$38,037	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$38,037	\$4,378	(\$1,870)	\$40,545
3501	Circuit Breaker	\$859,526	\$2,101,854	(\$2,250,000)	(\$650,000)	\$61,380	\$475,464	\$0	\$1,334,990
3601	Swasey	\$377,886	\$0	\$0	(\$300,000)	\$77,886	\$8,670	(\$25,667)	\$360,889
3602	NEF	\$71,500	\$170,000	\$0	(\$241,500)	\$0	\$0	(\$79,803)	(\$8,303)
Total		\$4,193,132	\$5,425,674	(\$4,415,957)	(\$2,974,500)	\$2,228,348	\$972,942	(\$523,006)	\$4,643,068

FY26 Q1 Trends

- Facility maintenance and athletic field costs are variable and seasonal, depending on repairs and safety needs that must be addressed.
- Preschool Tuition Revolving Fund is projecting a potential deficit by year-end (-\$14K), which we will continue to monitor.
- Special education tuition and transportation are up 40.9% (+\$209,861) in FY26 compared to Q1 of FY25.
 - The district is projected to spend the full \$2.1M in FY26 Circuit Breaker receipts, plus \$748K of what was carried over from FY25.
- Federal funding *should be* secure for FY26, though we are closely monitoring and planning for FY27.
 - NPS receives approximately \$900K–\$1M annually in federal grant funding.

IKF Graduation Requirements and Competency Determination Policy

Draft 10.14.2025

In order to graduate from Newburyport High School with a high school diploma, a student must (I) satisfactorily complete the local graduation requirements and (II) earn the competency determination in English, mathematics, US History and an approved science subject.

I. Local Graduation Requirements

A. Credit Requirement

1. In order to graduate from Newburyport High School, a student must have earned at least 95 credits + 15 elective credits (Total 110 Credits)

B. Course Requirements

1. Course requirements are the following (see also Competency Determination required courses):
 - a) Four years of English
 - b) Three years of Mathematics including completion of Algebra II or an Integrated Math equivalent
 - c) Three years of lab-based Science which may include technology/engineering
 - d) Four years of History/Social Science including US History and World History and Civics & Government
 - e) Two years of World Language
 - f) Four semesters of Physical Education
 - g) Two semesters of the Arts

C. Other

1. Other requirements may be established by the school administration in relation to the particular program, otherwise the additional credits needed for a graduation may be selected from among elective courses. For the total number of credits required, please see the high school program of studies or student handbook.

D. Credit for Foreign Study

1. Students who are away for a term or year to participate in a student exchange program or otherwise study abroad may receive credits toward high school graduation when (1) study plans are approved by the school

administration in advance; and (2) the institution where the study occurred submits a record of the student's work. In these instances, the Principal and student's guidance counselor will evaluate the work and assign credit for it according to standards prevailing in Newburyport High School.

II. Newburyport Public Schools Local Competency Determination Requirements

A. *Legal Requirement:*

1. All students are required by Massachusetts Education Reform Law of 1993, G.L. c. 69, § 1D to meet a Competency Determination (CD). To earn a competency determination a graduating student must show satisfactory completion of relevant coursework and show a mastery of skills in English language arts, mathematics, US History, and sciences.

B. *Competency Determination Coursework Requirements:* To meet the competency determination, NHS students must pass (above 65%) coursework aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks that cover the content of the following courses:

1. English (2 years)
 - a) Freshman Composition & Literature (all levels); and
 - b) Sophomore Composition & Literature (all levels)
 - c) ESL1 or ESL2 may substitute for one year of Composition & Literature
2. Mathematics¹ (2-3 years depending on sequence)
 - a) Sequence of Algebra I semester 1 & 2 (all levels) and Geometry semester 1 & 2 (all levels); or
 - b) Sequence of Foundations of Algebra (Semester 1 & 2), Foundations of Geometry (Semester 1 & 2) and Principles of Algebra and Geometry (Semester 1 & 2)
3. Science (1 year)
 - a) Biology Semester 1 & 2 (all levels); or
 - b) Chemistry Semester 1 & 2 (all levels); or
 - c) Physics Semester 1 & 2 (all levels)

¹ Middle school math courses may be certified by the district as meeting the coursework requirement for the mathematics component of the CD. The school district must confirm that the course aligns to the high school Algebra I/Geometry/Integrated Math I/Integrated Math II standards as listed in the 2017 Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Framework.

4. US History² (1 year)--there are three required semesters of US history for all students. Students must pass (65 or higher) two semesters.
 - a) US History 1, 2, 3 (all levels)

C. Mastery of Skills

1. A student shows mastery of the skills, competencies, and knowledge in by passing (in accordance with the district's grading policy) one of the following for each of the required courses (see II, B above):
 - a) the final assessment for a course; or
 - b) a capstone or portfolio project; or
 - c) an equivalent measure
2. The skills, competencies, and knowledge in ELA, Math, Science and U.S. History are as follows:
 - a) English Language Arts - the skills, competencies and knowledge that a student needs to demonstrate mastery are those identified for 10th grade in the relevant Massachusetts Curriculum Framework for English Language Arts and Literacy, including the standards for reading literature, reading informational text, writing, speaking and listening.
 - b) Math - the skills, competencies and knowledge that a student needs to demonstrate mastery are those identified in the Algebra I/Geometry/Integrated Math I/Integrated Math II standards as listed in the 2017 Massachusetts Mathematics Curriculum Framework.
 - c) Science - the skills, competencies and knowledge that a student needs to demonstrate mastery are those identified in the relevant Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for the relevant courses identified above.
 - d) U.S. History - the skills, competencies and knowledge that a student needs to demonstrate mastery are those identified in the relevant Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks for the relevant courses identified above.

D. Students with Disabilities

1. The Competency Determination requirement does not impact the entitlements that students with disabilities have under IDEA or M.G.L. c.

² This requirement does not apply to the class of 2026

71B. Consistent with federal law, in order to graduate a student with a disability who has been found eligible under the IDEA or M.G.L. c. 71B, the student must meet the local graduate requirements, the competency determination applicable to all students, and satisfy the FAPE requirement.

2. Students with disabilities placed in out-of-district placements must meet the requirements of the CD policy of the placing school district.
3. In meeting this standard, the District will consider any specialized supports, modifications, or alternative demonstration methods consistent with the Individual Education Program (IEP) process.

E. English Learners

1. English learners (EL) are provided an equal opportunity to meet Competency Determination requirements.
2. The District has certified that the following ESL courses as meeting the English Language Arts requirement for the Competency Determination:
 - a) ESL1 or
 - b) ESL2 in conjunction with a grade level English Composition course
3. The District certifies that these courses explicitly integrate grade-appropriate ELA standards with English Language Development (ELD) standards, using instructional scaffolds that are appropriate to students' English proficiency levels.

F. Late Enrolling Students

1. Students who enroll in the District after their ninth-grade year will be afforded the opportunity to earn the CD.
2. The district will conduct a transcript review and may, in limited instances, consider a qualifying MCAS score. Regardless of the mechanism for determining the student's eligibility for the CD, the District will ensure that state requirements related to equivalent course length, relevant coursework, and a demonstration of mastery are met.
3. In the limited circumstance where a district is unable to document a student's prior coursework, the regulations allow for a student to earn the CD by: 1. Attaining a qualifying score of at least "Meeting Expectations" or "Exceeding Expectations" achievement levels on the relevant high school MCAS assessment; or 2. Meeting the standard for a substituted

equivalent that the district certifies satisfies the same academic standards.

G. Appeals Process

1. A student or parent guardian may appeal the Competency Determination to the Superintendent or designee.
2. The appeal process will include a review of the student's transcript and any other relevant information submitted by the appellant, and will determine whether the criteria for competency determination, as set forth in this policy, have been met.
3. The appeals shall be decided within 30 calendar days.

H. Diploma Request Process for Previously Enrolled Students

1. Students who have previously earned a Competency Determination through a regular or retest administration of the MCAS (including the November 2024 retest) or through a DESE appeal process, have earned their CD.
2. The District will offer eligible students in the classes of 2003 through 2024 who did not earn a diploma as a result of failing to meet the state's Competency Determination requirement an opportunity to determine their current eligibility for a diploma pursuant to the district's CD requirements. An eligible student is one who:
 - a) Was previously enrolled in the district; and
 - b) Previously met the criteria for a Certificate of Attainment (i.e., they met local graduation requirements but did not receive a high school diploma because they did not earn a CD); and
 - c) Was not previously reported as a graduate in any district's Student Information Management System (SIMS) submission.
3. Students will meet with a Competency Determination Review Panel made up of subject area experts. Through the review, students will need to demonstrate competency (based on the current CD Policy) in English, math, history and science through relevant, approved coursework.

I. Newburyport High School Related Student Handbook Policies

1. Satisfactorily complete coursework: NHS students must meet the minimum threshold grade for passing as defined in the Newburyport High School Student Handbook Clipper Compass - Section 3.3 - Grading Scale section.

2. Grade Appeal: Please see the Newburyport High School Student Handbook Clipper Compass - Section 3.5 - Grade Contesting for procedures on appealing a course grade.

Report of the resolutions committee

Members of the Resolutions Committee met remotely on June 23, 2025 to consider resolutions proposed by member districts for consideration at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Association. Members present were: Denise Hurst, MASC President-Elect, Chair (Springfield), Kathryn Hublely (Quincy), Rebecca Socco (Grafton), Jessica Corwin (Sunderland and Frontier Regional), Carey Etchells (Deerfield), Robin Zoll (Southeastern Vocational Technical School), Tony Mullin (Westwood), Paul Schlichtman (Arlington), Barbara Davis (Holbrook). Also Present: Glenn Koocher, MASC Executive Director

The following resolution was moved forward by the Resolutions Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTION 1: REMOVING BMI TESTING FROM SCHOOLS

(Submitted by the Grafton School Committee)

WHEREAS the BMI formula was developed in 1832 based on measuring a population of adult men—presumably all white. Not only does it not accurately represent racial & ethnic differences in normal body composition or normal developmental shifts as students move through puberty, but it does also not differentiate fat from muscle mass or fat distribution on the body, which would be necessary to categorize health implications. BMI is not a useful health screening tool.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/ji02014147>, <https://www.nature.com/.articles/ij0200887>, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10693914/>

WHEREAS body size is determined by a complex combination of medical, social, socioeconomic, genetic, and environmental factors, but is often viewed as a lifestyle choice. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/iamapediatrics/article-abstract/2698457>,

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S001393511930355X?via%3Dihub>

WHEREAS school faculty and staff do not have the training to appropriately diagnose or manage complex physical health conditions leading to an increased BMI in students, nor should it be their job. Students are required by law to have updated physical examinations by a health care provider before entering school and every 3-4 years thereafter and any serious health conditions should be managed by a medical professional. 105 CMR 200.100

WHEREAS specialized training of at least two (2) staff members at each school is required to perform BMI screenings., Additionally, the required specialized spaces and protocols for privacy cost districts precious resources.

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/bmi-screening-guidelines-for-schools/download>

WHEREAS the screening guidelines do not suggest any sort of in-school intervention - only reporting the scores to MDPH and students' guardians. Even if they did, school-based physical activity and nutrition interventions for ages 6-12 have shown no significant change in BMI.

<https://www.mdpi.com/2227-9032/9/4/396>

WHEREAS studies show that 50% of preadolescent girls and 30% of preadolescent boys dislike their bodies. Adolescents are particularly vulnerable to internalizing messages focused on ideal weight to health and self-worth.

[https://www.jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672\(16\)31197-2/abstract](https://www.jandonline.org/article/S2212-2672(16)31197-2/abstract)

<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0139177>

WHEREAS BMI testing has not been shown to improve BMI scores but has the potential to increase weight stigma. <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/iamapediatrics/fullarticle/2773004>

WHEREAS global eating disorder prevalence of adolescents increased from 3.5% to 7.8% from 2001 to 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1093/aicn/nay342>

WHEREAS preadolescents and adolescents using weight control strategies such as dieting, fasting, etc, show higher BMI's later in life than those who do not participate in these strategies. [https://www.iahonline.org/article/S1054-139X\(11\)00176-5/fulltext](https://www.iahonline.org/article/S1054-139X(11)00176-5/fulltext)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC urges the removal of the BMI screening requirement from all public schools.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC urges the express banning of BMI screening in all public schools.

REAUTHORIZATION OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

The 2023 Delegate Assembly approved an amendment to the By-Laws that resolutions will expires 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 with 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.

Following are the six resolutions set to expire this November unless reauthorized by a vote of the Delegate Assembly.

- **Regarding Sanctuary Laws for Transgender Students**
- **To Increase the Maximum Balance Allowed by the Special Education Reserve Fund**
- **Membership of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education**
- **Preserving Local Governance of Massachusetts Schools**
- **Personal Financial Literacy Education**
- **Establishment of a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund**

REGARDING SANCTUARY LAWS FOR TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

(Submitted by the Lexington School Committee and co-sponsored by the Worcester, Somerville, Grafton, and Franklin School Committees)

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a long history of standing for civil rights, including advocacy for a bill of rights in the U.S. Constitution, and

WHEREAS Massachusetts codified gender identity as a protected class in the 2011 Act Relative to Gender Identity, and WHEREAS all children deserve a safe environment in which to grow up, and

WHEREAS some state governments are now criminalizing supportive medical care for trans individuals; moving to bar families from traveling to access such care; and otherwise violating the civil rights of trans children and their families, and

WHEREAS the defense of the civil rights of the historically marginalized is contained within the first article of the Massachusetts Constitution right of "seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness,"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Great and General Court to join with other states in the passage of so-called "sanctuary" laws to ensure such children and their families have "the power of enjoying, in safety and tranquility, their natural rights and the blessings of life," as guaranteed by the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

RATIONALE: The 2011 passage of the Act Relative to Gender Identity marked a Massachusetts commitment to the civil rights of transgender residents. Laws recently passed or being considered in other states would put into question this protection, as some such laws call for families to be prosecuted for seeking medical treatment for their children, even across state lines. This is a profound violation of the civil rights of these children, and it increases the potential

harm both to them and to their families. In response, a number of states are considering so-called sanctuary laws which would shield families from such prosecution, extended to those children the rights guaranteed to them by Massachusetts law. As of the passage of this resolution, no such bills have been filed in Massachusetts. The Legislature must back up the 2011 Act with this further protection.

INCREASING THE MAXIMUM BALANCE ALLOWED BY THE SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVE FUND

(Submitted by the Plympton School Committee)

WHEREAS the Municipal Modernization Act allows for municipalities in conjunction with their school districts to create a Special Education Reserve Fund to cover the cost of unanticipated or unbudgeted special education cost, including the cost of out of district placements and special education transportation; and

WHEREAS the current language of the Special Education Reserve Fund caps the balance at 2 percent of annual net school spending which for many rural and small districts does not leave enough in reserves to meet the needs of a single student who is placed into a collaborative setting, never mind a student who may be medically fragile and in need of an intensive residential placement; and

WHEREAS school districts with large student bodies are more likely to experience multiple unanticipated and unbudgeted special education related expenses throughout the school year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to amend Chapter 40, Section 13E, by deleting "2 percent of the annual net school spending" and by inserting the following "5 percent of the annual net school spending."

Rationale: Current prices for special education day programs in Massachusetts Collaborates can cost a district between \$50,000 to \$70,000 per student and private provider day programs can cost districts between per student. These prices do not include the cost to transport the students to these separate settings which is part of the overall price and can fluctuate in cost. Private residential special education settings can cost a district between per student. The 5 percent cap would allow for deeper investment of the municipality's own monies, towards preventing mid-year budget crisis and positioning the school district to have the ability to provide an appropriate public education in the least restrictive setting to all students. The 5 percent cap would also allow reserves to grow to a sustainable level which hopefully would not be wiped out by a single year of special education-related expenses.

MEMBERSHIP ON THE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

(Submitted by the Arlington School Committee)

WHEREAS the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has broad powers to set education policy and enact regulations for Massachusetts public schools; and

WHEREAS the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has the power to choose a receiver to replace an elected school committee; and

WHEREAS the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education governs educator licensure in Massachusetts; and WHEREAS practicing educators and school committee members are prohibited from serving on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS the teaching profession is the only profession or trade in Massachusetts where the holders of a license are prohibited from serving on its governing board; and WHEREAS professional expertise and a commitment to public governance should not disqualify a person from serving in a leadership role;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls for the enactment of legislation to repeal the provision of Massachusetts law that prohibits practicing educators and sitting school committee members from serving on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls for legislation to reconstitute the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education by including members with expertise as licensed educators and members with expertise in public school governance.

PRESERVING LOCAL GOVERNANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS

(Submitted by the Arlington School Committee)

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has exercised its power to take over school districts in Lawrence in 2011, Holyoke in 2015, and Southbridge in 2016; and

WHEREAS the placement of the public schools of Lawrence, Holyoke, and Southbridge in receivership has removed their respective school committees from their role as the governing board for their schools, and has replaced local governance with a state receiver; and

WHEREAS a Boston Globe analysis of test scores, graduation rates, college enrollment, and a dozen other metrics in Lawrence, Holyoke, and Southbridge shows state receivers have failed to meet almost all of its stated goals for the districts; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has no plan, strategy, or timeline for restoring local governance and accountability to the voters of Lawrence, Holyoke, and Southbridge; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Association of School Committees asserts that a strong system of local governance and accountability is the foundation of excellent schools;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to restore local governance and accountability for the Lawrence, and Southbridge Public Schools no later than July 1, 2026, recognizing that Holyoke was removed from receivership on July 1, 2025.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Massachusetts Legislature to enact legislation to limit any future state takeovers to a term of no more than three years.

PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION

(Submitted by the Framingham School Committee)

WHEREAS students will need to make wise financial decisions to promote financial well-being throughout their lives, and

WHEREAS students will need to develop actionable strategies to manage their futures, including managing their budgets by developing savings plans, navigating credit and debt, and creating a blueprint for financing higher education or their careers, and

WHEREAS students will need to be informed consumers when making everyday purchases for both small and large items, and

WHEREAS with guidance and financial literacy, students have increased chances of affording and attaining a college education;

WHEREAS without prior long-term financial planning, higher education plans do not come to fruition for many students due to extraordinary tuition rates;

WHEREAS college tuitions and other financial choices, such as credit card debt and loans, can saddle students with a lifetime of debt due to their inability to pay back student and other type of loans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT MASC file legislation that would have the effect of ensuring that all students have exposure to personal financial literacy curricula and, ultimately, graduate from high school with the lifelong knowledge of how to be fiscally responsible to avoid being deterred by financial woes. This legislation should ensure that the students at various levels would benefit from curriculum in Massachusetts' public schools would include content in personal financial literacy.

RATIONALE: Because many students and their families today do not plan far enough ahead for college tuition, many students are not able to attend institutes of higher learning or need to drop out due to inadequate funds. This resolution will help to ensure that students are knowledgeable about the best options available to them in order to be fiscally responsible and receive the best advice in attaining their goals by being educated about the best options for paying tuitions, use of credit cards, securing personal loans (including car loans) etc.

ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENT RESERVE FUND

(Submitted by the Silver Lake Regional School Committee)

WHEREAS Regional School Committees of the Commonwealth are tasked with producing financially sound budgets designed to meet the needs of all their students just like all public school committees of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS municipalities of Regional Schools are presented with Regional Assessments which can fluctuate dramatically based on enrollment percentage changes and can be further exacerbated by unbalanced adjustments of the Equalized Valuation (EQV) of property, a key metric in the states formula used to calculate the minimum required local contribution; and

WHEREAS in 2016 the State of Massachusetts passed the Municipal Modernization Act which aimed to grant more local control and encouraged financial efficiencies where possible, the precedent exists in statute to support the creation of a Regional Schools Assessment Reserve Fund

which could be used to offset abnormally large increases to a municipality's regional assessment;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to enact or amend legislation which permits municipalities to establish a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund.

To amend M.G.L. Part I, Title VII, Chapter 40, by inserting Section 13F as follows
Chapter 40, Section 13F

Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund for payments towards future Regional Assessments

Any municipality which accepts this section by a majority vote of the municipality's legislative body may establish and appropriate or transfer money to a reserve fund to be utilized in the upcoming fiscal years, to pay for the Regional Assessment in years when the Regional Assessment increases by more than 35% over the previous year's Regional Assessment. The balance in the reserve fund shall not exceed 10 percent of the annual Regional Assessment for the municipality.

Funds shall only be distributed from the reserve funds after a majority vote of the municipality's legislative body in years when the Regional Assessment is more than 3.5% in order to bring the Regional Assessment down to no less than 2.5% increase. The municipal treasurer may invest the monies in the manner authorized in section 54 of chapter 44 and any interest earned thereon shall be credited to and become part of the fund.

EAAA: WALKERS and RIDERS

Students will be entitled to transportation to and from school at the expense of the public schools when such transportation conforms to applicable provisions of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Newburyport Schools will provide free transportation for students as follows:

- All Newburyport resident students in Kindergarten through grade 6 that live 1.5 or more miles from school
- All Newburyport resident students who are eligible for free or reduced lunch
- Students with special needs for whom transportation must be provided

Additionally, the following students are eligible for bus ridership by paying the transportation fees set each year by the School Committee:

- All Newburyport resident students in Kindergarten through grade 6 that live less than 1.5 miles from school
- All Newburyport resident students in grades 7-12

Exceptions to these guidelines may be made at the discretion of the Superintendent. This will apply particularly to any student who must travel in a hazardous area to and from school.

The School Committee requires that all students who will be using school transportation, regardless of pay-status, register for transportation and receive their bus pass.

The School District will strive to support walking, bicycling, and other forms of active transportation to and from school and will participate in the Massachusetts Safe Routes to School Program.

PROPOSED NEW POLICY (BASED ON MASC MODEL)

File: GBEE

PERSONNEL USE OF TECHNOLOGY

The School Committee recognizes that the use of technology is an important part of preparing students for adult life. As such, the School Committee expects that staff will use technology as provided and necessary.

Employees shall use digital resources in a responsible, efficient, ethical, and legal manner in accordance with the mission of the district. Staff members are responsible for teaching and for modeling responsible digital citizenship. The digital resources are provided to support the work of the district; occasional personal communication is permitted so long as such use does not interfere with the employee's job duties and performance, with systems operation, other users, or network performance. All use must comply with the policies and procedures of the Newburyport Public Schools.

All staff must agree to and sign an appropriate digital use form prior to being granted access to district digital resources.

Staff is required to use their school-issued accounts, not personal accounts, for all communication with students and parents/guardians; such accounts must be used with other staff members when conducting school business. Network ID/Email accounts and passwords are provided by the District for each user's personal use only. Passwords should be secured and not shared.

Employees' communication is a matter of public record. This extends to employee use of social media when conducting district business. Any social media or informational accounts or posts representing school clubs/activities/departments should be made using district-approved accounts/credentials.

Any online activities that would not be considered appropriate in the classroom should not be conducted online. High standards of appropriate online communication and conduct must be maintained.

Team, class, or student organization web pages, social media accounts and/or other means of digital messaging will be created only in conjunction with the coach or faculty advisor. All groups must include the appropriate administrator as a member. Access to the page will remain with the coach or faculty advisor.

All contact and messages by coaches and faculty advisors with team members shall be sent to all team members, except for messages concerning medical or academic privacy matters, in which case the messages will be copied to the appropriate administrator.

When adults are interacting with students online and through digital media, one-to-one interactions should be avoided.

Failure to uphold the responsibilities above is misuse, which may lead to disciplinary action.

REF: M.G.L. Ch. 66 10 (b)

CROSS REF: ACAB SEXUAL HARRASSMENT
GBEB STAFF CONDUCT
GBEBD ONLINE FUNDRAISING AND SOLICITATION
INJD ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES
INJDC ACCEPTABLE USE OF DIGITAL RESOURCES

Replace existing IJND with this MASC version

File: IJND

ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES

The School Committee supports the right of students, employees, and community members to have reasonable access to various information formats and believes it is incumbent upon users to utilize this privilege in an appropriate manner. The School Committee intends to support such use with appropriate budgetary allocations, providing for timely updates to technology as necessary

The Superintendent, in conjunction with the Director of Technology, shall develop and implement appropriate procedures to provide guidance for access to digital resources.

LEGAL REFS: 47 USC § 254

CROSS REFS: IJNDC: ACCEPTABLE USE OF DIGITAL RESOURCES
GBEE: PERSONNEL USE OF TECHNOLOGY
KDCB: DISTRICT WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Note: FCC regulations that went into effect April 20, 2001, implementing The Children's Internet Protection Act (47 U.S.C. § 254) require each school/district to certify compliance with certain policy requirements in order to maintain eligibility for Internet access discounts and other services provided by the federal government.

ACCEPTABLE USE OF DIGITAL RESOURCES

The Superintendent, in conjunction with the Director of Technology, shall develop and implement appropriate procedures to provide guidance for access to digital resources. Guidelines shall address teacher supervision of digital resources, ethical use of such resources and issues of online privacy. In addition, procedures shall prohibit utilization of digital resources for prohibited or illegal activities and for the use of other programs with the potential of damaging or destroying programs or data.

Technology procedures shall be implemented that effectively address the following:

- Controlling access by minors to inappropriate matter on the Internet as defined by the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA) and the Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA);
- Safety and security of minors in use of digital resources;
- Preventing unauthorized access, including hacking, viruses, and other unlawful activities by minors online

Annually, all students must agree to and sign an appropriate digital use form developed by the Superintendent in conjunction with the Director of Technology; this form must also be signed for the parent or guardian for students under the age of 18.

All staff must agree to and sign an appropriate digital use form prior to being granted access to district digital resources. Employees must use district resources for the purposes directly related to educational and instructional purposes.

On the recommendation of the Superintendent in conjunction with the Director of Technology, the district shall determine when and which digital resources can be made available to the community. All guest users will be prompted to and must accept a digital use agreement prior to use.

Those violating the digital use agreement will be subject to appropriate consequences.

Personally-Owned Devices

Use of personally-owned digital devices by students in the schools shall be subject to the acceptable use practices as specified in the individual School Building Handbooks.

LEGAL REF: 47 USC § 254

CROSS REF: IJND Access to Digital Resources
GBEE PERSONNEL USE OF TECHNOLOGY
JICJ STUDENT USE OF TECHNOLOGY
KDC COMMUNITY USE OF DISTRICT RESOURCES
KDCB District Website and Social Media

PROPOSED NEW POLICY (BASED ON MASC MODEL)

File: KDCB

DISTRICT WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA

The School Committee wishes to ensure accurate delivery of information, and as such, the Newburyport Public Schools will maintain a district website and such district and school social media accounts as authorized by the Superintendent. All such online platforms will be maintained by district staff, acting in their professional capacities.

In order for public communication with the School Committee and district personnel to be responded to in a timely manner, in line with the legal requirements for public communication, commenting on all district and school sites will be disabled. Every school and district site will clearly indicate this policy and will direct those wishing to contact the school and district personnel to the appropriate venues to do so.

Unauthorized use of district or school name is prohibited.

A high priority will be placed on such platforms being accessible, frequently updated, and user friendly.

LEGAL REF: Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Declaration of Rights,
Article 16
Constitution of the United States of America, Amendment 1
MGL Ch. 66
MGL Ch. 30A

REF: A Guide to the Massachusetts Public Records Law (Secretary of the Commonwealth)

CROSS REF: BEDH - PUBLIC COMMENT AT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETINGS
GBEE - PERSONNEL USE OF TECHNOLOGY
BHE - USE OF ELECTRONIC MESSAGING BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Superintendent's Report



Molin School Our Neighbors Table Community Stars Award

Essex County Asset Builder Breakfast

Andi Egmont and other local officials held the annual Essex County Asset Builder Breakfast at the Mission Oak Restaurant. This was a wonderful gathering of many public officials, organizations, surrounding cities / towns, law enforcement and school districts. The focus was supporting our youth programs and highlighting how important it is for our children to have connections outside of their families. Andi Egmont's overview included the message that the more connections (assets) students have, the less likely they will make poor decisions that can negatively impact their mental and physical health. This was a good event that reminded everyone in attendance of the good work being done that is making a positive impact on children and families.

Our Neighbor's Table Annual Breakfast

Assistant Superintendent Furlong, Principal Tara Rossi and I attended Our Neighbors' Table Annual Breakfast at the Black Swan Country Club in Georgetown. This was a wonderful event where people were recognized for their efforts and contributions to this organization, as well as the people they help. After the coffee & conversations segment with Nancy Thomas, Leran Minc and Chrinita Peretti, there was an award ceremony which included a very special recognition for the Molin School students and staff. They led a two-week campaign which raised \$15,000 for our Neighbors' Table organization, which translates into 10,000 -12,000 meals for families! Principal Rossi accepted the award on behalf of the Molin School and the district. I plan on having the Molin School representatives attend an upcoming school committee meeting to be recognized. What an accomplishment!

Rotary's Dictionary Distribution & Meeting

The Newburyport Rotary Club, Principal Sokolowski and I distributed dictionaries to Bresnahan School 3rd grade students. This is an annual event and a long tradition for the Rotary Club where each student gets their own personal dictionary. We had a lot of fun with the students, and they were beaming with pride when they got their dictionaries!

DESE On-Site Circuit Breaker Audit

The DESE On-Site Circuit Breaker Audit was conducted in the district on Thursday to review claims for the Circuit Breaker funding and expenses. Typical Audit Details and Procedures: The audit is a crucial step to ensure the district's claims for high-cost special education services are accurate and compliant with Massachusetts regulations (M.G.L. c. 71B, § 5A). The audit team typically reviews a sample of student files and financial records, focusing on some key areas:

- IEP and Documentation Review
- Expense Eligibility and Verification
- Student Eligibility
- Financial Integrity

The audit's findings will ultimately affect the final reimbursement amount the district receives from the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.