NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

School Committee Business Meeting 6:30PM

AMENDED

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

SC Business Meeting Agenda September 23, 2026
SC Business Meeting Agenda Notes September 23, 2026
SC Warrant September 23, 2026
SC Business Meeting Minutes August 26, 2026
SC Business Meeting Minutes September 9, 2026
Nock Overnight Field Trips:

Camp Jewell:	Application	**
	Proposal	**
	Itinerary	
Philadelphia:	Application	**
	Proposal	**
	Itinerary	

Policy JJH – Student Overnight or Late Night Travel
Budget: FY2026 Year-End Close
School Committee Mid-Year Self-Evaluation
School Committee Goals
Nock/Molin Pick-Up/Drop-Off Advisory Committee Report Findings
Superintendent's Report

School Committee Warrant

September 23, 2026

Warrant FY27.14	$ 379,615.35
Total of Warrants:	$ 379,615.35

Newburyport Public Schools

School Committee Business Meeting

Wednesday, September 23, 2026 at 6:30PM
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81511683901

The Mission of the Newburyport Public Schools, the port where tradition and innovation converge, is to ensure each student achieves intellectual and personal excellence and is equipped for life experiences through a system distinguished by students, staff, and community who: - practice kindness and perseverance - celebrate each unique individual - value creativity; experiential, rigorous educational opportunities; scholarly pursuits; and life-long learning - provide the nurturing environments for emotional, social, and physical growth - understand and embrace their role as global citizens.

Please note: The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. The meeting will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 & streamed via https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/. *Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can access the proceedings in real-time. In the event of a technological failure that interrupts our ability to provide remote access, the public body will pause the meeting while attempting to restore the connection. If the disruption continues, the meeting will continue in person for those physically present.*

School Committee Business Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order & Pledge of Allegiance
2. Public Comment
3. *Warrant – *possible Vote*
4. *Meeting Minutes 8/26/2026 and 9/9/2026 – *possible Vote*
5. Student Representative Report
6. *Overnight Field Trip Grade 7 – Camp Jewell – *possible Vote*
7. *Overnight Field Trip Grade 8 – Philadelphia – *possible Vote*
8. Budget: FY2026 Year-End Close
9. School Committee Mid-Year Self-Evaluation
10. School Committee Goals Prioritization Follow-up
11. Subcommittee Updates
    a. Finance Subcommittee – *Andrew Boger*
    b. Policy Subcommittee – *Kathleen Shaw*
    c. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – *Breanna Higgins*
    d. SEPAC – *Kathleen Shaw*
    e. NEF – *Lauren Eramo*
    f. Nock/Molin Traffic Advisory Committee – *John Ricci*
12. Superintendent's Report
13. New Business
14. Executive Session – Vote
    for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and/or legal matters, and will not reconvene in Open Session.

* Possible Vote

Adjournment

** The School Committee reserves the right to call **executive session**, as provided under Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2), of the General Laws to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations, collective bargaining and/or potential litigation.

Newburyport Public Schools

School Committee Business Meeting
September 23, 2026 at 6:30PM
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

AGENDA NOTES

Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81511683901

Please note: The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. The meeting will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 & streamed via https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/. *Every effort will be made to ensure that the public can access the proceedings in real-time. In the event of a technological failure that interrupts our ability to provide remote access, the public body will pause the meeting while attempting to restore the connection. If the disruption continues, the meeting will continue in person for those physically present.*

School Committee Business Meeting Agenda

3. *Warrant – *possible Vote*
4. *Meeting Minutes 8/31/2026 and 9/9/2026 – *possible Vote*
5. Student Representative Report
   High school students will provide the student report.
6. *Overnight Field Trip Grade 7 – Camp Jewell – *possible Vote*
   Nock Principal Nick Markos is seeking permission for a 7th Grade overnight field trip to Camp Jewell located in Colebrook, CT, in accordance with Policy JJH – Student Overnight or Late Night Travel. He will review the tentative agenda for the proposed trip scheduled for Wednesday, June 9, 2027 through Friday, June 11, 2027, estimated cost $450. (see attachment)
7. *Overnight Field Trip Grade 8 – Philadelphia Class Trip – *possible Vote*
   Nock Principal Nick Markos is seeking permission for an 8th Grade overnight field trip to Philadelphia, PA in accordance with Policy JJH – Student Overnight or Late Night Travel. He will review the tentative agenda for the trip scheduled for May 18 - May 20, 2027, estimated cost $1,275. (see attachment)
8. Budget: FY2026 Year-End Close
   Director of Finance Ethan Manning will review the year-end close for the FY2026 Budget.
9. School Committee Mid-Year Self-Evaluation
   Vice Chair Juliet Walker will share the results of the mid-year Operating Principles and Norms of Interaction Self-Evaluation. (attached)
10. School Committee Goals Prioritization Follow-up
    Members will have a follow-up discussion of the School Committee Goals for August – December 2026. (attached)
11. Subcommittee Updates
    a. Finance Subcommittee – *Andrew Boger*
    b. Policy Subcommittee – *Kathleen Shaw*
    c. Teaching & Learning Subcommittee – *Breanna Higgins*
    d. SEPAC – *Kathleen Shaw*
    e. NEF – *Lauren Eramo*
    f. Nock/Molin Traffic Advisory Committee – *John Ricci*
12. Superintendent's Report: *Open Houses, Nock/Molin Water Fountain Leak, Early Release Professional Development, and Northern Essex Community College Informational Meeting*

** *next page* **

13. New Business

14. *Executive Session – *Vote*
    for the purpose of discussing possible litigation and/or legal matters, and will not reconvene in Open Session.

* possible vote

Adjournment

FYI: Upcoming Dates:

- ✓ Molin Open House: Thursday, September 24 @ 6PM
- ✓ Teaching & Learning Subcommittee meeting: Friday, September 25 @ 8:00AM
- ✓ Bresnahan School Council meeting: Tuesday, September 29 @ 8:10AM
- ✓ NHS School Council meeting: Tuesday, October 6 @ 5:00PM
- ✓ Early Release Day: Friday, October 9
- ✓ Indigenous People Day – closed: Monday, October 12
- ✓ School Committee Business meeting: Wednesday, October 14 @ 6:30PM
- ✓ FINCOM meeting: Thursday, October 15 @ 9:00AM
- ✓ Nock School Council meeting: Monday, October 19 @ 8:15AM

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
NHS Library, 241 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Wednesday, August 26, 2026

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:32 PM. Roll call found all members present, except John Ricci (absent) and Breanna Higgins (arrived late 6:41PM).

Public Comments:

Cady Seaton (NHS student) - supporting immigrant students / families in Newburyport

Minutes

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Lauren Eramo it was

VOTED: to accept the minutes for the June 24, 2026 School Committee meeting.

Motion Passed
Mayor Reardon abstained
John Ricci & Breanna Higgins absent

Facilities Summer Projects Update

Superintendent Gallagher provided a summary of the progress for the High School and Nock/Molin roof projects, development of a new engineering computer lab, renovations of the music/band rooms, as well as the repairs to the front concrete walkways and retaining wall at the high school. He also explained why the skate board hours were changed for the summer during the roof renovations at the Nock/Molin.

The Superintendent thanked the NEF (Newburyport Education Foundation) for their continuous support and funding towards these projects. In addition, he thanked Facilities Director James McSweeney and his crew for their efforts getting the buildings ready for the opening of school.

School Committee Summer Retreat Re-cap

Juliet Walker summarized the summer retreat activities, such as the self-evaluation of Norms & Procedures and school committee goals for the next six months. Juliet will share the school committee goals document with members to obtain their feedback on ranking / prioritization. Budget strategies and challenges were also discussed.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee

Andrew Boger said they will keep the meeting time as 9:00AM on Thursday mornings. He will schedule the next meeting date.

Policy Subcommittee
Kathleen Shaw will set up a meeting. The agenda will likely include AI policies.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee
Breanna Higgins said that 8:00AM is a good meeting time this year. She will meet with Lisa Furlong to determine the meeting calendar and topics. Breanna may also develop a data monitoring template to pilot in the subcommittee meetings.

SEPAC
Kathleen Shaw said a meeting schedule hasn't been set yet, but they will probably have three meetings plus one annually required meeting.

NEF
Lauren Eramo stated the first NEF meeting will be held on September 23rd.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent's report covered the following:

- District Improvement Plan Executive Summary (2025-2027): The Superintendent highlighted a few key progress areas over the past year, as well as primary focus areas for 2026-2027.
- Annual District Readiness Meeting Overview: The Superintendent thanked his Administrative team and various local outside agencies (i.e. police, fire, bus) that met to finalize operational preparations for the upcoming school year.
- Opening Day Agenda Overview: The schedule for the first two opening days for teachers was briefly reviewed by the Superintendent. All School Committee members were invited to the annual Opening Day assembly at 1:30PM on August 31st.
- Budget and Staffing Update: Superintendent Gallagher reported the district was nearly 100% fully staffed across all buildings. The budget is on track to meet all Quarter 1 obligations, including recent personnel reallocations to address the additional Kindergarten section.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:
On a motion by Mayor Reardon and seconded by Andrew Boger it was
VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 7:25PM.
Motion Passed
John Ricci absent

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

Wednesday, September 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 6:33 PM. Roll call found all members present.

Public Comments: none

Warrant

On a motion by Andrew Boger and seconded by Mayor Sean Reardon it was

VOTED: to approve the Warrant in the amount of $635,778.25 as presented.

Warrant FY27.12	$631,408.01
A-Warrant	$ 4,370.24
	$635,778.25

Motion Passed

Minutes

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Lauren Eramo it was

VOTED: to accept the minutes for the August 31, 2026 Special School Committee meeting.

Motion Passed

School Committee Student Representative Introductions & Report

Logan MacKnight, Audrey Roebuck and Anna Pervier were introduced as this year's student representatives to the School Committee. Logan and Audrey provided the student report which included the Living Classroom at the Bresnahan, the first Community Assembly at the Molin, and memorial events at the Nock and High School to recognize the 25th anniversary of 9/11. (attached)

Kindergarten Bootcamp Pilot Program

Principal Jamie Sokolowski and teachers Robin O'Malley and Samatha Maguire provided an overview of the Kindergarten Bootcamp program that was piloted at the Bresnahan this summer and funded through the generosity of the Swasey Fund. Three 3 ½ day sessions were offered. A total of 45 children completed the program which covered essential kindergarten skills to help ensure a smooth transition into the school year.

NHS Overnight Field Trip – New York

High School Principal Andy Wulf provided a brief summary of the New York trip itineraries for the Visual Arts and Performing Arts students. The trip is scheduled for January 2027.

Motion:
On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by Andrew Boger it was

VOTED: to approve the overnight field trip to New York consistent with Policy JJH – Student Overnight or Late Night Travel.

Motion Passed

2026 Summer Professional Development
Assistant Superintendent Lisa Furlong and Dr. Thomas Abrams provided a summary of the professional development activities that were offered this summer. Their presentation included an overview of the four different types of courses offered, as well as a review of the various projects and programs teachers worked on over the summer. Over 125 educators participated in this summer's professional development program which was generously funded by the Swasey Fund.

Nock/Molin Traffic Circulation Advisory Committee Update
John Ricci provided a brief background as to why the committee was formed, the objective, group members, and areas of focus. He reviewed several key findings, along with various action steps that have been implemented. The Advisory Committee will continue to meet periodically, and will also try to obtain additional funding through a Safe Streets grant.

2026 School Committee Goals - draft
Juliet Walker asked all SC members to review the list of goals for August to December 2026 and assign a priority rank to each goal (high, medium or low). Members need to email their rankings, along with any goal description corrections, to Vice Chair Walker. She will summarize the responses and report back.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES

Finance Subcommittee
Andrew Boger stated the next meeting will be held on September 17th.

Policy Subcommittee
Kathleen Shaw stated they will meet at 6:30PM on September 21st in Central Office.

Teaching & Learning Subcommittee
Breanna Higgins will meet with Lisa Furlong to determine the meeting calendar and topics.

SEPAC
Kathleen Shaw said a meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 22nd. This will be a Special Education "meet & greet" in the Nock Library. Additional meetings will be held on October 22nd at 6PM and on November 19th at 6PM.

NEF
Lauren Eramo stated the NEF will meet on September 23rd.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent's report covered the following:

- Safe Routes to School Walk Audit Meeting: The school department plans to partner with the City to implement a walk audit with the regional Safe Routes to School initiative. The Superintendent is looking for a school liaison to represent the district.
- PROTECT Act Policy Compliance: On August 31st the PROTECT Act Policy (ACL) was adopted by the School Committee as required by DESE. The Policy Subcommittee will review existing procedures and Policy ACL with legal counsel at their meeting on September 21st.
- New Teachers Mentoring Induction Program: The 3-day Induction Program for new teaching staff was held August 26th – August 28th. The Superintendent thanked Ass't Superintendent Lisa Furlong and Dr. Abrams for their efforts organizing this year's mentoring program.
- NPS Staff Returns to School: Superintendent Gallagher welcomed back faculty and staff on September 1st, along with School Committee member Lauren Eramo who spoke on behalf of the School Committee.
- Students First Day & Riding the Molin/Bresnahan Buses: Students in grades 1-12 returned to school on Wednesday, September 2nd. For the ninth year, the Superintendent greeted students and parents while riding the morning buses with the Molin/Bresnahan students.
- School Visits: During the first week of school, Superintendent Gallagher visited many classrooms to welcome students and staff back to school.
- Student Enrollment Update: As of September 3rd, total student enrollment was 2,179. The official number will be reported to the state on October 1st.

New Business

- The City will continue to work with the DPS, Police Department, Mayor's office and school district to collect data related to Low Street/Hale Street/Toppans Lane. The Mayor will try to attend the next Nock/Molin Traffic Circulation Advisory Committee meeting.
- There will be a ceremony held at City Hall at 9:30AM on Friday, September 11th to recognize the 25th anniversary of 9/11.
- Superintendent Gallagher announced the Coast Guard has confirmed that Newburyport High School has been selected as a host institution for a Coast Guard JROTC unit in the upcoming 2027-2028 school year.
- Students and the Exchange Club will participate in the Field of Honor Dedication and Remembrance Ceremony at 12PM on Sunday, September 13th at the Bartlet Mall.
- Kathleen Shaw noted several areas in the district may need wheelchair accessibility improvements. She will send an email to the Superintendent and Facilities Director.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion:

On a motion by Mayor Sean Reardon and seconded by John Ricci it was

VOTED: to adjourn the Business meeting of the Newburyport School Committee at 8:08PM.

Motion Passed

Student Report for School Committee September 9, 2026

Submitted by: Anna Pervier, Audrey Roebuck, and Logan MacKnight

Location: Senior Center

Bresnahan News:

The Bresnahan is excited to start the school year introducing a new specials class:

The Living Classroom with Mrs. Harding!

Students in grades K–3 will experience Living Classroom as part of their regular special's rotation, alongside Art, Music, PE, Library, and STEM. This class is a hands-on science and outdoor education class that uses school grounds and natural environment as an extension of the classroom, and will give students dedicated time each cycle to explore, learn, and develop skills in an outdoor setting. Lessons will connect to science standards, while helping students build curiosity, confidence, collaboration, and a deeper connection to the natural world.

With the generous help of the PTO, the Bresnahan hopes to develop a yurt on school grounds that can serve as a home base for outdoor learning, providing a comfortable space for students to gather, investigate, and learn in all seasons. Our goal is for every Bresnahan student to get outside, get curious, and get hands-on with science. A huge thank you to Katara Harding, Kristin Spinney, Dr. Erin Hobbs and Jill Moran (from NHS) for creating this amazing curriculum and program for students to explore.

Molin News:

Molin students and staff have had a good start to the year. The first community assembly was held. The community assemblies will be held monthly.

Nock Middle School News:

It's been a great start to the year at the Nock! Students are settling into routines, the energy is high, and the first week has been very positive. Grade-level and team meetings have focused on expectations, and arrivals & dismissals have been running smoothly. The staff has been amazing and really came together to support Nock students.

The Nock will recognize the 25th anniversary of the tragic events of 9/11 by honoring and remembering the lives lost on September 11th. On September 18th, the Nock will hold the annual All-School Assembly featuring a motivational speaker to kick off the year with a positive and inspiring message. Nock fall athletics are off to a great start, with Cross Country and Field Hockey both having strong beginnings. And finally next week, the 6th graders will be going to their annual experiential learning trip to Project Adventure. This is a great way for 6th graders to build on their team building skills and take risks in a safe place.

High School News:

The first home football game will take place this Friday at 6:30 p.m. against Manchester Essex. Prior to kickoff, we will mark the 25th anniversary of 9/11 with a special ceremony to remember and honor those who lost their lives, including Newburyport native Thomas Pecorelli, who was killed aboard American Airlines Flight 11. We will also recognize those who responded and served in the aftermath of that day, as well as those who continue to serve our communities today. The ceremony will begin at 6:20PM and will include the Newburyport Police Department Honor Guard, the NHS Band, and the 2026 Newburyport football team.

Addendum A

APPLICATION FOR A FIELD TRIP

Field trip requests must be turned in at least 10 school days before the trip. The names of students attending the trip must be made known to the faculty at least five school days before the scheduled trip.

1. Date of Trip June 9- June 11
2. Class 7
3. Teacher 7th Grade Jess Philbrick Michele Romini
4. Number of Students 175
5. Destination Camp Jewell
   Covebrook Ct
6. Method of Transportation Bus
7. Estimated Student Cost $450
8. Time of Departure 6am
9. Time of Return 6pm
10. Academic Objectives see proposal
11. Number of Teachers 15 Names of Teachers

NOTE: If substitutes are required, the front office must be informed after request if approved.

12. Date of Application 9/22/26

Endorsed: Curriculum Advisor

Signature of Teacher Initiating Request

Approved: Principal

Not Approved: Principal

Camp Jewell

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TRAVEL PROPOSAL AND VENDOR SELECTION PROCESS

Purpose

The purpose of this process is to ensure that all international student travel opportunities offered through Newburyport Public Schools are educationally meaningful, financially transparent, safe, and accessible to students. This process is intended to provide a consistent framework for evaluating and approving international travel opportunities and the vendors selected to support those experiences.

Proposal Requirements

Prior to School Committee consideration, trip advisors must submit the following:

1. Travel Proposal Cover Page
2. Vendor comparison matrix with cost estimates
3. Documentation itinerary from vendors considered

Post Trip

Advisors will administer the INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAM FEEDBACK SURVEY to collect feedback on the student and family's experience. This information will be used to plan future trips.

Travel Proposal Cover Page

Educational purpose of the trip

- Connection to curriculum, course objectives, or district goals
- Expected student learning outcomes
- Opportunities for cultural, historical, linguistic, artistic, scientific, or civic learning

Connection to Curriculum, Course Objectives, or District Goals

The Camp Jewell experience directly supports the Nock Middle School mission of developing the whole child and preparing students with the skills they need to be successful in school, in their communities, and beyond. The experience provides students with opportunities to practice communication, collaboration, problem solving, responsibility, leadership, resilience, and independence in an authentic setting.

The three day, two night experience moves learning beyond the traditional classroom and places students in situations where they must work with peers, make decisions, manage responsibilities, navigate challenges, and adapt to unfamiliar environments. Camp Jewell specifically identifies communication, teamwork, problem solving, responsibility, accountability, empathy, and leadership as outcomes of its teambuilding experiences.

The experience also connects directly to Nock's **Portrait of a Graduate competencies**, particularly:

- **Physical, Social, and Emotional Wellness**
- **Creation, Innovation, Collaboration, and Problem Solving**
- **Civic Engagement**
- **Life After Graduation**
- **Awareness and Responsibility**

Students are expected to take responsibility for their belongings, schedules, decisions, and behavior while working as members of

a larger community.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the Camp Jewell experience, students will be able to:

- Demonstrate effective communication and collaboration while working with peers.
- Apply problem solving strategies to unfamiliar and challenging situations.
- Demonstrate increased independence, responsibility, and accountability.
- Identify and utilize their individual strengths while recognizing the strengths of others.
- Practice leadership by making decisions, supporting peers, and contributing to group success.
- Demonstrate resilience and adaptability when faced with challenges outside their normal comfort zone.
- Practice constructive conflict resolution and respectful communication.
- Manage personal responsibilities, time, belongings, and daily routines in an unfamiliar environment.
- Reflect on personal growth, strengths, challenges, and goals.
- Recognize the importance of teamwork and diverse perspectives when working toward a common goal.

Camp Jewell intentionally places students outside of their normal comfort zones through outdoor adventures, new environments, group challenges, and independent living experiences. These experiences are designed to build self reliance, resilience, communication, and interpersonal skills.

Opportunities for Cultural, Historical, Linguistic, Artistic, Scientific, or Civic Learning

Social and Emotional Learning:
Camp provides an authentic environment for students to develop empathy, self awareness, conflict resolution, communication, and interpersonal skills. Living and working closely with peers requires students to listen to different perspectives, navigate disagreements, and work toward common goals.

Leadership and Civic Learning:
Students experience what it means to be a responsible member of a community. They must follow shared expectations, contribute to their group, support others, resolve conflicts, and take responsibility for their actions. These experiences reinforce the skills necessary for responsible participation in a school and broader community.

Physical and Outdoor Learning:
Students participate in activities such as kayaking, canoeing, archery, climbing, zip lining, ropes courses, hiking, horseback riding,

and other outdoor activities. These experiences challenge students physically and mentally while encouraging them to confront fears and build resilience.

Environmental Learning:
Extended time in nature gives students an opportunity to disconnect from technology and familiar environments while developing an appreciation for the natural world and environmental stewardship.

Communication and Public Speaking:
Campfire activities, group presentations, skits, talent shows, and other community activities provide students with opportunities to communicate publicly, express themselves creatively, and build confidence.

Personal Growth:
Perhaps the most important learning opportunity is the chance for students to experience success outside of their normal environment. Students are challenged to be independent, try new things, overcome obstacles, work with different peers, and reflect on their experiences. Camp Jewell specifically identifies confidence, self esteem, adaptability, resilience, conflict resolution, and time management as areas of personal growth.

Real World Learning:
Camp Jewell gives our seventh graders an opportunity to practice the skills we talk about every day at Nock in a setting where those skills actually matter. Students have to communicate, collaborate, problem solve, demonstrate responsibility, make decisions, manage themselves, and support one another. The goal is not simply to have students participate in activities, but to help them become more capable, confident, responsible, and connected young people.

Vendor Comparison Matrix

Criteria	Vendor A	Vendor B	Vendor C
Total Cost	$450-$475		
Hotel Accommodations	Cabin- Varies		
Tips included	Yes • Bus		
Meals Included	Everything included		
Travel Insurance Available	Yes - medical available - otherwise they have a standard cancelation policy.		
Is There Shared Transport with Other Schools?	No shared transport		

Student-to-Chaperone Ratio	Student-to-Chaperone Ratio 10-1		
Advisor Compensation or Benefits	Stipend - $1100 for 2 trip leaders		

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAM FEEDBACK SURVEY	
Trip	
Vendor	
Dates	
Please indicate your level of agreement with the following statements	1. The trip provided meaningful educational experiences that enhanced student learning. □ Strongly Agree □ Agree □ Neutral □ Disagree □ Strongly Disagree
	2. The travel company provided quality accommodations, transportation, and overall trip organization. □ Strongly Agree □ Agree □ Neutral □ Disagree □ Strongly Disagree
	3. Communication from the travel company and trip advisors before and during the trip was clear and effective. □ Strongly Agree □ Agree □ Neutral

	□ Disagree □ Strongly Disagree
	4. Communication from the travel company and trip advisors before and during the trip was clear and effective. □ Strongly Agree □ Agree □ Neutral □ Disagree □ Strongly Disagree
	5. I felt that student safety, supervision, and well-being were appropriately prioritized throughout the trip. □ Strongly Agree □ Agree □ Neutral □ Disagree □ Strongly Disagree
	6. Considering the educational value and overall experience, the trip provided good value for the cost. □ Strongly Agree □ Agree □ Neutral

	□ Disagree □ Strongly Disagree
Open Response	What was the most valuable aspect of this trip? What suggestions do you have for improving future trips? Please provide any additional comments regarding the travel vendor, accommodations, transportation, itinerary, supervision, or overall experience.

Camp Jewell

Information

[Camp Jewell Website Link!]

Where is Camp Jewell?

6 Prock Hill Road

Colebrook, CT 06021

(About a 3 hour drive from Nock)

Anticipated dates for 2026 -2027…

Wed. , June 9th	Thursday, June 10th	Friday, June 11th
Arrival Date	**Full Day!**	**Departure Date**
Buses leave by 5:30 AM to arrive at Camp around 10:00 AM. Half day of activities, big welcome evening with stargazing, night hikes, and campfire and songs.	Full Day at Camp Jewell. Night- Skits/Talent Show	Leave Camp Jewell around lunchtime to arrive back at Nock around 5 PM.

Camp Jewell Offerings

- Archery
- Zipelining
- Wiffle Ball
- Climbing Towers
- Gaga Ball Courts
- High & Low Ropes Course
- Canoeing & Kayaking
- Field Games
- Crate Climb
- Basketball Courts
- Bouldering
- Art & Crafts
- Giant Swing
- Cargo Net
- Farm Animal Petting Zoo

Teambuilding & Leadership

Teambuilding helps to foster leadership skills!

- **Communication Skills**: Engaging with peers and counselors in various activities helps students improve their ability to express ideas clearly, listen actively, and engage in meaningful conversations.
- **Teamwork and Collaboration:** Participating in group tasks and challenges fosters a sense of teamwork. Students learn to collaborate, share responsibilities, and appreciate the value of diverse perspectives.
- **Problem-Solving:** Faced with new and unexpected situations, students develop problem-solving skills by thinking creatively and making decisions quickly and effectively.
- **Responsibility and Accountability**: Being away from home, students take on responsibilities such as managing their belongings, following a schedule, and adhering to camp rules, teaching them to be accountable for their actions.
- **Empathy and Compassion:** Living in close quarters with others, students learn to understand and respect different viewpoints and backgrounds, developing empathy and compassion.

Teambuilding & Leadership

Teambuilding helps to foster leadership skills!

- **Confidence and Self-Esteem:** Successfully navigating camp activities and overcoming personal challenges boosts self-confidence and helps students recognize their own strengths.
- **Adaptability and Resilience:** Experiencing new environments and coping with unfamiliar situations help students become more adaptable and resilient in the face of change and adversity.
- **Conflict Resolution:** Living and interacting closely with peers inevitably leads to conflicts. Learning to resolve these conflicts constructively is a crucial leadership skill.
- **Time Management:** Balancing various activities, personal time, and group responsibilities helps students develop effective time management skills.

Personal Growth

This happens when you’re pushed out of your comfort zone!

- **Independent Living:** Being away from home and managing their daily routines independently helps students develop responsibility, self-reliance, and decision-making skills.
- **Nature Immersion:** Spending extended periods in nature, away from technology and familiar environments, encourages students to appreciate the natural world and develop a sense of environmental stewardship.
- **Outdoor Adventures:** Activities like hiking, kayaking, or zip-lining challenge students physically and mentally, encouraging them to confront fears and build resilience.
- **Team-Building Exercises**: Group challenges and problem-solving activities require collaboration and communication with peers, helping students develop interpersonal skills and learn to work effectively in a team.
- **New Social Interactions:** Meeting and living with new people from diverse backgrounds pushes students to step out of their usual social circles and develop new friendships, enhancing their social skills.

Personal Growth

This happens when you’re pushed out of your comfort zone!

- **Conflict Resolution:** Living closely with others can lead to conflicts. Learning to navigate and resolve these conflicts constructively teaches important negotiation and conflict resolution skills.

- **Personal Reflection Time:** Structured time for personal reflection, journaling, or mindfulness activities helps students introspect, understand their feelings, and set personal goals.

- **Public Speaking and Presentations:** Campfire stories, talent shows, or group presentations provide a platform for students to practice public speaking, boosting their confidence and communication skills.

Daytime Schedule…

- Daily meals are provided, but if you have special dietary needs, there is a fridge and microwave available.

Example Day 1 Schedule → **Wednesday, June 9th**

- Arrive at school
- Depart Nock @ 5:30 AM
- 3 hour drive to Camp Jewell
- Arrival at approximately 10:00
- Cabin Set-Up and Camp Tours
- Camp Giant Welcome Game
- Lunch @ 12
- Welcome Meeting 1PM
- 1:30-2:00 Free Time on Courts
- Afternoon sessions 2-4 pm
- 5 pm dinner
- 6-7 evening session
- 7 pm Campfire Night-Dutch Auction, Smores
- 8:30 Cabins
- 9:15-9:30 Cabin Discussion/Reflection
- 9:30 Get ready for bed
- 9:45 Cabin lights out

Example Day 2 Schedule → Thursday, June 10th

- 7:30 AM Alarms
- 8:00 AM Cabins walk to breakfast
- 8:45-9:00 Return to cabins, if needed, if not free time at the courts.
- 9:00-9:15 Morning Meeting
- 9:15-12 Morning Sessions
- 12-1 Lunch and Courts time
- 1-3 Early Afternoon sessions
- 3-3:30 Afternoon snack and Courts time
- 3:30-5:30 Late afternoon sessions
- 5:30-6:30 Dinner
- 6:30-7 Free time on the courts
- 7-8:30 Song night and Ice Cream Sundaes
- 8:30 Cabins
- 9:15 Cabin Discussions/Reflection
- 9:30 Lights Out

Example Day 3 Schedule → Friday, June 11th

- 7:30 AM Alarms
- 8:00 AM Cabins walk to breakfast
- 8:45-9:00 Return to cabins , pack/clean
- 9:00 Goodbye Morning Meeting
- 9:30 Final Sessions
- 11:30- Lunch
- 12:30 Departure
- 4:30-5:00 Tentative return time
- 5:00 Unload buses, kid pick up

The End.

Addendum A

APPLICATION FOR A FIELD TRIP

Field trip requests must be turned in at least 10 school days before the trip. The names of students attending the trip must be made known to the faculty at least five school days before the scheduled trip.

1. Date of Trip May 19-21
2. Class 8th
3. Teacher Mackey Kate Allan + Jen Grostin
4. Number of Students 165
5. Destination Philadelphia
6. Method of Transportation Bus
7. Estimated Student Cost $1225
8. Time of Departure 6am
9. Time of Return 8pm
10. Academic Objectives See proposal
11. Number of Teachers 16-18 Names of Teachers

NOTE: If substitutes are required, the front office must be informed after request if approved.

12. Date of Application 5/22

Endorsed: Curriculum Advisor

Signature of Teacher Initiating Request

Approved: Principal

Not Approved: Principal

Trip: Philadelphia

NEWBURYPORT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT TRAVEL PROPOSAL AND VENDOR SELECTION PROCESS

Purpose

The purpose of this process is to ensure that all international student travel opportunities offered through Newburyport Public Schools are educationally meaningful, financially transparent, safe, and accessible to students. This process is intended to provide a consistent framework for evaluating and approving international travel opportunities and the vendors selected to support those experiences.

Proposal Requirements

Prior to School Committee consideration, trip advisors must submit the following:

1. Travel Proposal Cover Page
2. Vendor comparison matrix with cost estimates
3. Documentation itinerary from vendors considered

Post Trip

Advisors will administer the INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PROGRAM FEEDBACK SURVEY to collect feedback on the student and family's experience. This information will be used to plan future trips.

Travel Proposal Cover Page

Educational purpose of the trip

- Connection to curriculum, course objectives, or district goals
- Expected student learning outcomes
- Opportunities for cultural, historical, linguistic, artistic, scientific, or civic learning

Connection to Curriculum, Course Objectives, or District Goals

This trip directly supports the Massachusetts Grade 8 United States and Massachusetts Government and Civic Life standards. Grade 8 students study the foundations and development of American government, the Constitution, rights and responsibilities of citizens, the structure of government, and civic participation. (Massachusetts DESE)

Philadelphia provides students with an authentic setting in which to connect classroom learning to the places where key events in American history and government unfolded. Students will visit sites connected to the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the development of representative government, individual rights, and the responsibilities of citizens.

The experience also supports our district goal of preparing students the Portrait of a Graduate vision by developing informed, responsible, engaged citizens who can understand the past, evaluate information, communicate effectively, and participate meaningfully in their communities.

Specific Massachusetts connections include:

- **8.T2.1:** Understanding the ideas of equality, representative government, limited government, rule of law, natural rights, the common good, and the purpose of government in the Declaration of Independence. (Massachusetts DESE)
- **8.T2.3:** Analyzing the major issues debated during the Constitutional Convention, including representation, political power, individual rights, and the role of states. (Massachusetts DESE)
- **8.T2.5:** Understanding the Constitution, its articles, and the rights protected by the Bill of Rights. (Massachusetts DESE)

- **Grade 8 Standards for Practice:** Developing questions, analyzing primary and secondary sources, evaluating evidence, distinguishing fact from opinion, constructing evidence-based arguments, and taking informed civic action. (Massachusetts DESE)

Expected Student Learning Outcomes

Following the trip, students will be able to:

- Explain how Philadelphia contributed to the founding and development of the United States government.
- Connect historical places, documents, and events to concepts studied in Grade 8 Civics.
- Explain the significance of the Declaration of Independence, Constitution, and Bill of Rights.
- Identify examples of civic participation, rights, responsibilities, and representative government.
- Analyze information from museums, historical sites, primary sources, exhibits, and tour guides.
- Make connections between historical debates about government and contemporary civic life.
- Use evidence gathered during the trip to support written and verbal claims.
- Reflect on their own responsibilities as citizens and members of their school and local communities.
- Maturity, Growth and Independence

Opportunities for Cultural, Historical, Linguistic, Artistic, Scientific, or Civic Learning

The trip provides students with a broad range of interdisciplinary learning opportunities.

Historical and Civic Learning:
Students will experience sites directly connected to the founding of the United States, including Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, the Constitution, and other historic locations. T

Civic Learning:
Students will see government and citizenship beyond the textbook and consider how citizens, institutions, laws, and public spaces shape a democratic society. This directly supports Massachusetts' emphasis on preparing students to become thoughtful and active participants in a democratic society. (Massachusetts DESE)

Cultural Learning:
Philadelphia provides opportunities for students to experience diverse communities, cultures, perspectives, and historical narratives. Students can examine how different groups have contributed to the development of the United States and how

American identity has evolved.

Artistic and Scientific Learning:
Visits to museums such as the Franklin Institute and other Philadelphia cultural institutions allow students to make connections between science, technology, art, history, and society. Students experience learning environments that extend beyond the traditional classroom.

Literacy and Communication:
Students will read historical exhibits and primary sources, listen to guides and experts, ask questions, record observations, discuss their experiences with peers, and use evidence to communicate what they have learned. This aligns with Massachusetts' emphasis on literacy within history and social science. (Massachusetts DESE)

Real World Learning:
Perhaps most importantly, students will experience the curriculum in the real world. The trip allows students to see that civics is not simply a course about government or a collection of standards. It is about understanding the society we live in, the rights and responsibilities we hold, and the role each of us can play in our community and our democracy.

Vendor Comparison Matrix

Criteria	Vendor A- Global Citizen	Vendor B- EF Tours	Vendor C
Total Cost	$1275	$ 1325	
Hotel Accommodations	4 students per room 2 chaperones per room	4 students per room 2 chaperones per room	
Tips included	Tips included - ALL tips included • Bus • Tour guides	Tips included - ALL tips included • Bus • NO TOUR GUIDES	
Meals Included	Meals Included - Day one - dinner • Students bring breakfast • Bring or purchase a lunch Day two- breakfast and dinner • Purchase lunch at Reading Terminal Day three- breakfast and lunch • Dinner at home	Meals Included - Day one - dinner • Students bring breakfast • Bring or purchase a lunch Day two- breakfast and dinner • Purchase lunch at Reading Terminal Day three- breakfast and lunch • Purchase Lunch • Dinner at home	

Travel Insurance Available	Yes - medical available - otherwise they have a standard cancelation policy.	Yes - medical available - otherwise they have a standard cancelation policy.	
Is There Shared Transport with Other Schools?	No shared transport	No shared transport	
Student-to-Chaperone Ratio	Student-to-Chaperone Ratio 10-1	Student-to-Chaperone Ratio 10-1	
Advisor Compensation or Benefits	Advisor Compensation or Benefits Stipend - $1100 for 2 trip leaders	Advisor Compensation or Benefits Stipend - $1100 for 2 trip leaders	

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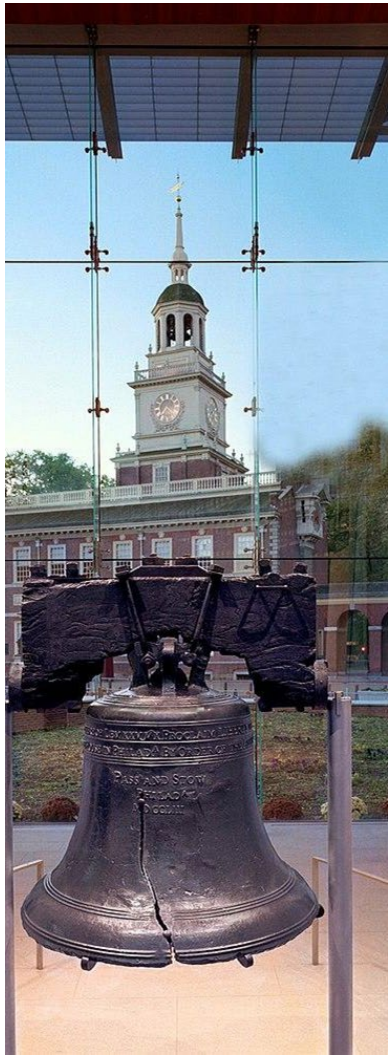


PHILADELPHIA CLASS TRIP

May 18 - 20, 2027

Rupert A Nock Middle School

Departure Information

5:30 am Arrival at school
- Check in and load busses

6:00 am Depart School
- Travel to Philly with rest stop along the way
- Students will eat their lunch on the bus

Day 1 Philadelphia Itinerary

12:30 - Arrival

Wyndham Philadelphia Historic District
400 Arch St,
Philadelphia, PA 19106
(215) 923-8660

12:30 - Run the Rocky Steps

1:30 - 3:30 Divide into groups for 1st Museum Choice

- Independence Hall
- Eastern State Penitentiary
- Mutter Museum
- Franklin Institute
- Street Art Mural Walking Tour

4:00 - Check in to Hotel and get ready for Phillies Game

5:30 - 9:30 - Phillies Game vs Miami Marlins - dinner vouchers given at the ballpark

Day 2 Itinerary

7:30 AM: Breakfast @ Hotel
8:30 Sightseeing Historic Philadelphia (Constitution Center & US Mint)
12:30 Lunch at Reading Terminal (Recommend $15-$20)
2:30-4:30 Museum Visits (Museum Choice 2)
5:00 pm Return to hotel prep for Dinner Dance Cruise
6:00 - 9:00 Dinner and Dancing Cruise on the Delaware River
9:30 - Bus back to hotel

Things to see

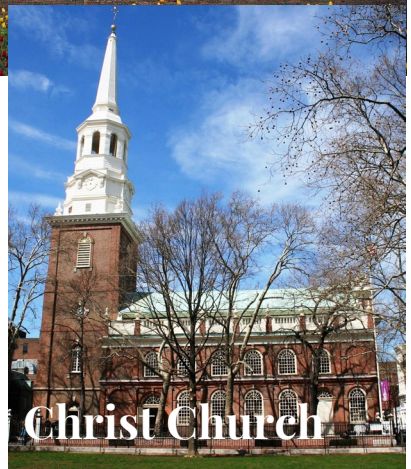
Washington Square Park

Independence Hall

Rocky Steps!

Betsy Ross House

Elfreth's Alley


Christ Church

See the Sights!

National Constitution Center

THE NCC is the only museum dedicated to the US Constitution. The museum boasts interactive exhibits and live theater focused on our key document and its ideals as they are realized in everyday life.

United States Mint

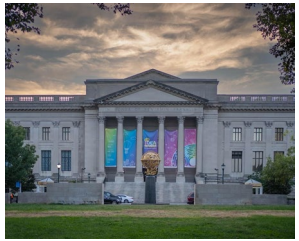
Phillies Baseball Game

Watch the Phillies take on the Cincinnati Reds at Citizen Park Stadium

Visit Philadelphia City Hall and the iconic LOVE sculpture.

Franklin Institute

The Franklin Institute is a science museum and the center of science education and research in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It is named after the American scientist and statesman Benjamin Franklin.

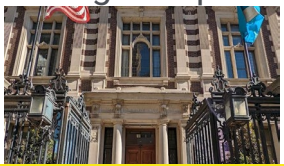


Eastern State Penitentiary

The Eastern State Penitentiary is a former American prison located at 2027 Fairmount Avenue between Corinthian Avenue and North 22nd Street in the Fairmount section of the city, and was operational from 1829 until 1971.

Mutter Museum

The Mütter Museum is a medical museum located in the Center City area of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It contains a collection of anatomical and pathological specimens, wax models, and antique medical equipment.



Independence Hall

A National Historic Landmark, Independence Hall is recognized globally for its impact on the pursuit of freedom and democracy. The Declaration of Independence was signed here in 1776, and the U.S. Constitution was written here in 1787

Museum Choice - students will complete a google form to choose

Mural Art Walking Tour

Philly is known as the Mural Arts Capital of the world! Stretch your legs and walk through the city on a guided tour to experience public art that transforms communities, showcases the city's history and culture, combats urban blight, and draws tourists to explore various neighborhoods.

Day 2 Evening

Dinner Dance Party on Ben Franklin Yacht on the Delaware River

-Semiformal attire

- Dinner will be served on board.

- Potential Changes (TBA)

Day 3 Itinerary

7:00AM: Breakfast at hotel

8:00 Depart hotel for Liberty Island

10:30 Board Ferry to Liberty Island

1:30 Depart Liberty State Park for Newburyport - students receive a box lunch for bus ride

7:30 PM Estimated Arrival at Nock Middle School

Group Leaders

Trip Advisors
Mary Kate Allan

Jen Groskin

The Global Citizen
Jeff Rahilly

JJH STUDENT OVERNIGHT OR LATE NIGHT TRAVEL

SERIES J - STUDENTS

All student trips which include late night or overnight travel must have prior approval of the School Committee. Initial approval by the School Committee is required before engaging students in fundraising activities. The School Committee will also consider the educational value of the trip in relation to the cost prior to granting initial approval. Overnight trips should offer significant educational benefits to students that clearly justify the time and expense of the trip. Such trips should be appropriate for the grade level.

Final approval will not be granted until all preparations for the trip have been completed including, but not limited to, all logistical details involving transportation, accommodation arrangements and fundraising efforts. The School Committee requires that final approval be sought no less than 30 days prior to the scheduled trip dates.

Teachers and other school staff are prohibited from soliciting for privately run trips through the school system and in the schools. The School Committee will only review for approval school-sanctioned trips. The School Committee will not review or approve trips that are privately organized and run without school sanctioning.

Policy References:

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. 69:1B; 71:37N

CROSS REFS.: IJOA, Field Trips

Adopted: June 19, 2017
Revised: February 27, 2024

Newburyport Public Schools
FY2026 Year-End Close

September 15, 2026

Amounts are preliminary/unaudited. FY26 DESE/state reporting data will be based on End of Year Report filed by district on or before September 30, 2026.

FY26 Plan and Year-End Result

FY26 Adopted Budget

$44,564,622
FY26 Total Budget
(All Funding Sources)

$39,436,665
FY26 Regular Budget
(General Fund)

FY26 Actual Operating Costs*

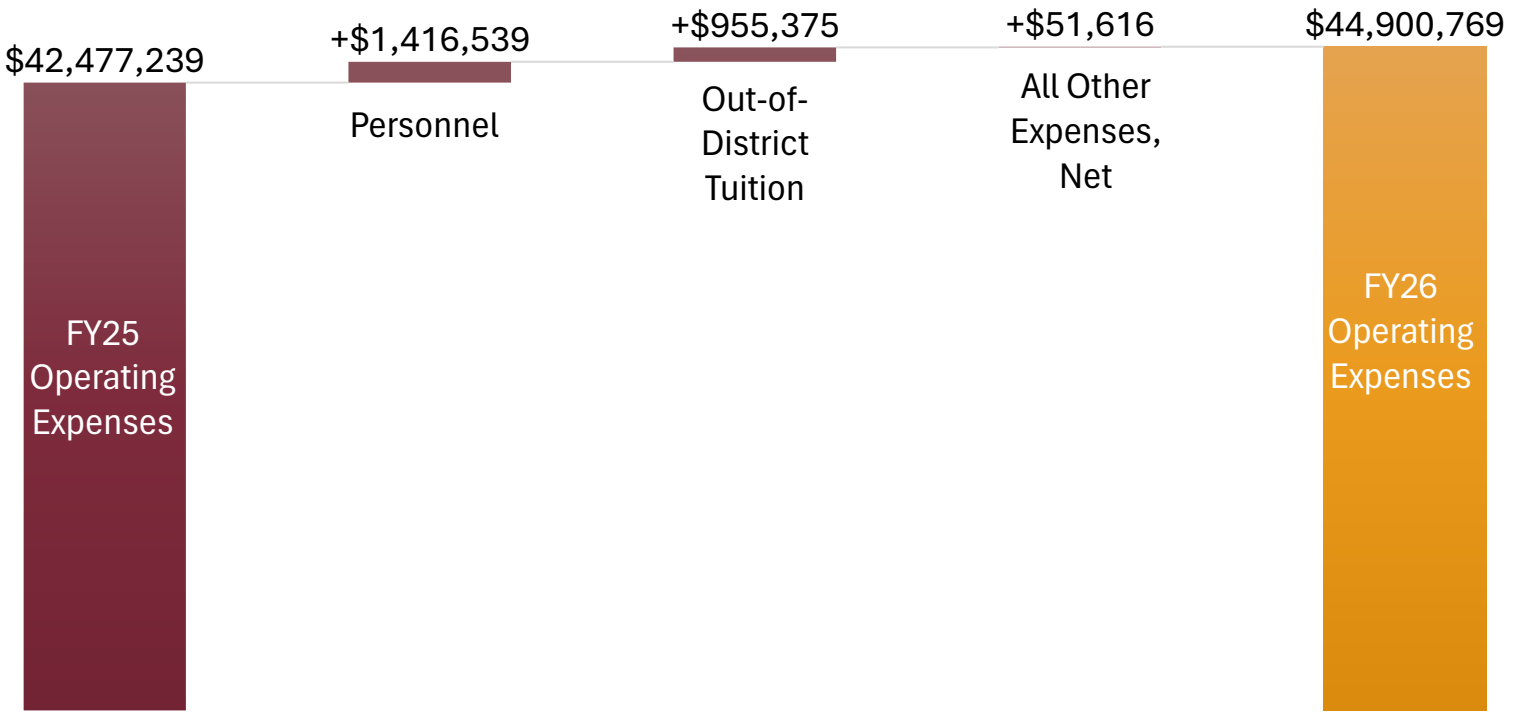
$44,900,769
FY26 Operating Expenses

$42,477,239
FY25 Operating Expenses

+$2,423,530 / +5.7%
Year-over-Year Increase

*Operating costs = budgeted expenses plus recurring district costs supported by revolving, special revenue and federal entitlement funds

FY26 Main Cost Drivers



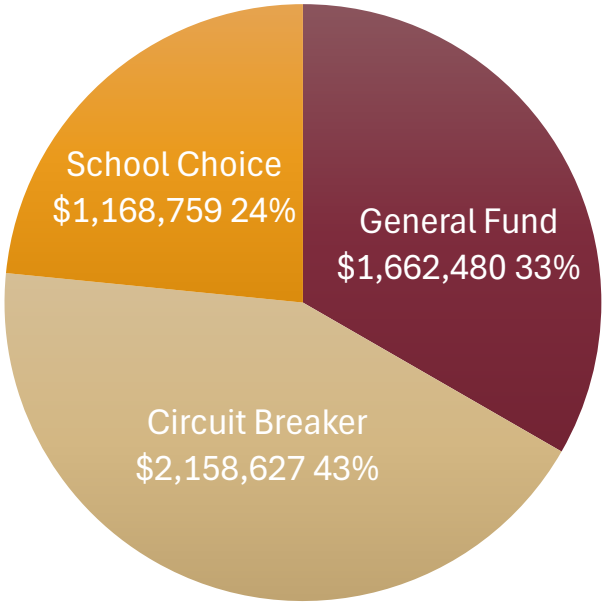
Personnel and out-of-district tuition accounted for approximately 98% of the increase in FY26 operating expenditures. All other operating expenses were essentially flat in the aggregate.

Special Education Tuition & Transportation

	FY25 Actual	FY26 Actual	$ Change	% Change
OOD Tuition	$3,182,470	**$4,137,845**	**+$955,375**	+30.0%
SPED Transportation	$970,725	**$852,021**	**-$118,704**	-12.2%
Total	**$4,153,195**	**$4,989,866**	**+$836,671**	**+20.1%**

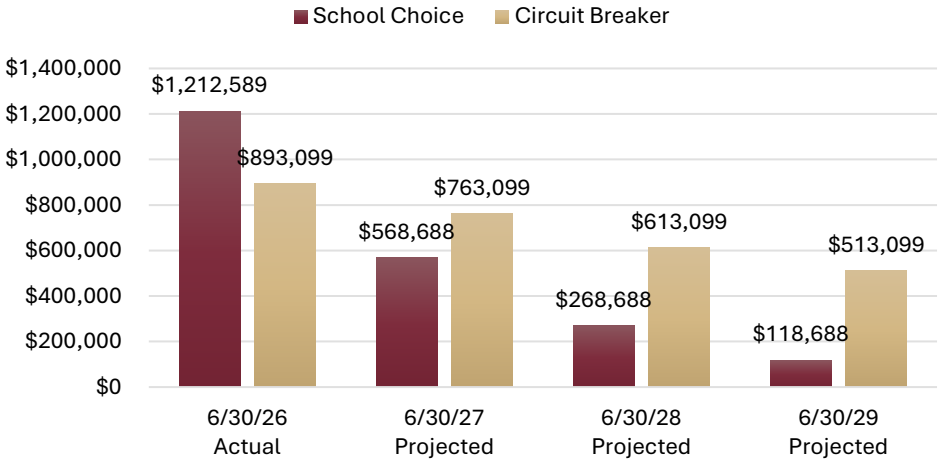
FY26 Funding Sources for Special Ed. Tuition & Transportation

Approximately two-thirds of FY26 special education tuition and transportation costs were supported by Circuit Breaker and School Choice revolving funds.



School Choice & Circuit Breaker: Year-End Balances and Outlook

Fund Balance Trend



Note: Projected balances are based on current budget-use and receipt assumptions and will change with actual experience.

FY27 Planned Use

	School Choice	Circuit Breaker
Budget Use	$2,093,901	$2,600,000
Estimated Receipts	$1,450,000	$2,470,000
Net Draw on Balance	**$643,901**	**$130,000**

Combined FY27 Net Draw: $773,901

FY26 personnel savings helped to preserve School Choice and Circuit Breaker resources at year-end. These balances provide some additional near-term flexibility, but a substantial portion is planned to support FY27 and future budgets.

Appendix: FY26 Revolving & Special Revenue Funds

Code	Description	6/30/25 Balance	FY26 Expenses	FY26 Receipts	6/30/26 Balance
0054	Food Services	$380,045	($947,052)	$1,007,835	$440,828
0064	School Choice	$1,233,580	($1,343,951)	$1,322,960	$1,212,589
0074	Transportation	$330,868	($130,365)	$162,809	$363,313
0084	One to One Program	$148,077	($97,829)	$102,443	$152,692
0094	Foreign Student Program	$272,564	($60,459)	$126,500	$338,605
0104	Daycare	$27,503	($126,131)	$142,480	$43,852
3401	Athletics	$201,762	($432,518)	$383,803	$153,047
3402	Building Usage	$319	($6,718)	$39,138	$32,740
3403	Adult Education	$88,864	($159,385)	$183,954	$113,433
3404	Learning & Enrichment	$90,050	($4,781)	$91	$85,359
3405	Student Club Fees	$21,639	($11,649)	$2,559	$12,548
3406	Preschool Tuition	$50,912	($203,846)	$231,577	$78,643
3407	Curriculum / Development	$38,037	($20,265)	$22,910	$40,683
3408	Bres School Activities	$0	$0	$1,587	$1,587
3501	Circuit Breaker	$859,526	($2,436,620)	$2,470,193	$893,099
3601	Swasey Fund	$377,886	($156,672)	$308,670	$529,883
3602	NEF Projects	$71,500	($264,632)	$175,643	($17,489)
Total Revolving & Special Revenue		**$4,193,132**	**($6,402,872)**	**$6,685,151**	**$4,475,411**

SC Mid-Year Principles and Norms Self-Eval

6 responses

Publish analytics

Your Name

6 responses

Lauren Eramo

Andrew Boger

Kathleen Shaw

Breanna Higgins

Juliet Walker

John Ricci

Represent the needs and interests of all students in the district, striving to represent common interests rather than factions. We will make decisions that are best for students in all cases: all means all.

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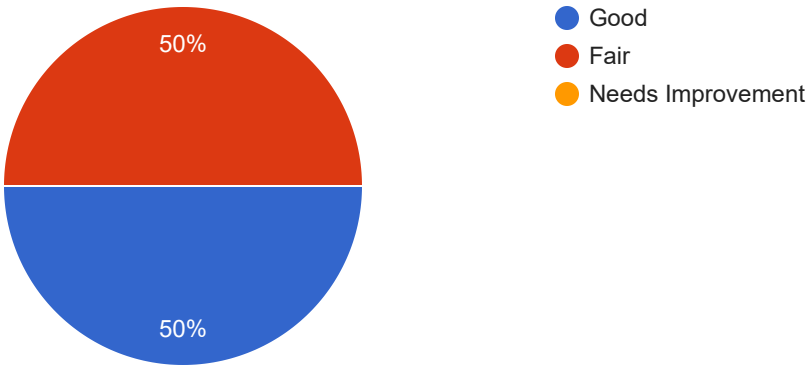

Exercise leadership in vision, planning, policy making, evaluation, and advocacy on behalf of the students and district, not in managing the day-to-day operations of the district.

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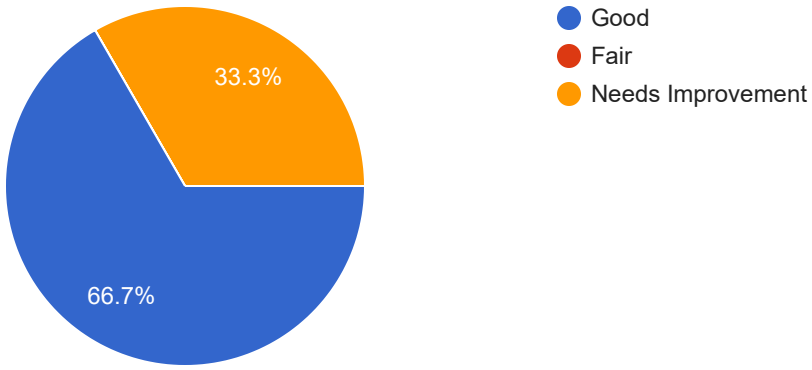

Communicate positively about other school committee members, staff, and the system. As advocates for Newburyport Public Schools and public education, we readily accept our roles promoting support for public education and spreading the news of our success.

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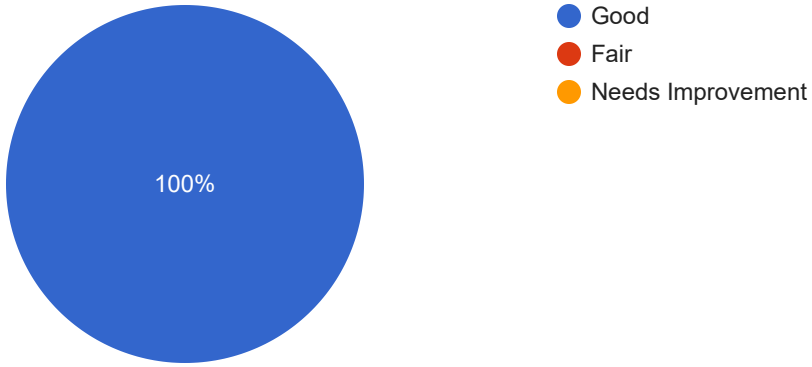

Conduct our business through a set agenda. Emerging items will be addressed in subsequent meetings through agenda items, with the exception of items that are time sensitive or require urgent attention.

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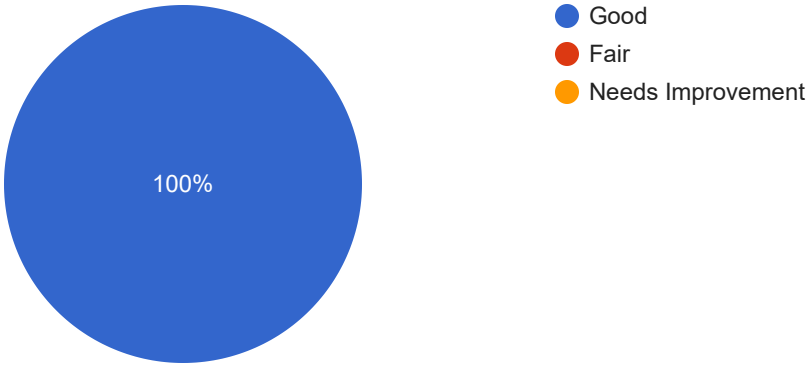

Provide full disclosure. Each member will provide input, encouragement, express concerns and positions rather than withhold information from other members. When a school committee member feels that there has not been full disclosure, an objective process for revisiting the issue will be used.

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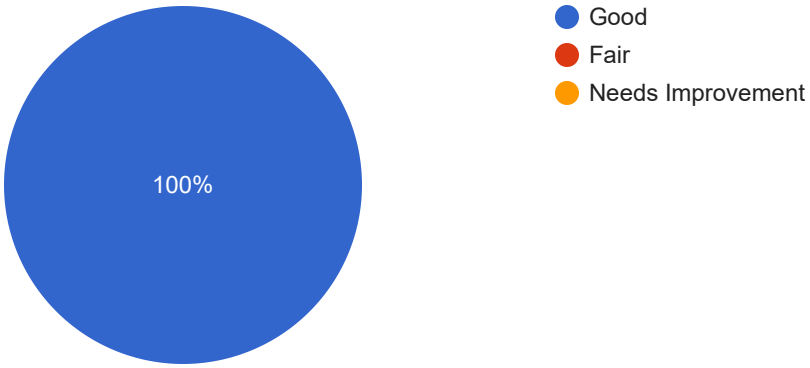

Maintain an open environment where each member is empowered to freely express opinions, concerns, and ideas. School committee members will engage in active listening to clarify and restate discussions in order to strive for full understanding. We will provide continuing education opportunities and support to each other, striving to build trusting relationships.

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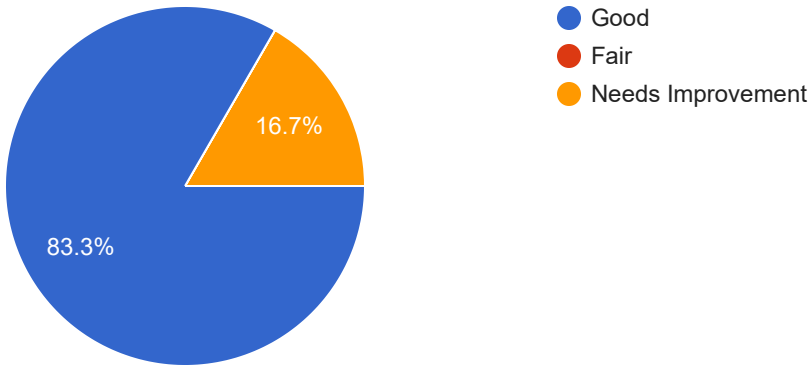

Keep an open mind and accept that they can change their opinions by recognizing that they are not locked into their initial stated positions.

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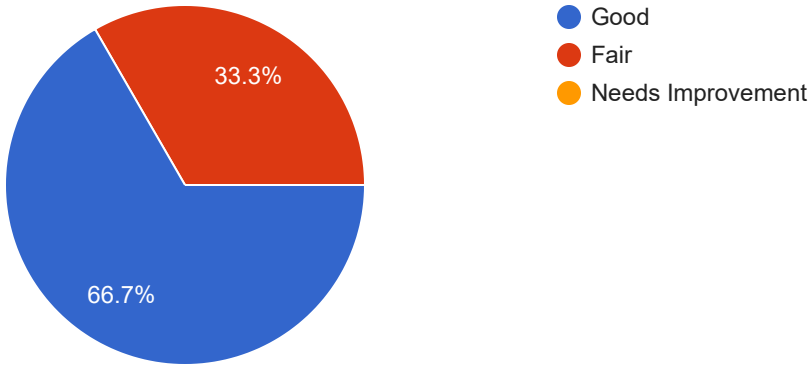

Make decisions on information and not on personalities. School committee members will act with the best information available at the time considering data, the superintendent's recommendations, proposals, and suggestions. School committee members will strive to make the best decisions at the time, without waiting for the perfect decision.

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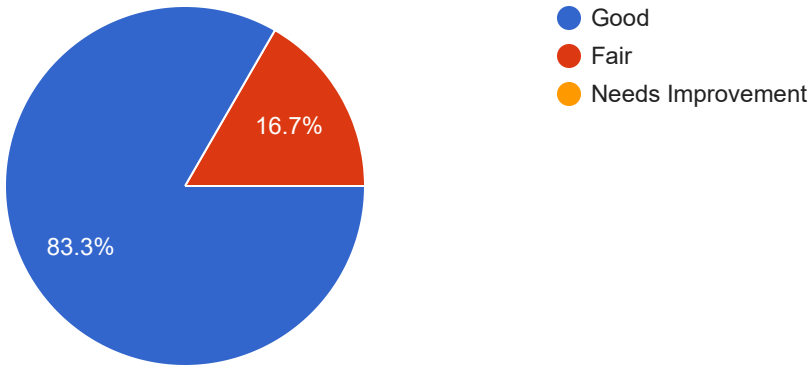

Debate the issues, not one another. The school committee will engage in critical and creative thinking, expecting all school committee members to freely offer differing points of view as part of the discussion, prior to making a school committee decision.

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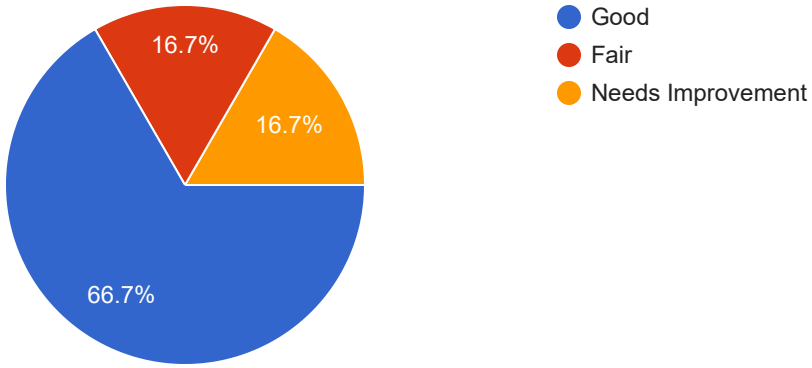

Be clear about, and stay true to, the role of the school committee. Not take unilateral action. A committee member's authority is derived through the majority of the school committee acting as a whole during an open public meeting. We will reach decisions by consensus, and individual members will publicly abide by those decisions, speaking with one voice, once a vote is taken. We will recognize a single official "voice" of the school committee.

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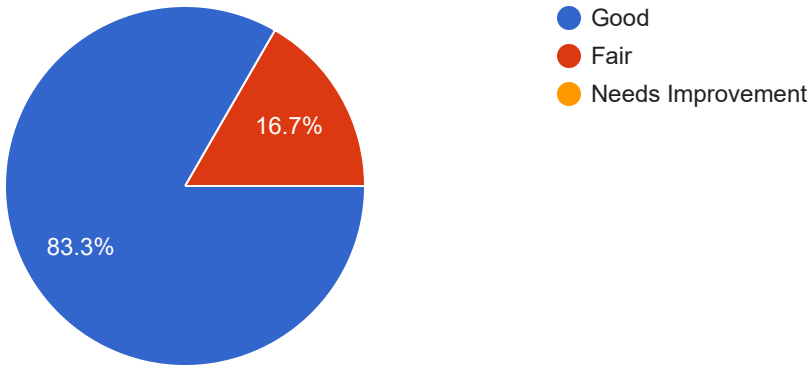

Attend meetings on time and well prepared to discuss issues on the agenda, and will be prepared to make decisions, striving for efficient decision making.

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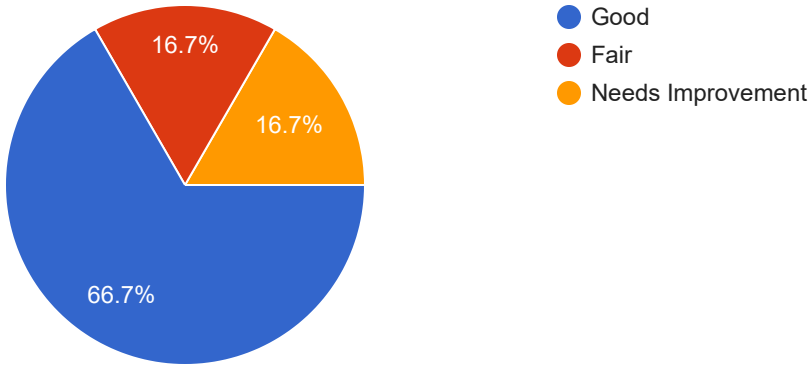

Strive to have no surprises for the committee or superintendent. Surprises will be the exception. All members will provide and receive the same information in a timely manner.

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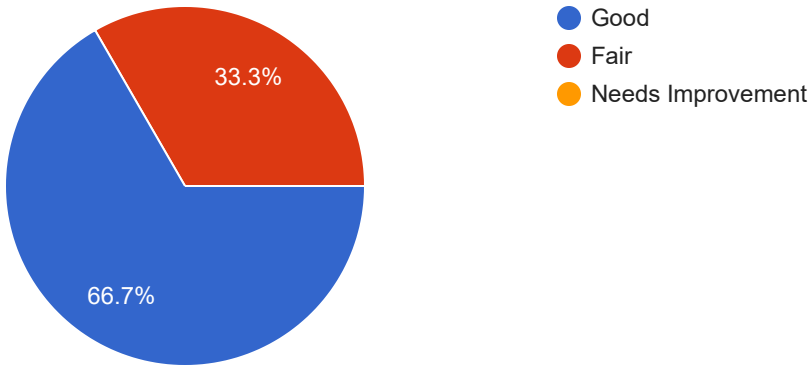

Respect all persons presenting to the school committee.

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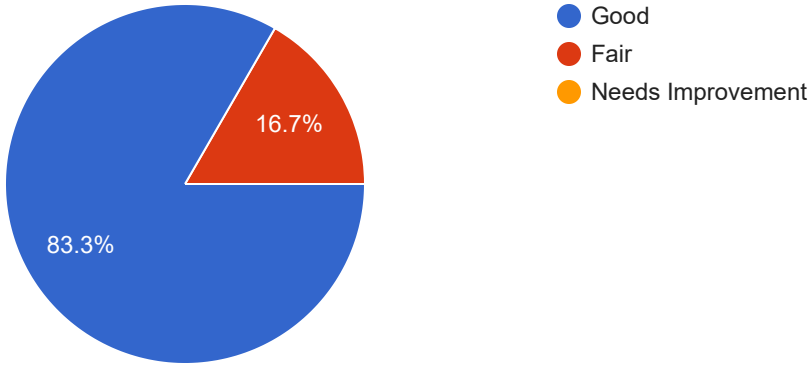
6 responses



Follow the chain of command and direct others to do the same. Personnel complaints and concerns will be directed to the superintendent.

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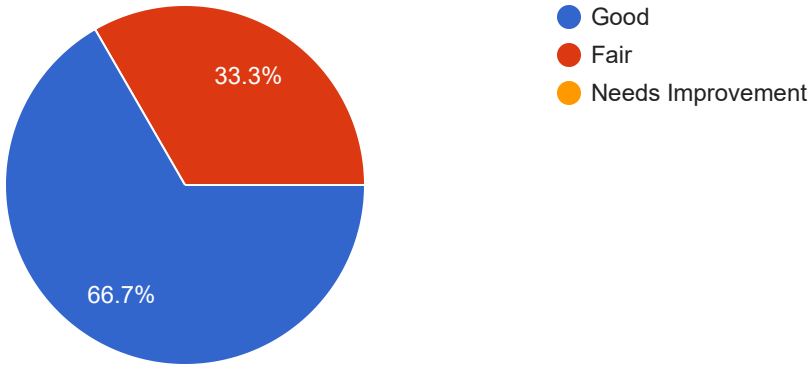
6 responses



Review and revise operating principles, as needed, as part of the school committee's self-evaluation.

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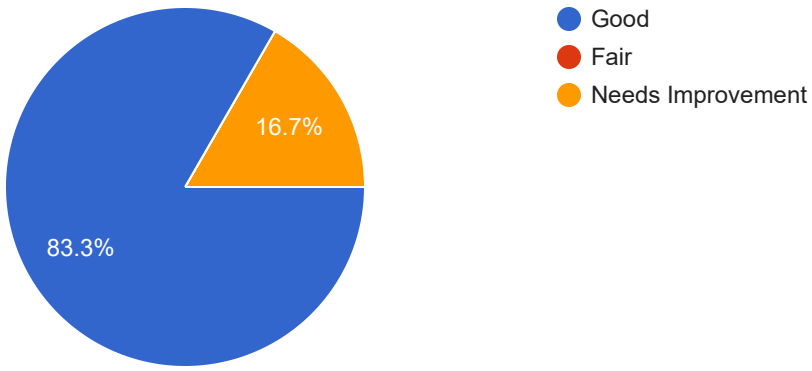

Recognize that all communications created and received to our district email accounts are public documents, unless a specific statutory exemption applies.

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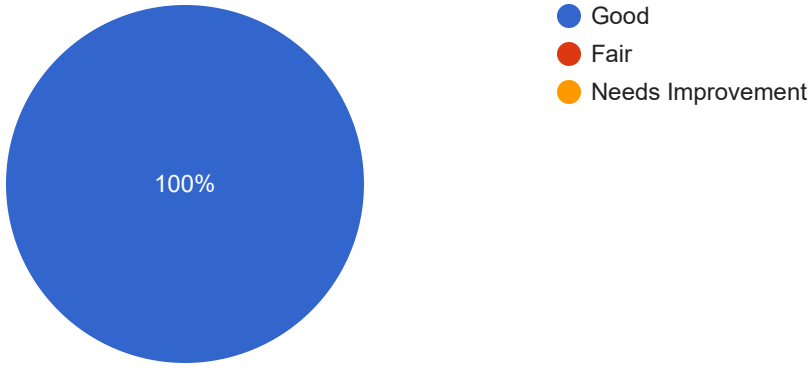
6 responses



Refrain from reading or sending electronic communications, and remain off of all social media platforms during meetings, in the interest of transparency.

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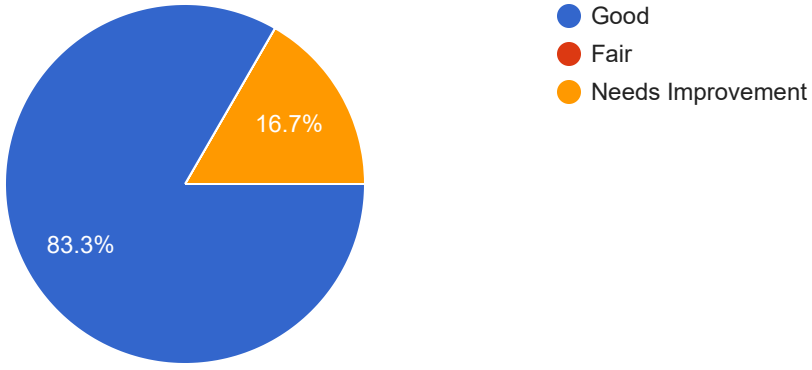
6 responses



Is there anything you think is missing from our Operating Principles and Norms of Interaction that we should consider adding?

2 responses

None at this time

Not that I am aware of.

Please share any additional feedback you have for the rest of the School Committee.

2 responses

This is a thorough and good list and is a positive exercise. I can't imagine you'll get back much of anything other than good across the board.
Just as clarification, the wording on some led me to state fair or needs improvement on three questions, whereas the general intention of the question may have garnered a "good".

1. For instance, we don't actually spend much time at all talking about what is good for ALL students and the function tends to be to address factions as they come up, as would be the case in most places. So the wording is perhaps misleading. Of course, everyone's intention is to support All the students as far as I can tell. We often actually are solving for minority factions (and would be duly criticized and would criticize ourselves were we not), but sometimes this does come at the expense of the majority or the many and that is rarely if ever acknowledged or discussed. Realize it is a subtle point.

2. This is tricky as in my mind this is a two-parter, or at least, you're signing off on a list here that may have different elements that we do more or less well "Exercise leadership in vision, planning, policy making, evaluation, and advocacy on behalf of the students and district, not in managing the day-to-day operations of the district."
I think we do quite well on staying out of Operations, which is the essential point here I think. And quite well on policy. I am not quite sure what the Vision of the School Committee is and don't necessarily want to keep barking up a tree that no one is ostensibly in, but anyone would be hard pressed I think to be able to articulate what that may be. Would be a worthwhile exercise and effective tool to have as evidenced by any and all mission statements etc. In terms of long term efficacy, I think could be truly valuable.

"Keep an open mind and accept that they can change their opinions by recognizing that they are not locked into their initial stated positions."- the intention of the question is a good one and while I consider the body to be generally open mind folks rarely change their minds (with some notable exceptions), so this in the vast majority of interactions would actually be hard to discern in reality if one was taking this literally. Again, the spirit of the question is are we open minded, and I would say generally yes, but there is almost certainly a blind spot for acceptance of truly different points of view. I think it would be hard for folks to admit this.

I would like a full district survey that includes parents and staff. The three year survey that is now taking place is not substantial and has been watered down alleged specific comments that have been made by administrators. I do not think it tells the full story and I do not see a way for parents to actually be represented beyond coming to a meeting (2 min. open comment without any comments or discussion) or an email that is not always answered or is given a standard reply.

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DRAFT School Committee Goals for August to December 2026

Description	Recommended Action	Desired Outcomes	Priority (High, Med, Low)
Establish regular line of communication with City Council and District families and students	● SC Finance Subcommittee to continue to host joint budget mtg with CC Finance Committee ● Vice Chair/Mayor or other SC Member to attend monthly or bi-monthly CC Gen Government Sub-Committee meetings ● Continue to distribute SC newsletter to CC members ● SC to send representatives to CC meetings we think are critical ● District/families/students – see Budget-related Goals	● Improved understanding between CC and SC ● Increased awareness about District initiatives, goals ● Increased participation in budget process	
Support continued improvement in academic performance across the district	● Teaching and Learning (TLS) Subcommittee to continue to coordinate with staff to identify areas of weakness and strategies for improvement ● TLS to work with staff to identify annual performance goals and measures of success for academic performance ● TLS to provide more details on metrics and key take aways in report backs to SC	● Consistent focus on reporting and measuring academic goals and assessments ● Strengthen report outs from TLS to SC to help inform discussions and decisions	
Focus on creating a supportive school learning environment for all students	Review outcomes from MA Consortium for Innovative Education Assessment (MCIEA) Quality Measures surveys	● Report out from MCIEA	

Description	Recommended Action	Desired Outcomes	Priority (High, Med, Low)
Provide opportunities for elevating student voice	Continue meeting with NHS Student Council on a periodic basis	Regular communication lines between SC and student representatives	
District Technology literacy practices/policies ● Evaluate potential harms of technology use in the classroom and school-wide. ● Build understanding of technology tools and appropriateness of their application at different grade levels. ● Encourage/support non-tech options.	● Continue receiving report outs on AI Advisory Committees recommendations from Spring 2026 ● Work with staff to evaluate effectiveness of 1:1 tablet practice at NHS	Report outs to School Committee	
Evaluate ways to improve safety for school arrival and dismissal	● Implement recommendations from Nock/Molin Traffic Advisory Committee ● Encourage collaboration with MassDOT SRTS program		

MOLIN / NOCK PICK-UP–DROP-OFF ADVISORY COMMITTEE

REPORT OF FINDINGS, RECOMMENDATIONS & ACTIONS TAKEN

Presented to the Newburyport School Committee 09/09/2026

I. PURPOSE

The Molin / Nock Pick-Up–Drop-Off Advisory Group was established to review traffic flow, student drop-off and pick-up procedures, bus operations, pedestrian safety, and related concerns surrounding the Molin and Nock school campus.

The Group's objective was to identify existing challenges, gather input from key stakeholders, observe current conditions, and develop practical recommendations that improve safety and traffic flow while recognizing the operational needs of students, families, school staff, bus transportation, and the surrounding neighborhood.

The Group was asked to provide initial recommendations to the School Committee by August 26, 2026, followed by a final report of findings and proposed resolutions by the October 14, 2026 School Committee Business Meeting.

II. SCOPE OF REVIEW

The Group's review focused on the following areas:

- Molin parking lot circulation and vehicle staging
- Drop-off and pick-up procedures on Low Street
- Traffic impacts on Johnson Street and Toppans Lane
- Compliance with designated drop-off and pick-up areas
- Bus loading, circulation, staging, and departure
- Pedestrian safety and crossings
- Signage, traffic control, and enforcement
- Overall traffic flow during peak arrival and dismissal periods

Attention was given to conditions during the highest-volume periods at morning arrival and afternoon dismissal.

III. REVIEW PROCESS

The Group's work included direct observation of traffic conditions, discussion with school and district personnel, review of historical procedures/Issues, and consideration of feedback from all involved.

The Group evaluated the school not simply as a parking issue, but as a coordinated transportation and safety system involving:

Students and pedestrians
Safe movement to and from the school buildings for arrival and departure of all students and separation, where possible, from moving vehicles.

Parent and caregiver vehicles
Clear, predictable, and efficient procedures for student drop-off and pick-up.

School buses
Safe access, staging, loading, and departure without unnecessary conflicts with private vehicles.

School personnel
Procedures that can be reasonably supervised and consistently implemented.

Surrounding neighborhoods
Consideration of traffic impacts on Low Street, Johnson Street, Toppans Lane, and other nearby streets.

IV. KEY FINDINGS

1. Molin Parking Lot Circulation

The group identified circulation and staging within the Molin parking lot as less of an issue and decided to focus on bus arrival and departure area as well as the surrounding streets.

Finding: A clearly defined and consistently followed circulation pattern is necessary to improve both safety and efficiency. There was discussion about checking ID or adding a gate etc., but again, this was not as important as the surrounding areas.

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2. Low Street Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Low Street/Toppans is perhaps the most important component of school arrival and dismissal traffic. The group reviewed both the intended procedures and actual driver behavior.

A particular concern is the use of locations that are not designated for student loading or unloading. These unscheduled stops can interfere with normal traffic flow, create unpredictable pedestrian movements, and contribute to congestion.

Finding: Drop-off and pick-up locations and procedures need to be clearly communicated and consistently followed.

Action: A video was circulated district wide and in back to school emails. The video and increased administration presence, as well as Newburyport Police Department was on site the first week of school setting a firm example as to the flow of traffic and the do's and don'ts of drop-off/pick-up.

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3. Johnson Street and Toppans Lane

Traffic associated with school arrival and dismissal extends beyond the immediate school property.

The Group considered the effect of school traffic on Johnson Street and Toppans Lane, including vehicle queues, turning movements, pedestrian activity, and the interaction between school-related and neighborhood traffic.

Finding: Traffic management decisions at the school should consider their effect on the surrounding street network rather than addressing individual locations in isolation.

Action: There was also increased presence on Toppan's and a teacher with a sign that clearly stated, 'No Stopping" and it appeared to work.

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4. Bus Operations

School buses require sufficient space and predictable access for arrival, staging, student loading, and departure.

Conflicts between buses and private vehicles can create delays and introduce unnecessary safety concerns, particularly when vehicles enter areas intended primarily for bus operations.

Finding: Bus circulation and loading areas should remain clearly defined and protected from conflicting private-vehicle movements whenever possible.

Action: The Group reached out to the city regarding the light at Toppans and Low and making it a manual procedure so all buses could leave at once and not inhibit the traffic flow.

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5. Pedestrian Safety

Pedestrian safety was a central consideration throughout the Group's work.

Students and families frequently move through areas with significant vehicle activity during the busiest portions of the school day. Predictability is particularly important: drivers need to know where pedestrians are expected to cross, and pedestrians need clearly identifiable routes.

Finding: Clearly marked pedestrian routes, appropriate crossings, visibility, and separation from vehicle movements should remain the highest priority in any traffic-flow changes.

Action: It will continue to be monitored, and best practices will be implemented. We have also been in contact with "Safe Streets" to gain a greater understanding of our issues. We also intend to reach out to Rec. & Youth services about their opening and the challenges that may exist in crossing Low St.

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6. Signage, Communication, and Compliance

Traffic procedures are most effective when expectations are simple, visible, and consistently communicated.

Finding: The district should establish a clear traffic plan and communicate it regularly rather than relying solely on drivers' familiarity with existing practices. Signage alone was unlikely to resolve every issue.

Action: Additional signs, Admin. and police presence, continued and multiple advance communications with families, and consistent reinforcement was our starting point.

V. GROUP RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on its preliminary review, the Group continue exploring the issues and work with the appropriate city departments pursue the following actions:

1. **Continue to establish and communicate a clearly defined Molin/Nock arrival and dismissal traffic plan**, including vehicle circulation, approved loading/unloading locations, bus exodus, and pedestrian routes.
2. **Improve signage** where necessary so that traffic patterns and restricted areas are immediately understandable to all drivers.

3. **Reinforce designated drop-off and pick-up locations**, particularly along Low Street/Toppans, and discourage student loading or unloading in unauthorized unsafe locations and traffic circulation (parents vehicle movement)

4. **Maintain clearly separated bus loading, circulation areas and exodus** and limit private-vehicle movements that interfere with bus operations via additional crossing guards or manual switch.

5. **Review pedestrian crossings and walking routes** throughout the surrounding streets, with particular attention to locations where pedestrian and vehicle movements intersect.

6. **Coordinate with appropriate City departments and public-safety personnel** regarding traffic control, signage, enforcement, street conditions, and potential infrastructure improvements.

7. **Provide families with clear arrival and dismissal instructions** at the beginning of each school year and periodically throughout the year.

8. **Use on-site staff presence during critical periods when appropriate** to reinforce established procedures and assist with orderly traffic movement.

9. **Continue monitoring traffic conditions after changes are implemented** to determine whether the modifications are producing the intended improvements.

10. **Reassess the traffic plan periodically**, particularly when bus operations, school schedules, construction, or surrounding traffic patterns change and the Rec. Center opens.

VI. IMPLEMENTATION

The Group recognizes that not every improvement requires use of large resources.

Several improvements may be achievable through relatively straightforward operational changes, including better communication, signage, pavement markings, staff positioning, and clearer traffic procedures.

Other recommendations may require coordination among the Newburyport Public Schools, City departments, public-safety officials, transportation providers, and potentially the School Committee.

The Group will continue to recommend prioritizing improvements according to three criteria:

1. Safety — Address conditions presenting the greatest potential risk to students and pedestrians first.

2. Feasibility — Implement operational and low-cost improvements that can be completed promptly.

3. Long-Term Effectiveness — Evaluate infrastructure or circulation changes that may provide sustainable improvements to campus traffic management.

VII. CONTINUED MONITORING AND ACTION

Traffic conditions around the Molin/Nock are dynamic. Transportation patterns, family behavior, bus schedules, staffing, and surrounding road conditions can all change.

For that reason, implementation should not be viewed as the conclusion of the process.

The Group recommends that the district monitor arrival and dismissal conditions following implementation of the recommended changes and make adjustments where necessary. The group will also be applying for additional funding via a Safe Streets grant and perhaps use that funding for additional signage, lights, etc. that will increase safety and minimize obstructions.

Any additional safety concerns identified by the group during this monitoring xwill be addressed promptly, rather than waiting for another meeting.

VIII. CONCLUSION

The Group's review reinforced that the Molin/Nock arrival and dismissal process involves several interconnected issues: vehicle circulation, bus transportation, pedestrian movement, surrounding neighborhood traffic, communication, and most importantly driver compliance.

There is no single change that will resolve every traffic concern. Meaningful improvement will depend on establishing a system that is **clear, predictable, consistently communicated, and centered on student safety**.

The group believes that these recommendations provide an initial framework for improving traffic flow and reducing unnecessary conflicts while maintaining safe and convenient access for families, buses, staff, and the surrounding community.

Lastly, I would like to thank all that were involved in the group and the administration personnel that led the charge.

Superintendent Gallagher, Vice Chair Juliet Walker, School Committee Member Lauren Aramo, Facilities Director James McSeeney, Officer Michael Fialte, Principal Markos, Principal Rossi, Asst. Principal Matt Condon and the various teachers that expanded their day in order to provide additional support to keep our students safe.

School Committee
September 23, 2026

Superintendent's Report

Back to school enthusiasm!

NHS, Nock, and Bresnahan Open Houses

Last week, I had the pleasure of attending the open houses across the district, including events at Nock Middle School, Newburyport High School, and the Bresnahan Elementary School. Each evening drew fantastic turnouts from parents and guardians, reflecting strong community engagement and enthusiasm for the start of the school year. I was honored to share brief opening remarks alongside our administrative teams, local PTOs, and the NEF, as families learned about academic expectations, toured facilities, and met directly with faculty and leadership. I want to extend my sincere thanks to Principals Markos, Wulf, and Sokolowski, along with Vice Principals Condon, Hamilton, and Curtis-Pare, for their exceptional leadership and thoughtful organization in hosting such welcoming, successful events for our school community. The Molin Upper Elementary Open House will be held on Thursday, September 24th.

Nock / Molin Water Fountain Leak

Following the water fountain leak that occurred last Monday (9/14), our custodial and maintenance teams acted swiftly to shut off the water, completed clean-up efforts, and ran air conditioning units and opened the ventilation to clear residual moisture. Classroom relocations ran seamlessly on Monday & Tuesday; the two affected Nock Middle School classes operated out of the library for the day before returning to their regular rooms. The Molin Elementary classroom was temporarily moved adjacent to the science lab. A replacement part for the bubbler has been ordered, and as a proactive measure, we are coordinating an environmental assessment firm this week to confirm there are no air quality issues. My sincere thanks go to Principals Rossi and Markos, Director McSweeney, our facilities staff, and teachers for their quick collaboration and flexibility in preventing any disruption to instruction.

Early Release Professional Development

Our staff participated in professional learning during the early release day across all four schools on Friday, September 18th. At the Bresnahan, teachers engaged in Second Step bullying prevention training, while language-based educators worked on reading strategies with Ann Larson from Landmark. The Molin team analyzed MCIEA school culture data and refined their PBIS flowcharts. At the Nock, Curriculum Educational Leaders and teacher teams prepared assessments in advance of an upcoming performance assessment session with MCIEA's Nicki Holland on September 23rd. Finally, High School instructional leaders, lead teachers, and content specialists collaborated within departments to build on the MCIEA performance assessment work initiated this summer.

Northern Essex Community College Informational Meeting

Assistant Superintendent Furlong, Dr. Hobbs, Ethan Manning and I attended an informational meeting alongside other regional superintendents and leadership from Northern Essex Community College (NECC) to discuss expanding student access to career-connected learning. Newburyport will join the working group, with Ethan Manning, Dr. Hobbs, and myself representing our district. Serving on this steering committee presents an exciting opportunity to align local higher education resources directly with our high school pathway and Chapter 74 development. This initiative complements Newburyport's ongoing investments over the past few years, including our expanding Career Technical Education (CTE) offerings, Chapter 74 program development, and vocational partnerships (i.e., Peterson School. This potential programming strengthens our commitment to providing flexible, hands-on and technical learning opportunities for our students.