

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

**School Committee Business Meeting
6:30PM**

Monday, December 15, 2025

SC Business Meeting Agenda December 15, 2025

SC Business Meeting Agenda Notes December 15, 2025

SC Warrant December 15, 2025

SC Business Meeting Minutes December 1, 2025

High School Fall 2025 Athletics Recap

Capital Improvement Program FY2027-FY2031

FY27 Budget Development Update

Superintendent's Report

Newburyport Public Schools
School Committee Business Meeting
Monday, December 15, 2025 at 6:30PM
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86382919833?pwd=CgaRRZP7Wb6EUTsiwrZxrS9KQ5gmn8.1>

Meeting ID: 863 8291 9833

Passcode: 720233

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 Business Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Comment
3. *Warrant – *possible Vote*
4. *Meeting Minutes 12/1/2025 – *possible Vote*
5. School Committee Student Representative Report
6. NHS Fall 2025 Athletics Recap
7. Capital Improvement Program FY2027-2031 Review
8. FY27 Budget Development Update
9. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Kathleen Shaw
 - c. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – Breanna Higgins
10. Superintendent's Report
11. New Business
12. Executive Session – Vote
for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and/or legal matters, and will not reconvene in Open Session.

* 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 Business Meeting
December 15, 2025 at 6:30PM
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

AGENDA NOTES

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School Committee Business Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Comment
3. *Warrant – *possible Vote*
4. *Meeting Minutes 12/1/2025 – *possible Vote*
5. School Committee Student Representative
High school students will provide the student report.
6. NHS Fall 2025 Athletics Recap
Athletic Director Anna DeVitto will recap the high school's Fall athletic program. (attached)
7. Capital Improvement Program FY2027-2031 Review
Facilities Director James McSweeney will review the Capital Improvement Program for FY2027-FY2031. (attached)
8. FY27 Budget Development Update
Director of Finance Ethan Manning will provide an update on the development of the FY27 budget. (attached)
9. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Kathleen Shaw
 - c. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – Breanna Higgins
10. Superintendent's Report: *Wellness Advisory meeting, MCIEA Board meeting, CREST meeting, January Professional Development Planning meeting, Human Rights meeting, Governor Healey Visit, and the North Shore Superintendent's Round Table Appreciation Luncheon*
11. New Business
12. Executive Session – *Vote for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and/or legal matters, and will not reconvene in Open Session.*

* possible vote

FYI: Upcoming Dates: ✓ **NHS Winter Concert: Tuesday, December 16 @ 7:00pm**
✓ Teaching & Learning Subcommittee mtg: Wednesday, December 17 @ 6:00PM
✓ Finance Subcommittee meeting: Thursday, December 18 @ 8:30am
✓ Holiday Break: December 24, 2025 through January 2, 2026

School Committee

Warrant(s)

December 15, 2025

Warrant 8169 FY26	\$ 560,503.40
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 26,232.26</u>

Total of Warrants:	\$ 586,735.66
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NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Monday, December 1, 2025

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:33 PM. Roll call found all members present. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments:

Katy O'Connor, 2 Prince Place (crossing guard on High Street)

Ebo, Perkins Park area (balance of collective learning ideas)

Staff Recognition:

NHS Art teacher Andrew "AJ" Smith was recognized by the School Committee for inspiring Newburyport readers through stories and art, including his most recent publication, "Catnip Mouse".

Warrant

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Mayor Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$487,931.64 as presented.

Warrant 8168 (FY26)	\$474,931.64
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 12,481.55</u>
	\$487,413.19

Motion Passed

Minutes

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the November 3, 2025 School Committee meeting as presented.

Motion Passed

Mayor Reardon abstained

Student Representative Report

Maddie Jackman provided the student report which included the new Student of the Month tradition at the Bresnahan, the Thanksgiving Pep Rally and Student-led conferences at the Nock, and Color Day at the High School. (attached)

Juliet Walker thanked the student representatives for participating in the School Committee meeting with the NHS Student Council members earlier this evening.

2025 Spring MCAS Presentation

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong and Dr. Tom Abrams provided a district overview of the 2025 Spring MCAS results. The presentation included overall performance, attendance, achievement and growth target data for the district. In addition, school-based reports were reviewed and included glows and grows for each grade and subject, as well as an explanation of action steps for each school.

Various School Committee members thanked the team for their hard work on this presentation.

Juliet Walker suggested the district may wish to learn how much outside investment families spend on special tutoring (i.e. time / money).

Graduation Requirements & Competency Determination Policy (IKF) – 2nd read

Vice Chair Juliet Walker introduced Policy IKF for a 2nd read. No changes had been made since the previous reading.

Motion:

On a motion by Andrew Boger and seconded by Mayor Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to adopt the Graduation Requirements & Competency Determination Policy (IKF) as presented.

Motion Passed

Acceptance of Gift from NEF

Superintendent Sean Gallagher explained that the Newburyport Education Foundation (NEF) was donating \$5,875.74 to Newburyport Public Schools on behalf of an anonymous donor. The funds will be deposited into the Nurse Emergency Fund, which will be used to support students and families with essential needs, such as groceries, clothing etc.

Motion:

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Mayor Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to accept the \$5,875.74 donation from the NEF.

Motion Passed

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Brian Callahan stated they last met on November 20th and discussed the NEF donation, student activity transfers, school choice spending and the budget. The next meeting will be at 8:30AM on December 18th. (note: Ethan Manning will email a 10-year school choice spending chart to the School Committee.)

Policy Subcommittee

Policies EEAA, GBEE, IJND, IJNDC and KDCB were presented for 2nd read and approval.

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to adopt **Policy EEAA** – Walkers and Riders as presented.

Motion Passed

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to adopt **Policy GBEE** – Personnel Use of Technology as presented.

Motion Passed

Motion:

On a motion by Brian Callahan and seconded by Mayor Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to adopt **Policy IJND** – Access to Digital Resources as presented.

Motion Passed

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Sarah Hall it was

VOTED: to adopt **Policy IJNDC** – Acceptable Use of Digital Resources as presented.

Motion Passed

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Breanna Higgins it was

VOTED: to adopt **Policy KDCB** – District Website and Social Media as presented.

Motion Passed

Communications Subcommittee

Sarah Hall stated they met on November 20th and developed a plan to sunset the Communications Subcommittee. Sarah reviewed the proposal, which included a brief history of the subcommittee, along with areas of concentration, various accomplishments, and plans moving forward.

Motion:

On a motion by Sarah Hall and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to sunset the Communications Subcommittee as proposed.

Motion Passed

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Breanna Higgins stated they last met on November 19th and reviewed MCAS data. The next meeting will be held in the Nock library on December 17th.

MASC/MASS Joint Conference Highlights

Juliet Walker and Andrew Boger attended this year's MASC/MASS conference and shared information of various workshops they attended. Juliet reported that all MASC resolutions passed.

Superintendent's Report

Little Clips Daycare Center Ribbon Cutting: Superintendent Gallagher attended the ribbon cutting for the new daycare. He is very proud of this project and thanked the Swasey Board, HR Director Pam Kealey, Facilities Director James McSweeney, the maintenance crew and School Committee for their support and hard work to make this happen.

MCIEA Board meeting: The Superintendent shared the agenda items for the recent MCIEA Board meeting, which included the statewide graduation requirement, budget update and Maynard site visit.

Salem High School Visit: Various high school staff recently visited Salem High School to learn more about their Chapter 74 and Pathways programs. Information learned on this trip will be very helpful when the district begins planning Chapter 74 programs for Broadcast Media & Early Childhood Education and a Medical Assistants Pathways.

Investment Club Presentation: Superintendent Gallagher attended the recent presentation by the high school's Investment Club. The impressive presentation provided a financial overview of their portfolio. He explained that the NEF allocates funds to the Investment Club to actually invest into the current markets.

Wall of Fame Dinner: This year's event was held at the Elks Club. The Superintendent was very honored to meet the inductees and their families.

NEF Lighthouse Auction: Each year the Superintendent attends the NEF Lighthouse Auction, which is the biggest fundraiser of the year for the NEF.

Thanksgiving Luncheon Amesbury & Newburyport Rotary: Superintendent Gallagher shared that Amesbury hosted the luncheon this year, which was held at Ristorante Molise in Amesbury. This will be the 102nd Thanksgiving Day game between Newburyport and Amesbury.

New Business:

- Andrew Boger thanked Mayor Reardon and Juliet Walker for organizing the crossing guard on High Street meeting.
- Mayor Reardon stated the Inauguration will be held on January 5th.
- School Committee members should send an email to Mayor Reardon if they are interested in serving on a particular subcommittee next year.
- Juliet Walker stated a meeting will be held at 10:00AM on December 9th to onboard new school committee members.
- Mayor Reardon will push City Council to hold a retreat this year. If School Committee members have any ideas to bring up, email the Mayor.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Brian Callahan it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:36PM.

Motion Passed

Submitted by: Maddie Jackman

Location: Senior Center

Bresnahan News:

Students of the Month:

Last week, we kicked off a new tradition at the Bresnahan — Student of the Month! Each month, classroom teachers will nominate a student who consistently demonstrates our school values of being safe, kind, and responsible. Congratulations to our November Students of the Month!

STEM: This week in STEM, students are learning what architects do and explored the purpose of blueprints. After listening to If I Built a School and Iggy Peck, Architect, and examining the Bresnahan School's original 2013 blueprints, students let their imaginations shine as they designed their very own dream schools!

Our kindergarten students also had the chance to build and experiment with KEVA planks—creating structures that were as creative as they were impressive. Such imaginative and innovative young architects!

Literacy: Grades K-3 are exploring new literacy curriculums to address the areas of reading comprehension and writing. Last week, Principal Sokolowski and Dr. Abrams shared an update with the Bresnahan School Council. At each grade level, representative teachers are piloting 2 exciting curriculums that received positive reviews by a multitude of stakeholders. Some of the criteria teachers are evaluating these tools for include rigorous writing instruction, knowledge instruction that allows students to develop a deep understanding of key concepts, authentic and high interest reading materials, and highly engaging play based and project-based topic applications. Check out this amazing story by a 2nd grade student who has been studying Cinderella stories from around the world!

Molin News:

Nock Middle School News:

The Nock Middle School community came together for our Thanksgiving Pep Rally on Wednesday, and it was the perfect send-off into the holiday break! We celebrated our students with recognitions, shared plenty of laughs, and filled the gym with energy thanks to our amazing staff, faculty, and students.

Student-led conferences begin next week, and we can't wait to watch our students step confidently into leadership, taking ownership, showing accountability, and sharing their growth with families.

High School News:

The High School Celebrated their 87th day of Color Day this past week. We would like to thank Superintendent Sean Gallagher and Mayor Reardon for participating.

To: Newburyport Public Schools School Committee

From: Anna DeVitto, Director of Athletics, Newburyport High School

Subject: **Newburyport High School Fall 2025 Athletics Recap**

The fall 2025 Newburyport High athletics season has officially concluded! We had great success across our 21 fall teams including multiple Cape Ann League titles, coach of the year awards, player of the year awards, and milestone career moments by some of our coaching staff!

We have an 80% participation rate for our students for fall athletics at NHS! NHS athletics has fostered an environment centered around personal and athletic growth while instilling life lessons for on and off the field success. Our success this fall includes the following highlights:

Cheerleading:

1st place Cape Ann League Co-Ed Champions
Juliana Cowles 1st team CAL All Star
Qualified for the Regional Competition

Cross Country:

Both boys and girls undefeated, both Cape Ann League Champions
Girls finished 5th at the Divisional Meet, Boys finished 7th at the Divisional Meet
Both teams qualified for the MIAA, Senior Mike Mohoric finished 2nd in the state
Mike Mohoric CAL Runner of the Year
Don Hennigar, CAL Coach of the Year and Wall of Fame Inductee
4 girl CAL All Stars, 3 boy CAL All Stars

Golf:

Cape Ann League Champions
4th place Division II Sectional Finals
Jack O'real golfer of the year, qualified for the tournament as an individual placed 12 out of 102
1 Second Team CAL All Star
Mike Guthrie Cal Coach of the Year

Field Hockey:

Round of 16 MIAA D II Tournament

Riley Lombard Cape Ann League Player of the Year

3 First Team CAL all starts, 1 Second Team CAL all start

Football:

102 Rivalry Football Game

1 First Team CAL All Star, 1 Second Team All Star

Girls Soccer:

Cape Ann League Champions

MIAA Round of 16 MIAA DII Tournament

ALS Cup Champions, Undefeated

4 First Team CAL All Starts, 1 Second Team CAL All Star

Boys Soccer:

ALS Cup Champions

MIAA Round of 32

1 First Team CAL All Star, 4 Second Team CAL All Star

Coach Shawn Bleau 150th win this season

Volleyball:

MIAA Round of 8

2 First Team All Stars

Gabby Vigante selected to play in the MIAA All start game

6 committed student-athletes to play collegiately next year (Union College, Suffolk University, Trinity College, Saint Anselm College, Connecticut College, DeSales University)

Newburyport Schools Facilities CIP 2027-2031



PROJECT DETAIL SHEET (NHS Masonry)

NHS Exterior & Masonry Repairs

Department:	Schools
Category:	Facilities Renovation/Repair
Request Type (New/Prior Year):	Prior Year
Priority:	1 - Urgent/Very High
FY2027-FY2031 Project Cost:	\$1,565,000
Estimated Useful Life:	25 Years
Capital Project Score	



Description and Justification:

2015 the exterior stairway leading from the parking lot up to the west terrace at the high school was rebuilt due to severe deterioration.
 Since the 2015 Repairs more damage has occurred around the building including the front entrance stairs and ADA ramps. Repairs were made to this same stairway again in 2019, and they are in need of repair again.
 The funds requested would be to hire an engineering firm to evaluate the Structural Masonry around NHS and develop a plan for necessary repairs.
 Then funding would also be used to hire a contractor to perform the repairs.

Estimated Costs by Fiscal Year	
FY2027	\$555,000
FY2028	\$505,000
FY2029	\$505,000
FY2030	
FY2031	
Total Five-Year Cost	\$1,565,000

Anticipated Funding Source(s)	
	General Fund (Debt)
X	General Fund (Pay As You Go)
	Enterprise Fund (Debt)
	Enterprise Fund (Pay As You Go)
	State/Federal Grant
	CPA Grant
	Trust Fund/Local Grant
	Other*

Operating Budget Impact:	\$0
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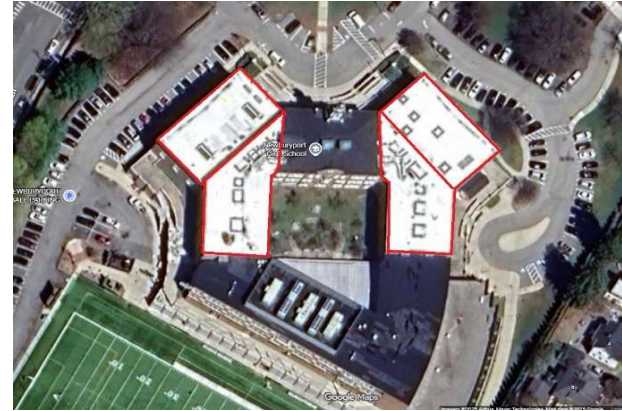
*Specify other funding source(s) in project description.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: FY2027-FY2031

PROJECT DETAIL SHEET (NHS Roof)

NHS Roof Replacement

Department:	Schools
Category:	Facilities Renovation/Repair
Request Type (New/Prior Year):	Prior Year
Priority:	2 - High
FY2027-FY2031 Project Cost:	\$2,145,000
Estimated Useful Life:	20 Years
Capital Project Score	



Description and Justification:

The roof on Building A at the high school is now over 29 years old. Leaks have been experienced in several places this past winter and a roofing contractor has been called in a number of times to make repairs. .
 The project will be submitting the Schematic Design to the MSBA for thier February vote. Simultaneously we will be finalizing the Design and Construction documnets for bidding. This will allow a Summer of 2027 construction.

Estimated Costs by Fiscal Year	
FY2027	\$2,145,000
FY2028	\$0
FY2029	\$0
FY2030	\$0
FY2031	\$0
Total Five-Year Cost	\$2,145,000

Operating Budget Impact:	\$0
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Anticipated Funding Source(s)	
	General Fund (Debt)
X	General Fund (Pay As You Go)
	Enterprise Fund (Debt)
	Enterprise Fund (Pay As You Go)
X	State/Federal Grant
	CPA Grant
	Trust Fund/Local Grant
	Other*

*Specify other funding source(s) in project description.

PROJECT DETAIL SHEET (Nock-Molin Roof)

Nock Molin-Gym & Auditorium Roof Replacement

Department:	Schools
Category:	Facilities Renovation/Repair
Request Type (New/Prior Year):	Prior Year
Priority:	2 - High
FY2027-FY2031 Project Cost:	\$2,554,637
Estimated Useful Life:	25 Years
Capital Project Score	



Description and Justification:

The gym and auditorium roofs are the only sections that have not been replaced during recent projects. They are currently in good condition, but are close to 25 years old, which is nearing the end of their life expectancy. This estimate provides an allowance to remove and reinstall the solar panels on the roof. The project will be submitting the Schematic Design to the MSBA for thier February vote. Simultaneously we will be finalizing the Design and Construction documnets for bidding. This will allow a Summer of 2027 construction.

Estimated Costs by Fiscal Year	
FY2027	\$2,554,637
FY2028	\$0
FY2029	\$0
FY2030	\$0
FY2031	\$0
Total Five-Year Cost	\$2,554,637

Operating Budget Impact:	\$0
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Anticipated Funding Source(s)	
X	General Fund (Debt)
	General Fund (Pay As You Go)
	Enterprise Fund (Debt)
	Enterprise Fund (Pay As You Go)
X	State/Federal Grant
	CPA Grant
	Trust Fund/Local Grant
	Other*

*Specify other funding source(s) in project description.

PROJECT DETAIL SHEET (Molin Playground)

Molin Playground Replacement

Department:	Schools
Category:	Facilities Renovation/Repair
Request Type (New/Prior Year):	New
Priority:	3 - Medium
FY2027-FY2031 Project Cost:	\$272,000
Estimated Useful Life:	20 Years
Capital Project Score	



Description and Justification:

This project would be for Engineering Design and Construction to replace the existing playground at the Molin Upper Elementary School.
 The mulch used for the playground surfacing is in constant need of replacing and does not lend to be ADA compliant.
 The Equipment is 10+ years old and in need of replacement.

Estimated Costs by Fiscal Year	
FY2027	\$39,500
FY2028	\$0
FY2029	\$0
FY2030	\$375,000
FY2031	\$0
Total Five-Year Cost	\$414,500

Anticipated Funding Source(s)	
	General Fund (Debt)
X	General Fund (Pay As You Go)
	Enterprise Fund (Debt)
	Enterprise Fund (Pay As You Go)
	State/Federal Grant
	CPA Grant
	Trust Fund/Local Grant
	Other*

Operating Budget Impact:	-\$15,000
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*Specify other funding source(s) in project description.

PROJECT DETAIL SHEET (Bres. Playground)

Bresnahan Plyaground Surfacing

Department:	Schools
Category:	Facilities Renovation/Repair
Request Type (New/Prior Year):	New
Priority:	3 - Medium
FY2027-FY2031 Project Cost:	\$275,000
Estimated Useful Life:	20 Years
Capital Project Score	



Description and Justification:

The poured in place rubber surfacing at the playground is just over 10yrs old and is now in need of replacement due to cracking pulling apart.

Estimated Costs by Fiscal Year	
FY2027	\$0
FY2028	\$285,000
FY2029	\$0
FY2030	\$0
FY2031	\$0
Total Five-Year Cost	\$285,000

Anticipated Funding Source(s)	
	General Fund (Debt)
X	General Fund (Pay As You Go)
	Enterprise Fund (Debt)
	Enterprise Fund (Pay As You Go)
	State/Federal Grant
	CPA Grant
	Trust Fund/Local Grant
	Other*

Operating Budget Impact:	-\$8,000
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*Specify other funding source(s) in project description.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM: FY2027-FY2031

PROJECT DETAIL SHEET (NHS Feasibility)

NHS Feasibility Study

Department:	Schools
Category:	Facilities Renovation/Repair
Request Type (New/Prior Year):	New
Priority:	3 - Medium
FY2027-FY2031 Project Cost:	\$80,000
Estimated Useful Life:	20 Years
Capital Project Score	



Description and Justification:

The purpose of this project is to take a look at the current spaces being used for various Science and STEM classes at the high school to determine the best way to create open and professional spaces that encourage cross-disiplinary use and instruction, provide for storage needs and support curricular needs. These funds would be used to hire an Actchituectual firm to conduct a feasibility study and produce cost estimates and plans for renovations to meet these goals.

Estimated Costs by Fiscal Year	
FY2027	\$20,000
FY2028	\$20,000
FY2029	\$20,000
FY2030	\$20,000
FY2031	\$0
Total Five-Year Cost	\$80,000

Operating Budget Impact:	\$0
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Anticipated Funding Source(s)	
	General Fund (Debt)
X	General Fund (Pay As You Go)
	Enterprise Fund (Debt)
	Enterprise Fund (Pay As You Go)
	State/Federal Grant
	CPA Grant
X	Trust Fund/Local Grant
	Other*

*Specify other funding source(s) in project description.

PROJECT DETAIL SHEET (NHS Flooring)

NHS-Flooring Replacement

Department:	Schools
Category:	Facilities Renovation/Repair
Request Type (New/Prior Year):	Prior Year
Priority:	3 - Medium
FY207-FY2031 Project Cost:	\$75,000
Estimated Useful Life:	20 Years
Capital Project Score	



Description and Justification:

Carpets and flooring throughout the high school are all from the addition/renovation in 2002. Many areas are now showing signs of wear and tear. Targeting FY2026 to begin an annual replacement program is a prudent measure to take.

Estimated Costs by Fiscal Year	
FY2027	\$50,000
FY2028	\$25,000
FY2029	\$0
FY2030	\$0
FY2031	\$0
Total Five-Year Cost	\$75,000

Operating Budget Impact:	\$0
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Anticipated Funding Source(s)	
	General Fund (Debt)
X	General Fund (Pay As You Go)
	Enterprise Fund (Debt)
	Enterprise Fund (Pay As You Go)
	State/Federal Grant
	CPA Grant
	Trust Fund/Local Grant
	Other*

*Specify other funding source(s) in project description.

PROJECT DETAIL SHEET (NHS Plaster)

NHS School Auditorium Plaster Repairs

Department:	Schools
Category:	Facilities Renovation/Repair
Request Type (New/Prior Year):	Prior Year
Priority:	4 - Low
FY2026-FY2030 Project Cost:	\$100,000
Estimated Useful Life:	30 Years
Capital Project Score	



Description and Justification:

Plaster throughout the auditorium has sustained damage from a number of sources including roof and window leaks. The window leaks have been repaired, but this project should be staged after the roof issues have been addressed. Damage to the plaster has occurred on the ceiling and walls in both the main section of the auditorium and the lobby area.

This project will be moved up the priority list after the roof over this section of the building is replaced.

Estimated Costs by Fiscal Year	
FY2027	\$0
FY2028	\$100,000
FY2029	\$0
FY2030	\$0
FY2031	\$0
Total Five-Year Cost	\$100,000

Operating Budget Impact:	\$0
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Anticipated Funding Source(s)	
	General Fund (Debt)
X	General Fund (Pay As You Go)
	Enterprise Fund (Debt)
	Enterprise Fund (Pay As You Go)
	State/Federal Grant
	CPA Grant
X	Trust Fund/Local Grant
	Other*

*Specify other funding source(s) in project description.

PROJECT DETAIL SHEET (NHS Electrification)

NHS Electrification -- Boiler & Chiller Replacement

Department:	Schools
Category:	Facilities Renovation/Repair
Request Type (New/Prior Year):	Prior Year
Priority:	4 - Low
FY2027-FY2031 Project Cost:	\$3,600,000
Estimated Useful Life:	30 Years
Capital Project Score	



Description and Justification:

The Purpose of this project is to replace the aging boilers, and Chillers at the High School and move the city forward toward emission resuction goals. In 2023 National Grid funded a scoping study to identify options for electrification ot the two HVAC systems at the High School. Of the two options identified, a central air to water heat pump system is currently the preferred option. The new heat pumps could be installed in the place currently occupied by the end-of-life chillers on the roof and utilize existing piping infrastructure. Estimated cost is \$3,622,700

Utility incentives for this project are estimated to be in the range of \$2 Million. In 2027 the MSBA will begin to accept SOI's related to electrification projects. Newburyport's 2-23 reimbursement rate from the MSBA is about 43%, which would apply to the remaing cost AFTER utility incentives are deducted fromt he total project cost.

Estimated Costs by Fiscal Year	
FY2027	\$0
FY2028	\$500,000
FY2029	\$0
FY2030	\$0
FY2031	\$3,100,000
Total Five-Year Cost	\$3,600,000

Operating Budget Impact:	\$0
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Anticipated Funding Source(s)	
	General Fund (Debt)
X	General Fund (Pay As You Go)
	Enterprise Fund (Debt)
	Enterprise Fund (Pay As You Go)
X	State/Federal Grant
	CPA Grant
	Trust Fund/Local Grant
X	Other*

*Specify other funding source(s) in project description.



NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FY27 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING

DECEMBER 15, 2025

FY27 Budget Development Process

Goal: Develop a student-centered, sustainable budget aligned with district priorities, that balances impact of:

- **Rising costs**
 - Special education services, tuitions & transportation
 - Utilities □ Electricity rate contract expiring on November 28, 2026
- **Contractual obligations**
 - Three union contracts settled for FY26-28 and non-union staff
 - Major operations contracts—Transportation (FY25-29) and Food Services (FY23-27)
- **Pressure on City Budget from health insurance and Prop. 2 ½ constraints**
 - Plan currently projected to increase ~14% for FY27, following a similarly large increase last year



FY27 will be a challenging budget year that requires careful prioritization and continued financial discipline.

FY27 Budget Preparation Guidelines

Budget holders were asked to:

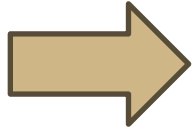
- 1) Connect each request to student needs, district goals, and expected outcomes.
- 2) Provide clear justification, detailed cost information, and itemized line items.
- 3) Identify offsets for staffing or programmatic additions when possible.
- 4) Document facility needs and program requests with clear descriptions of impact.

Where We Are in the Process

- Last Phase:

- Listening to stakeholders
- Building common understanding through the Joint Budget Meeting

- Current Phase:

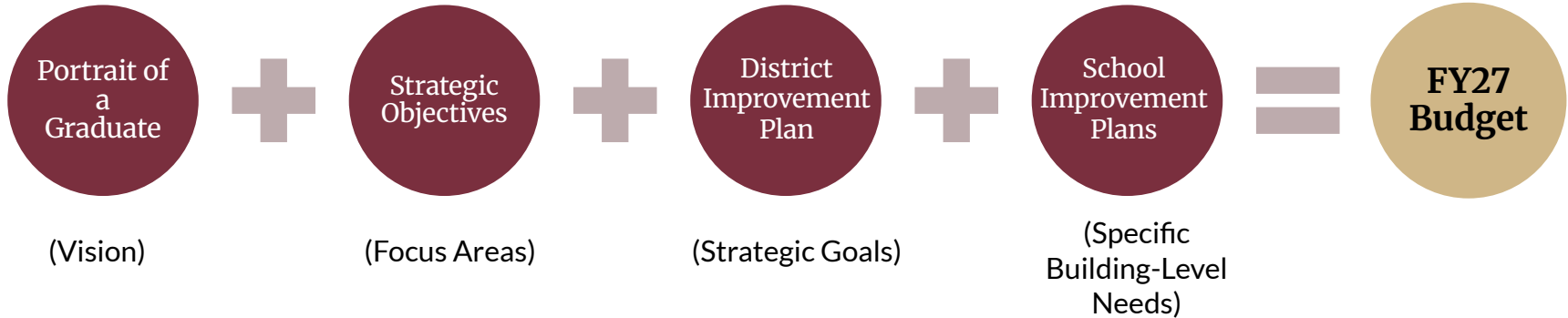


- Meeting with budget holders
- Reviewing requests
- Projecting FY27 known contractual obligations (level service budget)

- Next Phase:

- Aligning the budget with district priorities
- Preparing the preliminary budget draft

Aligning the Budget to District Priorities



Budget Aligned to Student Learning

Goal	Ensure students experience coherent, high-quality instruction aligned to curriculum frameworks, assessments, and data cycles.
	Provide engaging, student-centered learning experiences that support deeper learning across PK–12.



Resources Needed	Curriculum materials, assessment tools, and aligned resources in literacy, math, writing, and content areas.
	Intervention staff and programs that support diverse learning needs.
	Staffing and resources that expand engaging learning opportunities, such as experiential and outdoor learning at the elementary level.

Budget Aligned to Instructional Leadership

Goal

Support educators in planning and delivering student-centered learning through collaborative structures and evidence-based practices.

Ensure curriculum alignment, coherent instructional systems, and effective use of assessment and collaboration structures.



Resources Needed

Instructional coaches, teacher leadership roles, and districtwide coordinators in literacy and math.

Professional learning aligned with curriculum, assessment, and instructional design priorities.

Time and coverage for PLCs, data meetings, and cross-grade collaboration.

Budget Aligned to Professional Culture

Goal

Foster safe, supportive, and inclusive school environments where students and staff feel connected and able to fully engage in school life.



Resources Needed

Attendance Supervisor and building-based attendance support systems.

Tools and professional learning for climate, culture, and SEL work.

Resources for extracurriculars, leadership activities, and real-world learning opportunities.

Budget Aligned to Family & Community Engagement

Goal

Ensure clear, accessible communication and create welcoming opportunities for all families and community members to engage with schools.



Resources Needed

Communication platforms, website/CMS support, and translation and interpretation services.

Family and community liaison support and outreach.

Tools for collecting and responding to feedback from families and the broader community.

Budget Aligned to Management & Operations

Goal	Maintain safe, functional, and well-supported school environments and ensure strong operational systems across facilities, technology, HR, and finance.
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Resources Needed	Custodial and maintenance staffing, preventive maintenance, and facility upgrades.
	Capital and technology investments to support instruction and operations.
	HR and finance systems that support recruitment, onboarding, budgeting, and district management.

FY27 Budget Timeline



Complete



In Progress

Date(s)	Milestone
Sep 2, 2025	SC Business Meeting – Draft FY27 Budget Development Timeline
Oct 20, 2025	SC Business Meeting – Planning for Budget Listening Session
Nov 3, 2025	Budget Listening Session 🗣️ & SC Business Meeting
Nov 18, 2025	Joint Budget Meeting (Mayor, SC, CC) 🤝
Nov 25, 2025	Budget guidelines and materials sent to budget holders 📧
Dec 1, 2025	SC Business Meeting
Dec 5, 2025	Initial budget requests due to Superintendent
Dec 8 - 11, 2025	Individual meetings with budget holders to review FY27 requests

Date(s)	Milestone
Dec 15, 2025	SC Business Meeting - FY27 Budget Development Update 🗣️ & Preliminary 5-Year CIP
Jan 6, 2026	Initial Draft Budget Reviewed with Leadership Team
Jan 14, 2026	SC Business Meeting - School Improvement Plans Presented
Jan 28, 2026	SC Business Meeting/Retreat
Feb 11, 2026	SC Business Meeting - Preliminary Budget Presentation 🗣️, Review Final 5-Year CIP
Feb 25, 2026	SC Business Meeting - Updated Preliminary Budget 🗣️, Vote to Approve 5-Year CIP, Review FY27 Fee Schedule
Mar 2026	Joint Fincom Meeting (SC, CC) 🤝
Mar 11, 2026	SC Business Meeting - Superintendent's Recommended Budget Presentation 🗣️
Mar 25, 2026	SC Business Meeting
Apr 8, 2026	SC Business Meeting - Public Hearing on Budget 🗣️
Apr 29, 2026	SC Business Meeting - Adoption of FY27 Budget ✅
May-Jun 2026	CC Budget Workshops 🏛️
Jun 2026	Final Citywide Budget Adoption ✅

School Committee
December 15, 2025

Superintendent's Report



Molin Winter Concert - Standing Room Only!

Wellness Advisory Meeting

The agenda included but was not limited to: review of 10/2/25 minutes, NPS Wellness Advisory, Department/Programming updates, Our Neighbors Table, NYS/Beacon Coalition, Health and PE Counseling, Red Cross Club, Anna Jacques and Food Service. Other discussion topics included Mental Health, and Trish Boetang, City Social. The quarterly NHS Guidance Newsletter offers families a one stop shopping for resources including local providers of mental/behavioral health. Lastly, the 5 members of the student-led Red Cross Club are now certified Red Cross CPR instructors and they are hoping to offer some training at the Newburyport Public Library in addition to offering training to local restaurants. The next Wellness Advisory meeting will be held on March 5, 2026.

Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment (Governing Board)

I attended the MCIEA Governing Board meeting on December 11th. The agenda included but was not limited to: the statewide graduation interim report, MCIEA statement regarding standardized testing, School Quality Measures, steering committee update, Performance Assessment, Maynard visit, capstone course, FY27 budget update and future meeting dates.

CREST Collaborative Meeting

CREST Collaborative held this month's board meeting virtually. The agenda included but was not limited to: acceptance of the November minutes, the December 2025 staffing report, enrollment data, treasurer report, CREST Director evaluation, transportation costs and capital planning. This was a productive meeting as all sending districts were in attendance.

January Professional Development Planning Meeting

Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong, Dr. Tom Abrams and I facilitated the District CEL / ILT Planning meeting. The purpose of our meeting was to connect the vertical team of leaders, review ongoing Portrait of a Graduate and Powerful Learning work, connect vertical discipline base work to POG / Powerful Learning focus and to develop the CEL / ILT plan vertical workshop on January 16th. Key topic areas were setting the stage with our district vision, what we are doing to move towards that vision, and charting where we are heading. The vertical math team presented their collaboration work as a possible template, then all 35 CEL / ILT Teacher Leaders and administrators broke off into groups and vertically planned the two hour workshops. This was a very productive meeting where our teacher leaders are taking the lead in preparing and developing the professional development for their colleagues.

Human Rights Meeting

Lisa Furlong, Pam Kealey and I attended the Human Rights Commission meeting Thursday evening. The agenda consisted of but was not limited to: approval of the October meeting notes, School update, Holocaust Remembrance Planning, Iftar Planning, Peace Prize Planning, and a Diversity and Tolerance Check-In.

Governor Healey Visit

Governor Maura Healey will be visiting the Nock Middle School on Friday, December 12th to speak with our 8th grade students as part of the Nock's "I am We" Civics project initiative. The Governor will be speaking about her role and responsibilities as the Governor of Massachusetts, followed by a question and answer session with students. This is a tremendous opportunity for our students to engage directly with Governor Healey! I would like to extend a special thank you to Principal Nick Markos and 8th Grade Social Studies teacher & Curriculum Leader Jen Groskin for their efforts in organizing this event.

North Shore Superintendent's Round Table Appreciation Luncheon

Superintendents from the 24 North Shore districts were invited to a staff appreciation luncheon. I was pleased to invite Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong, Executive Administrative Assistant Joanne Yelle and Administrative Assistant Julia Olson. I had the opportunity to introduce the team and thank them for their dedication and commitment to the Newburyport School Community.