



**NORTH MIDDLESEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Ashby – Pepperell – Townsend, Massachusetts**

**MINUTES – March 5, 2026**

Virtual via Zoom

**PRESENT**

Chairperson	Kym Craven	Chairperson, Townsend
	Lisa Martin	At-Large
	Qenan Francois	Townsend
	Mike LaBossiere	Pepperell

**ALSO PRESENT**

Brad Morgan	Superintendent of Schools
Gary Burboa-Reese	Assistant Superintendent ~ Absent
Nancy Haines	Business Manager
Kevin Cormier	Asst. Business Manager
Jeremy Hamond	Director of Operations
Robin Eibye	Recording Secretary

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

- Kym Craven called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and announced the meeting was being recorded.

<b>Roll Call Attendance:</b>			
Kym Craven	Yes	Nancy Haines	Yes
Qenan Francois	Yes	Kevin Cormier	Yes
Lisa Martin	Yes	Robin Eibye	Yes
Mike LaBossiere	Yes	Jeremy Hamond	Yes
Brad Morgan	Yes	Gary Burboa-Reese	-

**MINUTES: FEBRUARY 25, 2026**

Members agree to continue the February 25, 2026, meeting minutes to the next meeting.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robin Eibye confirmed that no members of the public requested to comment.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### **1. FY26 Budget Update**

Business Manager Nancy Haines discussed the savings in the FY26 budget and the expected receipt of Valley Collaborative funding, around \$250,000.

Members agreed there were no major concerns with FY26 at this time, observing that little had changed since the prior meeting.

Chair Craven confirmed that, absent unusual FY26 developments, February expenditures could be reviewed later, with the main focus on the FY27 budget and related planning.

### **2. FY27 Budget**

Superintendent Morgan provided a detailed overview of the proposed FY27 budget and recent adjustments. Mr. Morgan discussed three-member towns and keeping each town's Assessment increase below 3%.

Discussion ensued, focused on the FY27 budget, aiming for a 2.9% increase to \$69,532,560. Members discussed a \$105,000 budget reduction and a \$500,000 increase in E & D, bringing the total to \$2.5 million. They highlighted a 0% increase in health insurance and potential savings from out-of-district numbers. Mr. Morgan noted the favorable rate is largely due to very low claims in the prior year. He also noted that most districts are seeing increases of more than 8%.

It was noted that the district had conducted a full Special Education audit. Mr. Morgan said the primary goals were to address large K-8 class sizes. Administrators are confident the proposed budget will significantly improve K-8 class sizes in FY27.

A discussion ensued about the need for an additional technology technician, with an estimated cost of \$80,000.

The committee also discussed transferring solar panel responsibilities to Ashby, considering the ease of amending the power purchase agreement.

Members agreed to recommend to the full School Committee that the Finance Subcommittee supports the FY27 budget as presented, with an overall 2.90% increase. Kym Craven directed administration to continue monitoring the FY26 closeout, track health insurance and state budget developments, and to look for ways to further reduce Town assessments (especially Pepperell) without raising the total FY27 budget.

Lisa Martin motioned, and Michael LaBossiere seconded to vote that the Finance Subcommittee recommends the FY27 budget as presented in the "Draft for Adoption – Rev 2" document, which

reflects at 2.90% increase and totals \$69,532,560, to the full School Committee for adoption at the March 10, 2026, School Committee meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. AES Solar Panels

Members discussed that the district has solar panels installed on the Ashby Elementary School building, under a Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) executed approximately on October 24, 2017. The building is owned by the Town of Ashby, and an easement was granted to enable the original PPA.

Members discussed having the Town of Ashby assume the existing PPA, replacing the district as the contractual entity, or moving the panels. It was agreed to initiate conversations with the Town of Ashby, reach out to the solar vendor, and legal counsel about the contract amendment.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Finance Subcommittee meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robin Eibye confirmed that no members of the public were registered to participate in Public Comment.

**ADJOURNMENT**

- At 2:15 p.m., Lisa Martin moved, and Michael LaBossiere seconded to adjourn the meeting.

<b>Roll Call Vote:</b>			
Kym Craven	Yes	Lisa Martin	Yes
Qenan Francois	Yes	Mike LaBossiere	Yes

*Vote: The motion unanimously passed 4/0/0*

---

**ACTION ITEMS & COMMITTEE GUIDANCE**

1. Robin to add AES Solar Panels to the March 10<sup>th</sup> SC Meeting Agenda
2. Brad Morgan and Kevin Cormier to discuss options for the existing solar power purchase agreement, including whether Ashby wishes to assume the PPA, and begin preliminary conversations with the solar vendor and attorney about amending the contract.
3. Brad Morgan to keep the Finance Committee informed of progress and decisions on the solar panel

PPA transfer process as new information becomes available.

**Documents Reviewed / Referred to:**

- 2026-03-05-Finance Agenda
- 2026-02-26 Finance DRAFT Minutes

Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Eibye, Recording Secretary

**APPROVED:** April 3, 2026

---