Bourne Public Schools

BOURNE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

DATE: Tuesday, December 16, 2025
TIME: 7:00PM Joint Meeting with Bourne Select Board, Finance Committee and Bourne and Upper Cape Tech Superintendents and School Committees
PLACE: Bourne Police Station, 35 Armory Rd., Bourne, MA

ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Donel Beals; Maria Heaney

OTHER BPS ATTENDEES PRESENT: Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent; Jordan Geist, Director of Business Services

DISCUSSION: Fiscal Year 2027 budget preview – operating & capital budgets

The FY27 town budget remains preliminary and is being developed under conservative revenue assumptions, with several school-related components still unresolved.

Superintendent Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou reported that Bourne Public Schools typically hold their budget hearing in March; however, the district is seeking to move the hearing to early February in order to better align with the town's budget timeline. Key upcoming dates include the Town Administrator's initial FY27 proposal to the Select Board in early January, submission of a balanced budget by January 15, transfer of the budget to the Finance Committee by February 1, a tentative Finance Committee hearing on March 16, and Town Meeting on May 4.

Town officials indicated that FY27 revenue assumptions include level funding for both general state aid and education aid, with no anticipated increases. This conservative approach limits flexibility within the Bourne Public Schools operating budget and places continued pressure on district planning and resource allocation.

Bourne Public Schools was identified as a major FY27 expenditure placeholder, with final budget figures still under development. Upper Cape Cod Regional Technical School was also identified as a significant placeholder, and discussion included enrollment levels and the school's budget, which may impact assessment costs for the district.

School-related capital needs were also discussed. School security upgrades and window security improvements were included among the proposed capital projects to be funded through Free Cash, subject to approval through the town's capital and Town Meeting processes.

Concern was expressed about declining Free Cash balances and the growing reliance on Free Cash to fund capital expenditures. Free Cash remains available for non-recurring expenses but this trend may reduce long-term investment capacity in the operating budget and could affect future funding discussions related to the schools.