

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

School Committee Business Meeting 6:30PM

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

SC Business Meeting Agenda March 11, 2026

SC Business Meeting Agenda Notes March 11, 2026

SC Warrant March 11, 2026

SC Business Meeting Minutes February 25, 2026

Applicants for Newburyport's School Committee Rep - Whittier

FY27 Updated Draft Budget

 FY27 Athletic Fees Proposals & Estimates

 NSSRT Legislative Priorities

 Chapter 70 / School Choice

Superintendent's Report

 MCIEA – Legislative Briefing

 Collins Center Efficiency Study - Information Request List

Newburyport Public Schools
School Committee Business Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 6:30PM
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88589281391?pwd=2GlanVWWaeyBnLby3Ha1QoLixH4NP8.1>

Meeting ID: 885 8928 1391

Passcode: 109707

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 February 25, 2026 – *possible Vote*
5. School Committee Student Representative Report
6. *Appoint Newburyport Representative to the Whittier Regional School Committee – *possible Vote*
7. FY27 Updated Draft Budget
8. School Choice Overview
9. Potentially reschedule May 27th School Committee meeting - discussion
10. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Andrew Boger
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Kathleen Shaw
 - c. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – Breanna Higgins
 - d. SEPAC – Kathleen Shaw
 - e. NEF – Lauren Eramo
11. Superintendent's Report
12. 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 Business Meeting

March 11, 2026 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 February 25, 2026 – *possible Vote*
5. School Committee Student Representative Report: *NHS student representative will provide the report.*
6. *Appoint Newburyport Representative to the Whittier Regional School Committee – *possible Vote*
Two Newburyport representative positions for Whittier Regional School Committee are vacant due to the recent resignation of Mary DeLai, whose term expires on March 31, 2027, as well as Brett Murphy, who is not seeking reappointment when his term expires on March 31, 2026. Brett has served 24 years as a Newburyport representative. Two Newburyport residents will address the School Committee regarding their interest in the positions: Erin Fenn and Stephanie Kalina. (attached)
7. FY27 Updated Draft Budget
Superintendent Sean Gallagher will review the updated FY27 Budget draft. (attached)
8. School Choice Overview
An overview of the school choice program will be provided by Superintendent Sean Gallagher, along with a Frequently Asked Question list. (attached)
9. Potentially reschedule May 27th School Committee meeting – discussion
The High School Scholarship Awards Night is scheduled for May 27th at 7:00PM, which is the same night a School Committee Business meeting.
10. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Finance Subcommittee – Andrew Boger
 - b. Policy Subcommittee – Kathleen Shaw
 - c. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – Breanna Higgins
 - d. SEPAC – Kathleen Shaw
 - e. NEF – Lauren Eramo
11. Superintendent's Report: *NHS Theatre Advances to Semi-Finals, Organizational Development Case Study, MSBA Project Approval, Superintendent's Advisory Council, Immigration Policy and Student Support, Collins Center Operational Efficiency Study, Wellness Advisory Committee Update, and Principal Leadership Meeting*
12. New Business

* possible vote

FYI: Upcoming Dates:

- ✓ SEPAC meeting: Monday, March 16 @ 6:00PM (virtual)
- ✓ Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meeting: Wednesday, March 18 @ 9:00AM
- ✓ Finance Subcommittee meeting: Thursday, March 19 @ 8:30AM
- ✓ Early Release Day: Friday, March 18
- ✓ Joint Meeting Finance Subcommittee & City Council Budget & Finance: Thursday, March 19 @ 4:00PM
- ✓ School Committee Business meeting: Wednesday, March 25 @ 6:30PM

School Committee

Warrant(s)

March 11, 2026

Warrant 8175 FY26	\$ 542,194.95
A Warrant(s)	4,203.01
Total of Warrant:	\$ 546,397.96

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Wednesday, February 25, 2026

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:31 PM. Roll call found all members present, except Breanna Higgins and Lauren Eramo.

Public Comments: none

Warrant

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

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of \$281,433.65 as presented.

Warrant 8174 (FY26)	\$271,562.07
A-Warrant	<u>\$ 9,871.58</u>
	\$281,433.65

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent
Lauren Eramo absent

Minutes

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adopt the minutes for the February 11, 2026 School Committee meeting.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent
Lauren Eramo absent

Career Technical Education (CTE)

Principal Andy Wulf and Dr. Erin Hobbs provided an overview to offer students additional options for Career Tech Education (CTE) pathways and Chapter 74 programming at the high school. Principal Wulf explained their goals, as well as the pathways currently offered at NHS. Dr. Hobbs described the difference between Innovation Career Pathways (ICP) and Chapter 74 Career Technical Education (CTE). She also reviewed data they use to help determine priority occupations, and described programs they would like to offer in the future at the high school (i.e. Early Education & Care and Health Assisting). Programming requirements, funding options and their timeline were also reviewed.

Student Representative Report

Anna Pervier provided the student report which included upcoming art activities with for grade 4 &

grade 5, March Madness kick off at the Nock, and the high school's drama festival competition at Woburn High, and the national poetry recitation contest for Poetry Out Loud. (details attached)

Review 2026 – 2027 School Calendar – 2nd read

SC members reviewed the proposed 2026-2027 school calendar. Superintendent Sean Gallagher stated he spoke to the NTA Union Reps regarding the idea of moving the student start day to August 31 and teacher professional development days to the previous week, which in turn would move the reserved snow days up one week. The Union is willing to consider this option and be part of a steering committee to look at the 2027-2028 calendar.

Motion:

On a motion by Andrew Boger and seconded by John Ricci it was

VOTED: to approve the 2026-2027 School Calendar as presented in accordance with Policy IC/ICA School Year/Calendar.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent

Lauren Eramo absent

FY27 Level of Service Budget Overview

Superintendent Sean Gallagher presented an adjusted baseline budget for FY27. He reviewed a list of reductions totaling \$590,661, which brings the City Appropriation down to 6.4%, and the overall change from FY26 to 7.8%. The Superintendent is working to further reduce the FY27 budget by the March 11th meeting. Fees will be discussed at the Finance Subcommittee meeting (2/26), then with the full School Committee on March 11th.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Andrew Boger stated the next meeting will be held on February 26th at 8:30AM.

Policy Subcommittee

Kathleen Shaw stated the next meeting will be held on March 2nd.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee

Andrew Boger reported they have not met.

Superintendent's Report

"Zero the Hero" 100th Day at Bresnahan: The Superintendent attended the 100th day of school celebration at the Bresnahan, which began with the arrival of superhero, "Zero the Hero".

North Shore Superintendent's Round Table Legislative preparation: Superintendent Gallagher and Finance Director Ethan Manning will be speaking about Transportation and MSBA Capital Project Overview at the NSSRT Legislative meeting on February 27th.

Carol Appleton Yankee Homecoming Director: Superintendent Gallagher is working with the new Yankee Homecoming Director (Carol Appleton) to share ideas about increasing student participation with this event.

Update on MCIEA Governing Board Meeting: The recent board meeting focused on a proposed graduation requirement involving capstones and portfolios, the review of various policy updates and funding.

Around the District: A new episode of Around the District was recently filmed and produced by students in the new Cindy Johnson Video Lab at the high school. The Superintendent state this episode will highlight many success stories within the district.

Yurt Outdoor Classroom Proposal: An outdoor classroom space is being proposed for the Bresnahan School. The project idea is possibly being championed and sponsored by the PTO.

New Business:

- The Superintendent thanked Mayor Reardon and both the city / school district maintenance and custodial crews for their efforts cleaning up after the blizzard for two days.
- Mayor Reardon stated a 3-day parking ban will begin tonight (2/25) at 9PM for snow removal.
- Kathleen Shaw will look into SEPAC as meetings have slowed down.

Follow-up:

- Superintendent Gallagher has started recruiting members for an AI Advisory Committee and hopes to have a committed list of members for the March 11th School Committee meeting.
- Mayor Reardon stated two applicants have applied for the open Whittier School Committee openings. Interested applicants have until February 27th to apply. The Mayor would like this topic included on the March 11th School Committee meeting agenda.
- The School Committee plans to meet with student representatives in March.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

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

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:51PM.

Motion Passed

Breanna Higgins absent

Lauren Eramo absent

Student Report for School Committee

February 25, 2026

Submitted by: Cassidy Bolcome & Ann Pervier

Location: Senior Center

Bresnahan News:

Molin News:

Molin Artist in Residence, Kim Salathe, will be returning March 23-26 to integrate mindfulness with art. 4th-grade students will create a clay labyrinth, and 5th grade will engage in a mindful zentangle activity.

Nock Middle School News:

We are excited to kick off March Madness after our extended break! Our kickoff assembly will take place on Friday, when students will come together as a school community to review expectations, learn about team challenges, and build excitement for the month ahead.

The goal of March Madness is to reinforce our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) system while bringing some fun and energy to what can feel like a long month. Through friendly competition and schoolwide activities, we aim to maintain positive behavior expectations and strengthen our sense of community.

We are also looking forward to upcoming college visits. Our sixth graders will attend Salem State University, our eighth graders will visit Endicott College, and our seventh graders will attend either Emerson College or Curry College. We are currently finalizing the details and look forward to sharing more information soon.

Overall, students are enthusiastic about the month ahead and the opportunities to come together as a community while continuing to uphold our academic expectations.

High School News:

NHS Theatre will compete in the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild's High School Drama Festival preliminary round this Saturday, February 28 at Woburn High School along with 7 other schools. We will perform second, at 10 :00 AM. 80 other schools across the Commonwealth will be competing at 10 other sites that same day. If we move on, semifinals will take place two weeks later, followed by finals in Boston the last weekend in March. We are excited to produce a 40-minute cut of the hilarious and classic piece of American theatre: *You Can't Take It With You*. We will have PREVIEWS at NHS this Thursday, February 26th at 3:15 PM & 7:00 PM. We would LOVE for you to attend one of our previews, and participate in feedback after the show--this process is a HUGE help in preparing for festival day! Assisting me with directing is NHS Theatre Alum and NPS Communications Specialist Julia Olson, '20.

Sophomore Maria Freuh placed in the preliminary round of the national poetry recitation contest Poetry Out Loud. She will compete in the Finals with representatives from 11 other schools at the Old South Meeting House in Boston on March 8 to whittle it down to one student who will represent the state of Massachusetts in the national competition in Washington DC.

Erin Fenn

Dear Members of Newburyport School Committee,

I am interested in serving on the Whittier Regional Technical High School Committee. My perspective is valuable as I am both a parent of school aged children in the community, as well as a special education teacher with years of experience advocating for students with diverse learning abilities and needs.

I have been a special education resource room teacher since 2005, primarily in middle school, and know how important it is to best serve all learners, particularly those whose path is not geared to a traditional four year college preparation. I have taught in diverse communities, such as Haverhill, and have an understanding of the needs of those residents that Whittier serves. I have been a Newburyport resident since 2014, with two daughters attending Newburyport schools. My family has benefited from the strength of Newburyport's school and infrastructure. My perspective will be one of balance & care, knowing how important it is to our entire community both presently and in the future to ensure a quality technical education for Newburyport and ensuring Newburyport taxpayers interests are represented.

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter and considering me to serve on the Whittier Regional Technical High School Committee.

Sincerely,
Erin Fenn
15 Lucey Dr.

Erin Fenn

206.605.2595

gossetterin@gmail.com

Veteran, Highly Qualified in Reading Special Education Teacher

Caring, encouraging and dedicated Special Education resource teacher with years of experience of both teaching students to meet their individual learning goals as well as modifying and accommodating materials so students can access the general education curriculum. Frequent and consistent collaborator with parents, teachers, administration, paraeducators and community members to meet the unique needs of each of my students on my caseload. Developed with fellow selected special educators to produce social skills and study skills curriculum for use in resource room classrooms across the district. Participated in teams that created district wide adaptations to the middle schools' core curriculums. Well versed using classroom technology, as well as assistive technology.

Education

Endorsement, Sheltered English Immersion Teacher

2018

Professional Teacher License, Moderate Disabilities PreK-8

License no. 478156

Professional Teaching Certificate Seattle University 2011

K-8 Elementary Teaching License, Special Education K-12 Endorsement

Master's In Teaching Seattle University 2005

K-8 Elementary Teaching License, Special Education K-12 Endorsement

Bachelors of Arts Seattle University 2001

Liberal Studies

Professional Experience

Special Education Teacher, Pine Grove Elementary School, Triton Regional School District, 2021-Present

Special Education Teacher, Calvin D Hunking School & Bradford Elementary School, Haverhill Public School District, 2014-2021

Special Education Teacher, Odle Middle School, Bellevue School District 2005-2014

Special Education Para Educator, Sammamish High School, Bellevue School District 2002-2003

Stephannie Kalina

Steph Kalina, FCAS, MS

Stephanie.Kalina@LibertyMutual.com

480-236-5261

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Liberty Mutual Insurance, Boston, MA

2015-Present

Director II, Data Science, USDS Data Science Excellence: Complex Components Special Projects Lead 2025-Present

- Led a portfolio of strategic projects across personal and small-commercial lines.
- Owned and maintained in-market credit models, partnering with underwriting, pricing, legal, and product teams to ensure regulatory compliance and operational performance while building next best in class model.
- Developed, implemented, and supported limit and deductible factor frameworks across lines of business.
- Supported competitive intelligence initiatives across multiple workstreams, translating data insights into actionable strategies.
- Managed and mentored a diverse team of data scientists and analysts, driving professional development, performance management, and career progression.

Director II, Data Science, USDS Auto Product Design & Modeling: Safeco Brand Lead

2022-2025

- Directed the model build, execution, and launch of Safeco Private Passenger Auto Model Refresh (AMR3.0 & 3.1)
- Worked with key internal and external stakeholders to develop and launch new product from the ground up.
- Collaborated on cross-Auto department research projects such as 1Auto initiative and various ad-hoc topics that arose daily.
- Developed comprehensive documentation and tools for new team members.
- Established the Auto Training Cabinet and consolidated new hire information, improving onboarding processes.
- Managed relationships with DSOs, developing innovative solutions to business concerns.
- Successfully managed a diverse team of 6 ICs, fostering a collaborative and high-performing work environment.

Director I, Data Science, USDS Auto Product Design & Modeling

2019-2022

- Directed the model build and design of the AMR2.75 program, ensuring a seamless transition.
- Represented USDS in AMR3.0 design discussions with external groups, shaping the program's structure.
- Served as lead modeler and reviewer on many states and provided key guidance to team members.
- Worked closely with MDS and internal Data Squad (member & cofounder) to conduct QC of core modeling data.
- Co-created the DOI Objection Database, utilized throughout USDS to drive ease of state objection responses.

Senior Actuarial Analyst, National Insurance Large Account Pricing

2017-2019

- Created new, low-touch tool to calculate Commercial Auto experience modification factor and predictive premium.
- Partnered with UW to provide account-level pricing support. Formed and fostered relationships with UW contacts.
- Leveraged cross-lines work to create new process in SAS for Auto to project and on-level premium data.
- Improved existing outdated tools used by UW, serving as the SME for all Auto stand-alone tools.

Actuarial Analyst GRM East | West

2015-2017

- Worked closely with Solvency II-eligible countries across varying time zones to meet compliance requirements.
- Collaborated across functional areas to create reporting system used by SII teams to file in Essbase and HFM.
- Created stand-alone Excel tool to calculate the Risk Margin, a necessary component of SII reporting.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Data Science Professional Resource Group Mentor

Acted as a mentor to junior data scientist in the field

DSPRG People Leader Forum Co-Lead

Organized and moderated manager-level discussions with DS focus

DSPRG DEI Member

Presented at NC A2i and SREB as Liberty Mutual DS Representative

New Hire & Interview Volunteer

Actuarial New Hire Training Presenter; ADP and Actuarial Volunteer Interviewer

EDUCATION

Fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society

Autumn 2021

Boston University - Boston, MA

Master of Science, Actuarial Science

Bachelor of Arts, Psychology

Harvard University Extension School

Linear Algebra, Calculus II, III



NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

FY27 Updated Draft Budget

SCHOOL COMMITTEE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 2026

FY27 Budget-at-a-Glance

Total Budget \$47.8M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• +\$3.2M or +7.3%
City Appropriation \$41.5M	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• +\$2.0M or +5.2%
Reduction From Level Service	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1.1M in total adjustments and offsets
Next Step	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Preliminary Budget on March 25, 2026

The March 11 updated draft reflects additional refinements since the February 25 adjusted baseline and continues to narrow the City appropriation increase ahead of the Preliminary Budget

FY27 Updated Draft Budget

Source of Funds

Source	FY26 Budget	FY27 Budget	\$ Change	% Change
City Appropriation	39,436,665	41,474,648	2,037,983	5.2%
Circuit Breaker Program	2,250,000	2,850,000	600,000	26.7%
School Choice	971,913	1,750,000	778,087	80.1%
IDEA Grants	587,000	623,000	36,000	6.1%
ESSA (Title I-A/D, II-A, IV-A) Grants	125,000	125,000	0	0.0%
1:1 Program	73,758	95,000	21,242	28.8%
Adult Education*	75,000	0	(75,000)	-100.0%
Athletics	210,686	331,000	120,314	57.1%
International/Other Tuition	55,000	100,000	45,000	81.8%
Preschool Tuition	240,000	190,000	(50,000)	-20.8%
School Lunch*	399,600	23,250	(376,350)	-94.2%
Transportation	140,000	235,000	95,000	67.9%
Total	44,564,622	47,796,898	3,232,276	7.3%

Revolving

*FY26 included revolving-funded staff in the operating budget; FY27 budget reflects prior practice of not including revolving-funded staff in the operating budget.

FY27 Budget Reductions/Adjustments

Note: Some changes reflect expenditure reductions or refinements; others reflect updated revenue estimates or use of available fund balance.

Adjustments Reflected in the 2/25 Adjusted

Baseline:

- Staffing reallocation & attrition \$172,578
- Retirement savings \$56,000
- Facilities supplies/materials reduction \$31,250
- District/School-wide supplies/materials reductions \$39,408
- Technology budget reduction \$35,775
- Technology costs shifted to Technology funds \$60,000
- Multiple line-item adjustments \$13,650
- Charge grease trap inspections to Food Service Revolving Fund \$12,000
- Use of Preschool Revolving Fund balance \$10,000
- Use of Transportation Revolving Fund balance \$10,000
- Increase School Choice revenue estimate \$150,000



**2/25 reduction in City need:
\$590,661**

Additional Changes Since 2/25:

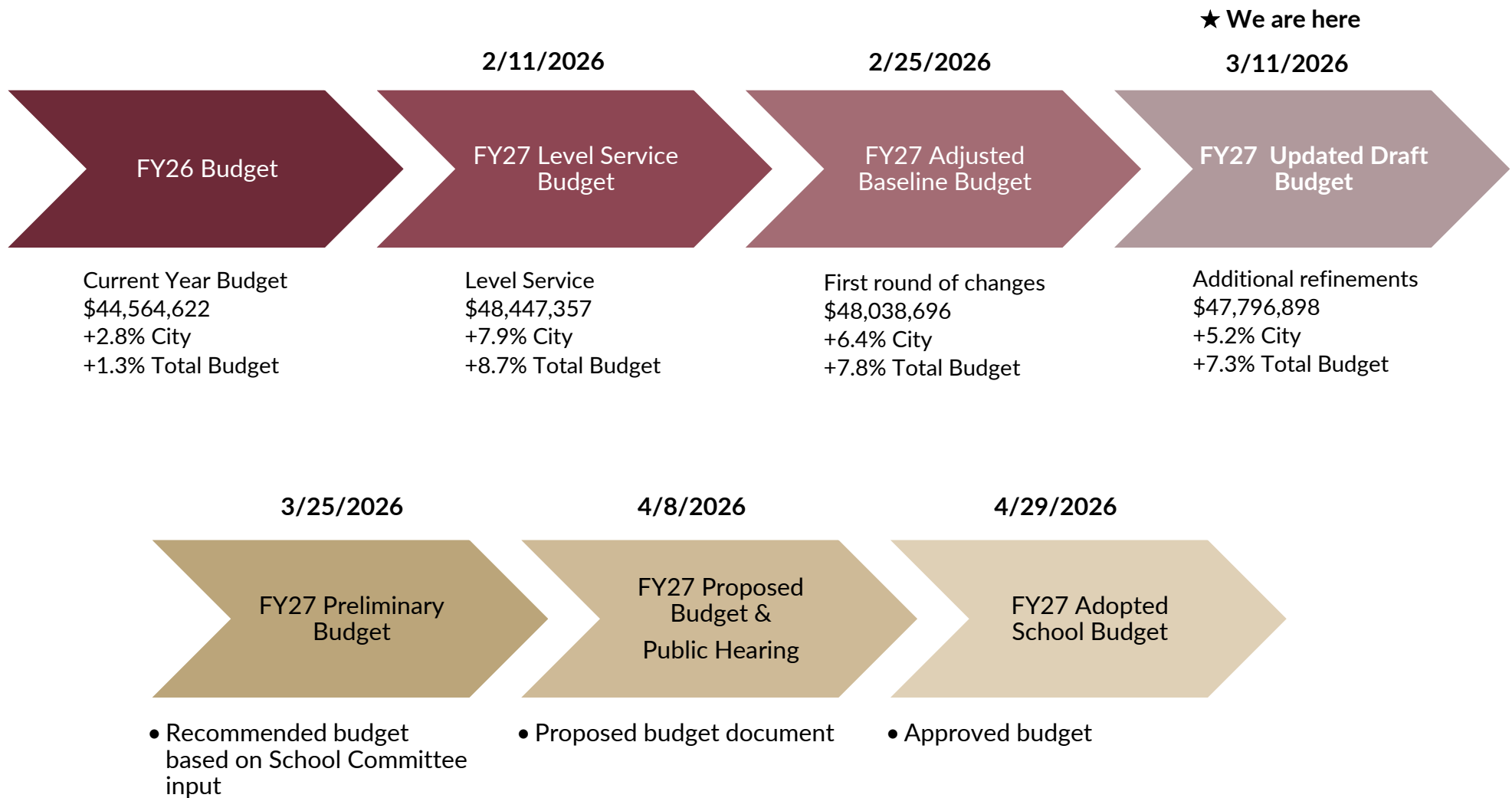
- Staffing reallocation & attrition \$117,858
- Enrollment-driven staffing adjustment \$115,000
- Additional line-item refinements \$8,940
- Updated Circuit Breaker estimate (\$150,000)
- One-time use of School Choice fund balance \$400,000



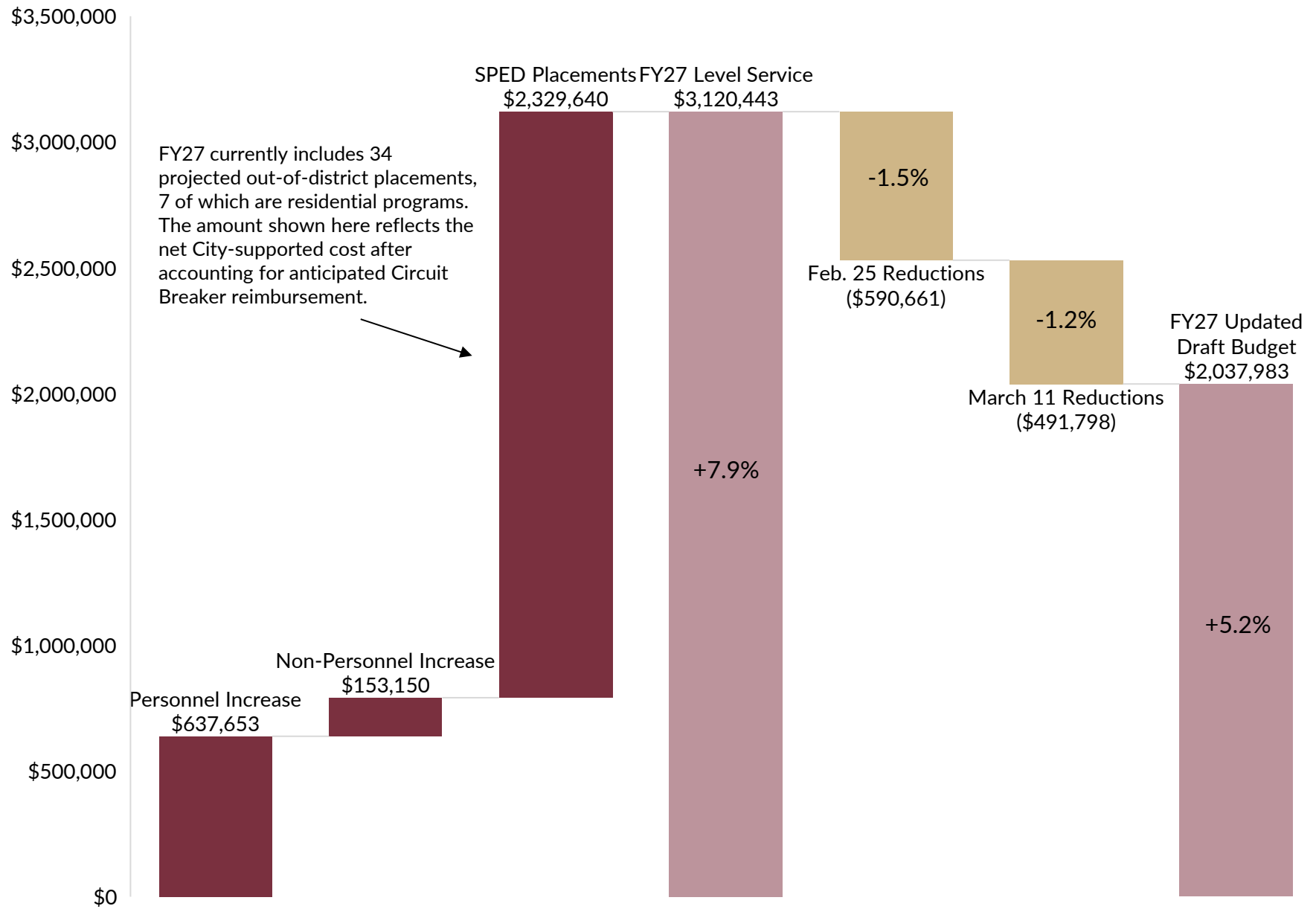
**Additional 3/11 reduction in City need:
\$491,798**

FY27 Budget Version Tracking

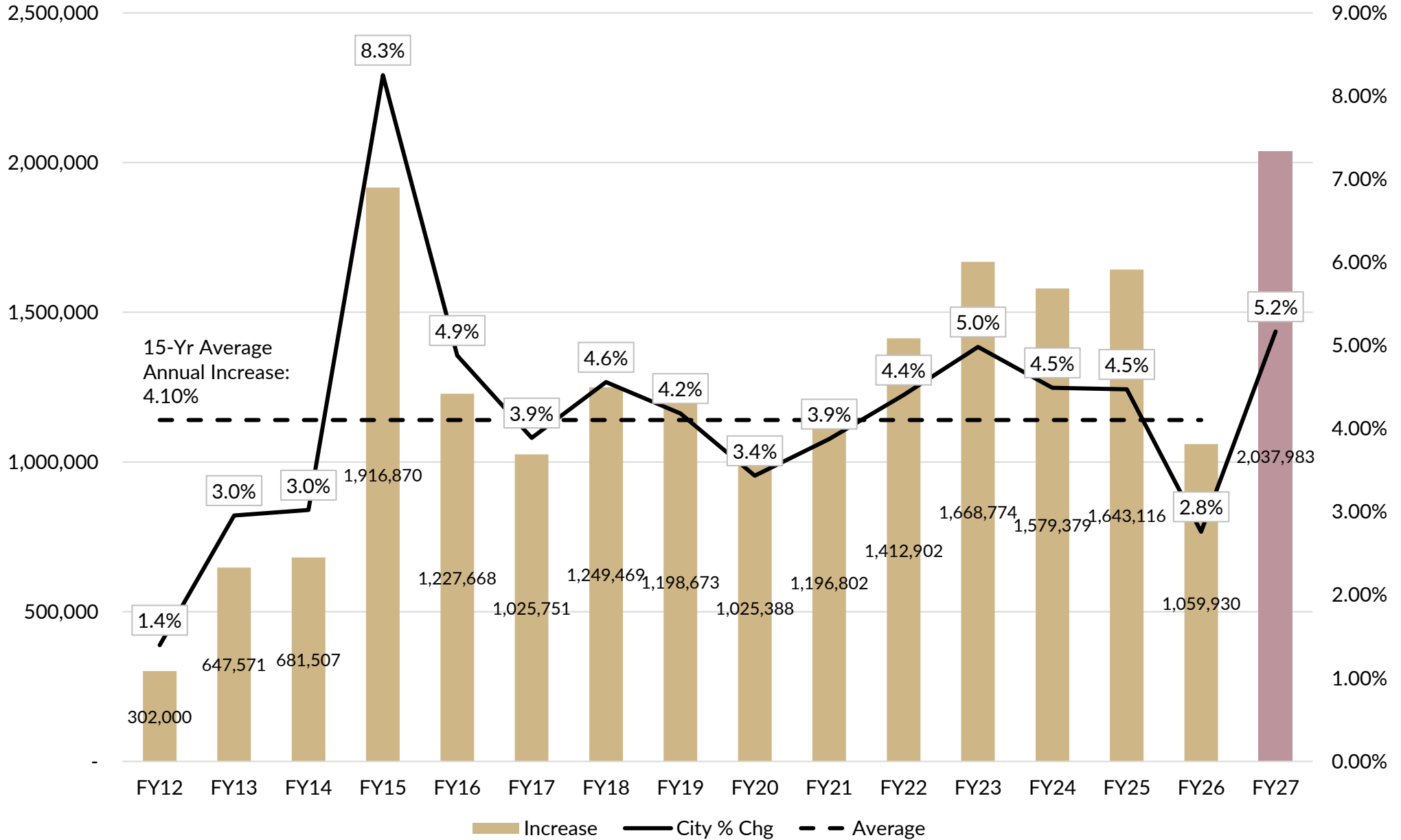
How the FY27 budget has changed through the development process



City Appropriation: From Level Service to Updated Draft



City Appropriation Trend (Past 15 Years)



Current Draft and Next Steps

Where We Are Now

- The current draft reflects the administration's effort to reduce the City appropriation need while avoiding recommended reductions likely to affect students and families.
- General staffing and non-personnel reviews are substantially complete.
- Remaining work is focused on refining key assumptions rather than identifying another broad round of reductions.

What Comes Next

- Meet with special education team to finalize cost and placement assumptions.
- Incorporate School Committee feedback from March 11, 2026.
- Return on March 25, 2026 with the Preliminary Budget.

FY27 Athletics Fee Proposals & Estimates 3/6/2026

	Annual Revenue	Total Change	Net Increase	← After Waivers/Family Caps*	Fee Tiers	Current	Proposed	Change
	Re-Tier + Fee Increase	+\$29,775	+\$26,202	(proposed)	Tier 1	\$450	\$450	\$0
	Re-Tier Only	+\$9,600	+\$8,448		Tier 2	\$300	\$325	+\$25
	Add \$50 Middle School Fee	+\$10,700	+\$9,416		Tier 3	\$250	\$275	+\$25
	*Estimate: Assumes 12% reduction based on waivers and family caps							

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS				Tiers		Fees			Annual Revenue (Before waivers & family caps)			Change from Current	
Season	School Year	Sport	Participation	Current	Proposed	Current	Re-Tier Only	Re-Tier + Fee Increase	Current	Re-Tier Only	Re-Tier + Fee Increase	Re-Tier Only	Re-Tier + Fee Increase
Fall	2025-2026	Cheerleading	17	Tier 3	Tier 3	\$250	\$250	\$275	\$4,250	\$4,250	\$4,675	\$0	\$425
Fall	2025-2026	Cross Country Boys	35	Tier 3	Tier 3	\$250	\$250	\$275	\$8,750	\$8,750	\$9,625	\$0	\$875
Fall	2025-2026	Cross Country Girls	28	Tier 3	Tier 3	\$250	\$250	\$275	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$7,700	\$0	\$700
Fall	2025-2026	Field Hockey	43	Tier 2	Tier 2	\$300	\$300	\$325	\$12,900	\$12,900	\$13,975	\$0	\$1,075
Fall	2025-2026	Golf	27	Tier 2	Tier 2	\$300	\$300	\$325	\$8,100	\$8,100	\$8,775	\$0	\$675
Fall	2025-2026	Football	60	Tier 1	Tier 1	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$0	\$0
Fall	2025-2026	Soccer Boys	70	Tier 2	Tier 2	\$300	\$300	\$325	\$21,000	\$21,000	\$22,750	\$0	\$1,750
Fall	2025-2026	Soccer Girls	55	Tier 2	Tier 2	\$300	\$300	\$325	\$16,500	\$16,500	\$17,875	\$0	\$1,375
Fall	2025-2026	Volleyball	47	Tier 2	Tier 2	\$300	\$300	\$325	\$14,100	\$14,100	\$15,275	\$0	\$1,175
Winter	2025-2026	Basketball Boys	43	Tier 2	Tier 2	\$300	\$300	\$325	\$12,900	\$12,900	\$13,975	\$0	\$1,075
Winter	2025-2026	Basketball Girls	27	Tier 2	Tier 2	\$300	\$300	\$325	\$8,100	\$8,100	\$8,775	\$0	\$675
Winter	2025-2026	Ice Hockey Boys	31	Tier 1	Tier 1	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$13,950	\$13,950	\$13,950	\$0	\$0
Winter	2025-2026	Ice Hockey Girls	21	Tier 1	Tier 1	\$450	\$450	\$450	\$9,450	\$9,450	\$9,450	\$0	\$0
Winter	2025-2026	Indoor Track Boys	45	Tier 3	Tier 2	\$250	\$300	\$325	\$11,250	\$13,500	\$14,625	\$2,250	\$3,375
Winter	2025-2026	Indoor Track Girls	39	Tier 3	Tier 2	\$250	\$300	\$325	\$9,750	\$11,700	\$12,675	\$1,950	\$2,925
Winter	2025-2026	Ski Girls	20	Tier 2	Tier 1	\$300	\$450	\$450	\$6,000	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$3,000	\$3,000
Winter	2025-2026	Ski Boys	16	Tier 2	Tier 1	\$300	\$450	\$450	\$4,800	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$2,400	\$2,400
Spring	2024-2025	Baseball	48	Tier 2	Tier 2	\$300	\$300	\$325	\$14,400	\$14,400	\$15,600	\$0	\$1,200
Spring	2024-2025	Lacrosse Boys	37	Tier 2	Tier 2	\$300	\$300	\$325	\$11,100	\$11,100	\$12,025	\$0	\$925
Spring	2024-2025	Lacrosse Girls	26	Tier 2	Tier 2	\$300	\$300	\$325	\$7,800	\$7,800	\$8,450	\$0	\$650
Spring	2024-2025	Outdoor Track Boys	56	Tier 3	Tier 3	\$250	\$250	\$275	\$14,000	\$14,000	\$15,400	\$0	\$1,400
Spring	2024-2025	Outdoor Track Girls	65	Tier 3	Tier 3	\$250	\$250	\$275	\$16,250	\$16,250	\$17,875	\$0	\$1,625
Spring	2024-2025	Tennis Boys	24	Tier 3	Tier 3	\$250	\$250	\$275	\$6,000	\$6,000	\$6,600	\$0	\$600
Spring	2024-2025	Tennis Girls	51	Tier 3	Tier 3	\$250	\$250	\$275	\$12,750	\$12,750	\$14,025	\$0	\$1,275
Spring	2024-2025	Softball	24	Tier 2	Tier 2	\$300	\$300	\$325	\$7,200	\$7,200	\$7,800	\$0	\$600
		Total	955						\$285,300	\$294,900	\$315,075	+\$9,600	+\$29,775

MIDDLE SCHOOL ATHLETICS (Currently no charge)					
Season	School Year	Sport	Participation	Fee	Annual Revenue
Fall	2025-2026	Cross Country (MS)	60	\$50	\$3,000
Fall	2025-2026	Field Hockey (MS)	47	\$50	\$2,350
Spring	2024-2025	Outdoor Track (MS)	107	\$50	\$5,350
		Total	214		+\$10,700

NSSRT

North Shore Superintendents' Round Table

NSSRT 2025-2026 Legislative Priorities: Strengthening the Future of Massachusetts Schools

Sustainable & Equitable Chapter 70 Funding

The Chapter 70 Formula is Outdated

The current state funding formula fails to reflect the actual costs of mandated educational services, placing an unsustainable burden on local communities.



Reliance on Property Tax Overrides

Many districts must regularly pass property tax overrides to cover essential costs like basic wages and healthcare.



ACTION: Modernize and Stabilize

Priority should be placed on updating the formula to keep pace with inflationary pressures and provide a minimum of \$150 per student in aid for FY27.

Special Education Costs & Stability

Soaring Out-of-District (OOD) Expenses

Costs for specialized transportation and out-of-district placements are among the top financial concerns that local budgets cannot absorb.



FY27 Advocacy for 90% Reimbursement

M.A.S.S. is advocating for the Special Education Circuit Breaker to be fully funded at a 90% reimbursement rate for both tuition and transportation.



EXAMPLE: Explore Cost-Sharing Models

Proposed legislation (S.2864) seeks to explore shared expenses between educational, clinical, and social service sectors to manage comprehensive placement costs.



Transportation Equity & Capital Needs

The Municipal Funding Gap



While regional districts receive some aid, municipal districts currently receive zero state support for mandated transportation services.

Deferred Infrastructure Projects

Critical school capital needs are being postponed as districts focus all available resources on basic operational survival.



ACTION: MSBA and Municipal Aid

NSSRT requests extending transportation cost support to municipal districts and increasing resources for school infrastructure through the Massachusetts School Building Authority.



Unrestricted Government Aid (UGGA)

UGGA Share of State Budget Halved

4.8% (FY07)

2.1% (Today)

Vital local aid has plummeted from 4.8% of the State budget in FY07 to just 2.1% today.

Funding Stagnant for 20 Years

\$1.3 billion (2007) = \$1.3 billion (Today) 2007-2026

UGGA remains stuck at approximately \$1.3 billion, the same actual dollar amount provided in 2007, despite the state budget more than doubling.

RESULT: Impact on Healthcare and Taxes

Stagnant aid forces real estate tax hikes and makes it harder to cover healthcare costs, which have increased over 250% since 2007.



Acknowledging Recent Successes



75% Circuit Breaker Funding
Successful adjustment to fund the Special Education Circuit Breaker transportation at 75%.



Universal Meals Program
Continued legislative support for the Universal School Meals Program ensures students are fed and ready to learn.



Supplemental Chapter 70 Support
Gratitude for additional Chapter 70 funding provided in recent supplemental budgets to address immediate fiscal needs.

How School Funding Flows in Massachusetts (Newburyport example)

Frequently Asked Questions: Chapter 70, Cherry Sheet, School Choice, and Commonwealth Charter Tuition

What is Chapter 70?

Chapter 70 is the Commonwealth's main K-12 education aid program.

It estimates a district's foundation budget (a minimum spending target) and then determines the split between local contribution and state aid.

Main drivers include:

- **Student counts and needs** (grade level, low-income, special education, ELL)
- **Assumed costs** for those needs (set in state law and updated over time)
- **Local ability to pay** (income/property measures)

What is the Cherry Sheet?

The Cherry Sheet is the Commonwealth's way of sending aid and collecting assessments from each city/town.

It includes certain state aid lines and required assessments, including tuitions.

For school finance, the primary components include:

- Chapter 70 school aid (state education aid)
- School Choice receiving and sending tuition (payments between districts)
- Commonwealth charter school sending tuition (district assessment)
- Charter tuition reimbursement (state offset; subject to appropriation)

Who Counts Towards Chapter 70?

In FY26, Newburyport's Chapter 70 enrollment example totals 2,037, based on Oct. 1 enrollment counts and the concept of financial responsibility:

$$1,935 + 16 + 86 = 2,037$$

1,935 Resident students educated in NPS
+ 16 Resident students who choice out to other MA districts
+ 86 Resident students attending Commonwealth charter schools
=2,037 Students Newburyport is financially responsible for (Chapter 70 count)

FY26 Minimum aid illustration: 2,037 students x \$150 per student = \$305,550.

Why this matters: the Chapter 70 formula follows the sending community's financial responsibility, even when a student is educated elsewhere.

Newburyport FY26 Cherry Sheet

Education-Related Items:

- Chapter 70 aid: \$5,857,620
- School Choice receiving tuition: \$958,820
- School Choice sending tuition: (\$201,662)
- Charter school sending tuition: (\$1,695,372)
- Charter tuition reimbursement: \$174,682

How School Funding Flows in Massachusetts (Newburyport example)

Frequently Asked Questions: Chapter 70, Cherry Sheet, School Choice, and Commonwealth Charter Tuition

How Does School Choice Funding Flow?

School Choice tuition follows where a student is educated, whereas Chapter 70 enrollment follows financial responsibility (resident town).

Base tuition is \$5,000 per student plus additional charges for any special education-related services.

- o Choice-in: receiving district gets School Choice receiving tuition
- o Choice-out: sending district pays School Choice sending tuition

School Choice Tuition



NPS has 189 School Choice students as of the 2025-2026 school year; estimated revenue is \$1,278,039 (avg about \$6,762 per student).

Why is the School Choice base tuition \$5,000 when the average-per-pupil cost is much higher?

Because they are different measures. DESE per-pupil spending is a districtwide average and can reflect costs beyond day-to-day classroom operations, such as out-of-district placements and debt service.

School Choice tuition is set in law and capped at \$5,000 for regular education (with a special education increment when applicable).

So \$5,000 vs. the DESE per-pupil figure is not a good “profit/loss” comparison. When seats are offered where the district has capacity, Choice tuition can help offset fixed system costs incurred regardless of small enrollment changes.

Why Allow School Choice?

School Choice can provide additional community benefits when the district controls the number of seats offered and accepts students where capacity exists, such as:

- o Enrollment stability when resident cohorts are smaller (supports steady staffing and sections)
- o Program viability (helps sustain electives, specialized courses, and extracurriculars)
- o Diversity and inclusion (broader perspectives and experiences in classrooms)
- o Predictability for long-range planning (reduces cliff decisions tied to small enrollment shifts)

How Does Funding for Charter Schools Work?

When a resident student attends a Commonwealth charter school, the student’s home community pays a charter tuition assessment to the charter school.

This is because the home community remains the student’s “financially responsible” district for school funding purposes.

To reduce the impact on sending districts, the state provides Charter Tuition Reimbursement (subject to appropriation).

School Committee
March 11, 2026

Superintendent's Report



Congratulations to the High School Drama Festival Team

NHS Theatre Advances to Semi-Finals

Congratulations are in order for the NHS Theatre program! For the first time since 2013, our students have advanced to the METG High School Drama Festival Semi-Finals with their production of *You Can't Take It With You*. The team will compete at Framingham High School this Saturday, March 14th, at 1:30 PM. To help the cast fine-tune their comedic timing with a live audience, a final preview performance will be held at NHS this Friday, March 13th, at 6:00 PM. We wish the entire cast and crew the best of luck in the "PLAYoffs."

Organizational Development Case Study

Assistant Superintendent Furlong and I recently met with Linda Tate, a writer for Essential Partners, regarding an upcoming case study on organizational development. Essential Partners was impressed by our district's success and commitment to constructive dialogue over the past few years. Newburyport Public Schools will be featured in a college-level textbook as a model for utilizing dialogue to navigate challenging topics—ranging from the Just Mercy community read to cell phone protocols and the valedictorian debate. This recognition highlights our success in embedding diverse viewpoints into a culture of collaborative problem-solving.

MSBA Project Approval

On February 25th, Director of Finance Ethan Manning, the Director of Grounds & Facilities, and I attended the final Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) Board of Directors meeting. I had the opportunity to speak on the critical scope of our infrastructure needs, and I am pleased to report that the MSBA officially approved the Nock/Molin and High School roof projects. The district has been cleared for a 43% reimbursement rate from the state for these essential capital improvements.

Superintendent's Advisory Council

The Superintendent's Advisory Council met on February 26th at the Nock Library to discuss several key district initiatives. The agenda focused on an overview of Chapter 74 programming and College Tech Education (CTE) at the High School, followed by a detailed review of the current FY27 budget development. We also noted the inclusion of \$247,500 for the Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment (MCIEA) in Governor Healey's budget, which remains a point of interest for our future assessment strategies.

Immigration Policy and Student Support

On February 26th, district leadership participated in the "Know Your Rights" webinar hosted by the State Office for Refugees and Immigrants and the Attorney General's Office. This session provided critical updates on current policies and best practices for supporting our immigrant student population. The information gathered will help our Central Office staff, principals, and counselors ensure we are providing a safe, informed, and supportive environment for all families within our schools.

Collins Center Operational Efficiency Study

The Collins Center City Operational Efficiency Study is moving into its next phase, with interviews scheduled to begin in the coming weeks. We have coordinated with both the Newburyport Teachers Association (NTA) and AFSCME to ensure a transparent process. While the study includes a broad range of participants from Central Office to Union leadership, it is focused on specific organizational groupings to evaluate our current scope and purpose.

Wellness Advisory Committee Update

The Wellness Advisory Committee recently met to review iDecide/SURF (Drug Education Curriculum: Intervention, Diversion, and Empowerment) / (Substance Use and Risk Factor) data presented by Dr. Randi Schuster of MGH. We are currently in the third year of a 5-year research study focused on the SBIRT (Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment) screening process, which identifies mental health and substance use risk factors. The committee discussed the draft of a new one-page resource for families summarizing our various screenings and Tier 2 support programs. We are also looking into publishing a comprehensive report that explains how these surveys complement one another to inform our staffing and programming decisions.

Principal Leadership Meeting

The Central Office team will meet with building principals on Tuesday, March 10th. Some key discussion items will include summer programming in lieu of the upcoming MSBA roof projects at the Nock/Molin Schools and High School. The team will also review potential School Choice seats and spend a significant amount of time analyzing the FY27 budget to ensure alignment across all buildings in preparation for the preliminary budget presentation on March 25th.

LEGISLATIVE BRIEFING

A NEW ERA FOR STUDENT ASSESSMENT AND SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY IN MASSACHUSETTS



Governor Healey's Statewide Graduation Council is recommending capstones and portfolios as a major component of the new graduation requirement model.

For over a decade, the Massachusetts Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment (MCIEA) has been designing, implementing, and sustaining systems of performance assessment and holistic school quality measures that offer policymakers a field-tested model for next generation graduation requirements and statewide accountability measures.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11
10AM IN ROOM 428

Co-hosted by:

Senator Pat Jehlen and Representative Jim Hawkins

Come learn from MCIEA students and educators about:

- › A high school capstone course
- › CTE performance assessments
- › High school science performance assessments
- › A middle school ELA portfolio pilot
- › Elementary performance assessments
- › Middle school student focus groups as part of holistic school quality assessment



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City of Newburyport / Newburyport Public Schools

Combined Organizational / Operational Review: IT, HR, Payroll & Benefits and Facilities Departments

Information Request

The following information is requested to support the development of the City of Newburyport / Newburyport Public Schools Combined Organizational / Operational Review: IT, HR, Payroll & Benefits and Facilities. Based upon review of data submitted, the Team may request further information.

A shared client folder has been created to collect and house data, please utilize the link provided to access and save to the appropriate folder. Folders have been created defining either “City” or “School” followed by the primary categories listed below (Governance, Personnel and so on).

[Newburyport Client Folder](#)

Governance / Process Documents

- Organizational Chart(s)
- Operations Related Policies / Procedures
 - Purchasing Procedures and/or Workflow
 - Payroll Procedures and/or Workflow
 - Human Resources Procedures and/or Workflow
 - Work Order Procedures and / or Workflow (maintenance / custodial / information technology)
- Existing Shared Services between City & District

Personnel

- Job Descriptions (City / District Central Office Personnel)
 - Information Technology
 - Human Resources
 - Payroll & Benefits
 - Facilities
- Bargaining Unit Contracts (if applicable)
- Employee Handbook(s)
- Administrative Guidelines or Protocol Documents
 - Link or Copy of “Hiring Packet”
 - Complaint Policy / Procedure Document
 - Recent Professional Development Plan (including for administrative, licensed, and non-



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licensed staff)

- Employee Improvement Plan / Guidelines / Templates
- Employee Discipline Guidelines / Templates

Financial (3-5 Years Budget vs. Actual)

- Excel Format Payroll Data: By Position / Department or Division / Bargaining Unit / Step / Number of Annual Workdays / Number of Daily Hours / Number of Weekly Hours / Hourly Rate / Total Salary Budgeted / Total Salary Paid
- Excel Format Department Budget Line-Item Detail Data: Department / Account Number / Account Description / Budget / Actual
- Contracts supporting information technology
- Contracts supporting grounds and / or facilities maintenance

Assets

- Excel Format Information Technology Inventory / Replacement Cycle: By Type / Location
 - *Indicate leased assets w/ lease maturity date
- Excel Format Vehicle / Equipment Inventory: By Department and/or location
- Excel Format Facilities Data
 - Property Name
 - Physical Address
 - Acreage
 - Square Footage
 - Number of Stories
 - Year Built
 - Relative Use (Intensity / Frequency)
 - Classrooms
 - Offices
 - Cafeteria; cafetorium; auditorium/assembly
 - Gymnasium
 - Shop-art-music spaces
 - Administrative and training-meeting-conference spaces
 - Storage
 - Locker Rooms
 - Bathrooms (including showers)
 - Washer-dryer for gear cleaning
 - Sleeping quarters
 - Kitchen
 - Mechanical spaces
 - Other



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- Parking Capacity
- Noted Maintenance Issues
 - List renovations and new construction that has occurred over time
 - List the Capital Improvement Planning projects that have been completed or proposed and not undertaken
- Responsible Department / Position(s)
- Software Inventory
 - Payroll
 - Benefits
 - Finance / Accounting
 - Work Orders
 - Use of Facilities
 - Inventory / Asset Management
 - Human Resources (including recruitment, hiring, employee information, licensure tracking, evaluation tracking, interface for submission of data to DESE, etc.)
 - Administrative / Clerical (Example: Microsoft Suite)
 - Email Platform

Reports / Studies / Plans

- Strategic Plan
- Recent Compliance Reports
- School Satisfaction Survey Results (UMASS)
- MSBA Facilities Review / Condition Survey or Assessment
- Any other relevant surveys, studies or plans