

NATICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Meeting

January 17, 2025

2:00 PM

Budget Subcommittee Meeting - Virtual Only - All Comments Should be Addressed Through the Subcommittee Chair

Posted Date: Monday, January 13, 2025 @ 9:20 AM

Open meeting at 2:00 PM - Virtual Meeting Accessed Via: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2038566119?pwd=TmtdXGxenQ0YXRlN1FicHVpd3hEZZ09> Meeting ID: 203 856 6119 Passcode: 987179 One tap mobile +13126266799,,2038566119# US (Chicago) +16465588656,,2038566119# US (New York) Dial by your location +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago) +1 646 558 8656 US (New York) Meeting ID: 203 856 6119 Find your local number: <https://us06web.zoom.us/u/keAEm9sL> . If any member of the public, attending the meeting virtually, wishes to take advantage of public speak, they should email Catherine Brunell at (cbrunell@natickps.org), one hour prior to the start of the meeting. Your email should include your name, town and your request to be called upon during the public speak portion of the agenda. The Chair will then announce your name and you will be unmuted and prompted to turn on your video for your opportunity to share your remarks. Per our public speak policy, each speaker will have up to 3 minutes.

Posted In Accordance with Provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Sections 18-25

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC SPEAK

Public Speak is scheduled for a period of fifteen minutes. Each speaker will be permitted a maximum of three minutes during which time they can speak about topics within the scope of responsibility of the School Committee. All remarks will be addressed through the School Committee Chair. Public Speak is not a time for debate or response to comments by the School Committee.

Subcommittee Meeting Item

1. Review, revise and vote on a recommendation for the School Committee's budget priorities document pertaining to the FY26 Budget.
Budget Guidance Draft FY26 - LINK

Agenda items will be addressed in an order determined by the chair. Times are approximate.

ITEM TITLE: Review, revise and vote on a recommendation for the School Committee's budget priorities document pertaining to the FY26 Budget.

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY: Budget Guidance Draft FY26 - LINK

BACKGROUND

INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description	File Name	Type
budget guidance draft fy26	1.17_Budget_guidance_draft_FY26.pdf	Cover Memo

The following statement was developed by the Budget Working Group with input from the Central Administration team and advice from MASS and MASC about budget books. We are recommending this statement be placed in the introductory section of the FY26 Budget Book as an articulation of the values and priorities of the Natick School Committee within the budget.

After the statement, you will find an exemplar when thinking about ours and guiding questions.

School Committee Budget Guidance, Values, and Priorities

The school budget is a reflection of aligning priorities and resources to produce the best school system Natick can offer. The FY26 budget, developed by the Superintendent and district's leadership team, was given the following guidance, values and priorities to work into the plan for FY26 from the Natick School Committee.

- Meet contractual agreements
- Measurably improve student achievement with particular focus on Math and Literacy.
- Ensure Special Education and ELL programs are funded to meet the needs of every student
- Measure progress towards a district culture where each student feels safe and has a sense of belonging
- Support the Superintendent in developing the next Strategic Plan by leveraging the insights and recommendations from the Superintendent's entry plan.
- Maintain After School Offerings - Aftercare, Clubs and Athletics
- Improve detail in the School Department's Five-Year Capital Plan
- Develop a comprehensive long-term capital plan for our elementary schools, including participation in the eligibility process of the MSBA.

Exemplar from another district:

School Committee's Budget Guidance & Investment Priorities

Developing a school district budget that effectively aligns resources to initiatives outlined within the district strategic plan requires collaborative discussion on how funds are spent. The Reading School Committee provided the following guidance to support the District's Leadership Team in developing the FY25 Recommended Budget, as well as investment priorities for the future. The Superintendent's FY25 Recommended Budget has been developed in line with the following School Committee guidance:

- Sustain and meet contractual obligations
- Maintain ESSER (Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief Fund) staffing
- Maintain the path towards Universal FDK
- Maintenance and expansion of Special Education investments
- Exploration of additional Tier II support
- Structural support for Reading Memorial High School (RMHS) leadership
- Implementation of recommendations from Secondary Math Pathways advisory committee
- Review of Middle School literacy curriculum
- Continue the expansion of RMHS Innovation Pathways

Guiding Questions:

- 1) Is there anything missing?
- 2) What stands out to or resonates with you about the items listed?