

Newburyport School Committee
Finance Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 14, 2025
9:00 AM
Central Office Conference Room

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 9:05 AM.

Present: Brian Callahan, Andy Boger (Juliet Walker absent)

Guests: Sean Gallagher, Ethan Manning

2. Approval of Minutes from June 18, 2025

Motion to approve by Mr. Boger, seconded by Mr. Callahan. Approved 2-0.

3. Budget Transfers

There were none.

4. General Budget Discussion

- Federal Funding:
 - FY26 allocations have been released. The district received memos with allocation details immediately after release.
 - Some funding is allocated for ELL and translation services.
- Special Education Costs:
 - A new student moving into the district will cost \$475,000; the student is coming from another state with which there is no cost-sharing agreement.
 - The FY26 budget includes a \$300,000 contingency for additional students; approximately five students may require out-of-district placement.
 - Extraordinary relief applications open in March 2026.
 - Superintendent Gallagher noted the possibility of implementing a budget freeze during the school year to help address higher-than-anticipated special education expenses.
 - Mr. Boger asked about the process for negotiating service offerings; Superintendent Gallagher explained the process.
- High School Video Lab:
 - Mr. Callahan inquired about the status of the project and whether it remained on budget despite a contractor change.
 - Superintendent Gallagher confirmed it is still on budget and should be completed by the end of September 2025.

5. Establishment of FY26 Meeting Schedule

- Discussed meeting schedule. Historically, meetings have been held on Thursdays before the second meeting of the month.
- Mr. Callahan said that with the upcoming election, it probably doesn't make sense to set the schedule for the full year.

6. Other Business

- Mr. Callahan asked about the new business manager; Ethan Manning provided an update.
- Discussion on improving communication between the City Council and School Committee regarding budget and finance matters.
 - Superintendent Gallagher suggested creating a quarterly ad hoc group to allow for less structured discussions.
- Mr. Boger asked about the status of AI initiatives in the schools, whether the district is addressing the topic, and if the School Committee should discuss it.
 - Superintendent Gallagher provided an update on upcoming training for leadership and staff, as well as other initiatives in progress.

7. Adjournment

Next Meeting: September 18, 2025, at 9:00 AM in Central Office.

Motion to adjourn by Mr. Boger, seconded by Mr. Callahan. Approved 2-0.

Adjourned at 9:58 AM.