

Newburyport School Committee  
Finance Sub-Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, April 2, 2026  
8:30 AM  
Central Office Conference Room

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 8:31 AM.

Present: Andy Boger, Juliet Walker, John Ricci

Guests: Sean Gallagher, Ethan Manning, Lisa Furlong, Mayor Reardon, Lauren Eramo

2. Approval of Minutes

- o [March 19, 2026](#)

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

3. Budget Transfers

There were no transfers.

4. Athletics Fees

The Committee reviewed cost-per-sport data that had been requested as part of the ongoing athletics fee discussion. The Committee recognized that there are a number of possible approaches to generating additional revenue through the athletics fee structure, such as re-tiering sports, increasing the amount charged for existing tiers, introducing a modest middle school fee, or some combination of adjustments.

Ms. Walker requested updated information on the percentage of total program costs covered by fees. The Committee had previously discussed the concept of benchmarking fees at 25% of the total cost. Ms. Walker also requested information on the number of levels offered within each sport (e.g., Freshman, JV, JV2, Varsity).

In order to balance the FY27 budget, staff is currently relying on an additional \$20,000 to \$25,000 in revenue generated through an adjustment to athletics fees. The Committee will continue its discussion of athletics fees at a future meeting.

5. School Choice

The Committee discussed the possibility of opening School Choice seats for the next school year. The discussion included the potential benefits and drawbacks of School Choice and whether it makes sense to consider adding seats at the middle school and high school levels.

It was noted that School Choice can help support the district's ability to offer courses, such as world language, that might otherwise be difficult to sustain without the additional enrollment and revenue. At the same time, Mr. Boger noted that School Choice has been a sensitive topic in the community, particularly at the middle school level.

Based on the potential staff reductions at the elementary level, there is no recommendation to open School Choice at the lower grades. The Superintendent will be speaking with principals and will bring forward a recommendation on a specific number of School Choice seats for the April 8 School Committee meeting.

#### 6. FY27 School Budget

Discussion of the FY27 school budget, which remains under development. The Committee discussed reviewing non-student-facing positions and administrative structures as part of the broader effort to identify potential budget adjustments.

The Committee also discussed the possibility of reducing administrative support at the high school level, while recognizing the need to maintain an appropriate level of supervisory and administrative capacity in a school of approximately 800 students, particularly with respect to student conduct, student support, and school climate matters.

Staff reviewed a list of budget adjustments that could bring the increase in the City appropriation down to 4.35%. The public hearing and budget presentation will take place at the next regular School Committee meeting on April 8.

#### 7. Other Business

#### 8. Adjournment

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

Adjourned at 9:40 AM.

Upcoming meetings:

- Thursday, April 16 at 8:30 AM, Central Office
- Thursday, May 21 at 8:30 AM, Central Office