Newburyport School Committee
Finance Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 22, 2026
8:30 AM
Central Office Conference Room

1. Call to Order

   Meeting called to order at 8:30 AM.

   Present: Andy Boger, Juliet Walker, John Ricci

   Guests: Sean Gallagher, Ethan Manning

2. Approval of Minutes

   - November 20, 2025

   Motion to approve by Ms. Walker, seconded by Mr. Ricci. Approved 3–0.

3. Budget Transfers

4. FY26 Q2 Budget Report

   The Director of Finance and Operations presented the FY26 budget report reflecting activity through December 31, 2025. Discussion included:

   - Out-of-district placement cost pressures.
   - Potential athletics fee adjustments as part of FY27 budget development.
   - Transportation update: North Shore Superintendents meeting with state leaders on February 27 regarding district cost pressures.
   - Federal funding update: compromise bill expected for action by January 30; modest increases to IDEA/Title grants (+0.1%); no entitlement program eliminations as originally proposed by the President. NPS receives approximately $750,000 annually in federal entitlement grants and $250,000 in USDA lunch reimbursements.

5. Athletics Fundraising

   Discussion included:

   - Current fundraising form lacks required approvals; Administration to update/streamline (potentially via Google Form).
   - Need for more targeted and consistent fundraising practices across groups and teams.
   - Concern about requests for families to donate basic supplies; emphasized clearer communication to manage public perception.

- Warrant process overview.

6. Other Business

   FY27 budget: preliminary level-service budget to be presented February 11, 2026; scenarios to follow at the next meeting.

   Joint meeting: discussed scheduling a joint session with City Council Budget and Finance and School Committee Finance Sub-Committee (last held in March).

7. Adjournment

   Next Meeting: Thursday, February 12, 2026, at 8:30 AM, Central Office.

   Motion to adjourn by Ms. Walker; seconded by Mr. Ricci. Approved, 3–0.

   Adjourned at 9:53 AM.