NATICK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

School Committee Meeting April 7, 2025 6:00 PM

School Committee Room - 3rd flr, Town Hall and Virtual

Posted Date: Thursday, April 3, 2025 @ 3:00 PM

Open Meeting 6:00PM, Executive Session 6:05PM, Return to Open Session approximately at 6:35 PM. Virtual Meeting Accessed Via: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2038566119? pwd=TmtsdXgxenQ0YXRLN1FIcHVpd3hEZz09 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 the School Committee Chair, Elise Gorseth at (egorseth@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 School Committee 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

- Roll Call
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Moment of Silence
- Announcements

EXECUTIVE SESSION - this portion of the meeting is not open to the public

- 1. To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares.
- 2. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares.

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.

TEACHER, STUDENT, METCO REPRESENTATIVES - UPDATES/CONCERNS
CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Enrollment Report April 1, 2025
- 2. Approval of Open Session Meeting Minutes from 2.24.25 and 3.3.25
- 3. Approval of Executive Session Meeting Minutes from 2.24.25 and 3.3.25

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- 1. Natick High Graduation Requirements
- 2. MSBA Eligibility Phase

SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES

- 1. TEC FY26 Budget and Collaborative Agreement
- 2. Finalize SY26 Fees

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

- 1. Sub-Committee and Liaison Assignments
- 2. METCO Representative Appointment Process/Timing
- 3. Superintendent Evaluation Process

UPCOMING AGENDA

1. Preview Upcoming Agenda Items

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Vote to Approve SY26 fees
- 2. Vote to Approve CBA MOU(s)

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

ITEM TITLE:	To discuss st	rategy with	respect to	litigation if	an open me	eting may	have a
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detrimental effect on the litigation position of the public body and the chair so

declares.

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND

INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ITEM TITLE:	To discuss strategy	with respect to collective	bargaining if an oper	n meeting may
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have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the

Chair so declares.

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND

INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ITEM TITLE: Enrollment Report - April 1, 2025

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY: Enrollment Report - 4.1.25 - LINK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description File Name Type

enrollment report - 4.1.25 NPS_Student_Enrollment_-_2025_04_APR_SY25.pdf Cover Memo

NATICK	March 01, 2025									April 01, 2025																					
NATION	NPK	К*	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total	NATICK	NPK	К	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Total
NHS											397	435	422	378	1,632	NHS											396	434	419	378	1,627
KENNEDY			İ				220	240	218	235	<u> </u>				913	KENNEDY		•••••	İ		<u> </u>		220	239	218	235					912
WILSON			<u> </u>				181	184	193	178	<u> </u>				736	WILSON			<u> </u>		<u> </u>		181	185	193	179					738
BEN-HEM		21	21	19	21	20										BEN-HEM		21	21	19	21	20									
		21	21	19	19	20												21	22	19	19	20									
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Total:		107	104	74	122	101									508	Total:		108	105	74	122	101									510
BROWN		18	18	21	21	24										BROWN		18	18	21	21	24									
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Total:		90	93	102	124	94									503	Total:		90	92	103	125	95									505
LILJA		21	17	17	24	24										LILJA		20	17	17	24	24									
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Access Program:		2	3		1											Access Program:		2	3		1										
Combo Classes:			9	9												Combo Classes:			9	9											
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Total:		107	84	96	90	70									447	Total:		106	84	96	93	70									449
MEMORIAL		18	20	23	19	22										MEMORIAL		18	20	23	19	22									
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Total:		72	82	90	99	112									455	Total:		72	82	90	99	112									455
PRE-K EAST	68														68	PRE-K EAST	69														69
PRE-K NHS	61														61	PRE-K NHS	62														62
PRE-K BEN	12														12	PRE-K BEN	12														12
TOTAL:	141	376	363	362	435	377	401	424	411	413	397	435	422	378	5335	Total:	440	276	262	262	439	270	401	121	/111	414	306	434	419	378	5339

ITEM TITLE: Approval of Open Session Meeting Minutes from 2.24.25 and

3.3.25

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY: Open Session Meeting Minutes from 2.24.25 - LINK

Open Session Meeting Minutes from 3.3.25 - LINK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description File Name Type

approval of open session minutes from 2.24.25 approval of open session minutes from 3.3.25

2.24.25_OPEN_SESSION_School_Committee_Meeting_Minutes.pdf Cover Memo

3.3.25_OPEN_SESSION_School_Committee_Meeting_Minutes.pdf Cover Memo

Natick Public Schools SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING <u>OPEN SESSION</u> MINUTES February 24, 2025

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday February 24, 2025, at 6:04 pm via an in-person and virtual meeting. Chair Fuxman called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:04 pm.

Members Present:

Chair Fuxman - present

Ms. Gorseth - present/virtual

Ms. Brunell - present

Ms. McDonough – present at 6:10

Ms Collins - present

Mr. Brand – present

Ms. Flathers - present

Ms. Scott - present/virtual at 7:30

Others Present:

Dr. Melissa Spash Superintendent

Susan Balboni Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning, Innovation and Equity

Matthew Gillis Assistant Superintendent of Finance

Linda McGrath Recording Secretary

Chair Fuxman made a motion to move into Executive Session at 6:05 PM for the following purposes: Ms. Collins second the motion.

Chair Fuxman took role call to vote:

Chair Fuxman - yes

Ms. Gorseth - yes/virtual (confirmed that she was alone in a room and not able to be overheard)

Ms. Brunell - yes

Ms Collins - yes

Mr. Brand - yes

Ms. Flathers - yes

6-0-0. Motion passed.

1. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares (EAN Units A and B, Administrative Assistants, Food Service, Paraprofessionals, and Custodial and Maintenance).

Ms. Collins made a motion to recess the Executive Session. Mr. Brand seconded the motion.

Chair Fuxman took role call to vote:

Chair Fuxman - yes

Ms. Gorseth - yes/virtual

Ms. Brunell - yes

Ms. McDonough - yes

Ms Collins - yes

Mr. Brand - yes

Ms. Flathers - yes

7-0-0. Motion passed.

Ms. Collins made a motion to enter into the Executive Session for the following purposes: Mr. Brand seconded the motion.

Chair Fuxman took roll call to vote:

Chair Fuxman - yes

Ms. Gorseth - yes/virtual

Ms. Brunell - yes

Ms. McDonough - yes

Ms Collins - yes

Mr. Brand - yes

Ms. Flathers - yes

7-0-0. Motion passed.

- 1. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares (EAN Units A and B, Administrative Assistants, Food Service, Paraprofessionals, and Custodial and Maintenance).
- 2. <u>To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigation position of the public body and the chair so declares.</u>

OPEN SESSION

Chair Fuxman resumed the open session meeting at approximately 7:30 pm and stated that the meeting was being recorded by Pegasus.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE - To honor those who have sacrificed for our country.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Fuxman made an announcement on behalf of ServeNatick who will be holding a collaborative event on April 2, 2025 from 6:30-8:30 pm.

Chair Fuxman announced that Natick is United will be holding two events on February 25, 2025 that include Natick's World Interfaith Harmony Week starting at 7:00 pm and Addressing Black Youth Mental Health from 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

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.

No one for public speak ~

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE - Jefferson Wood

Mr. Wood addressed concerns that have been raised on social media with regard to material from the MTA as well as concerns raised in our community about the rise of antisemitism.

<u>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE</u> - Kendall Hacker

Ms. Hacker announced that the flower drive for Student Council took place on February 14th and that it was a great success.

METCO REPRESENTATIVE - Tamika Scott

No announcements for tonight ~

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Open Session Minutes from 1.27.25
- 2. Approval of Executive Session Minutes from 1.27.25

Ms. Collins made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Mr. Brand second the motion.

Chair Fuxman took roll call to vote:

Chair Fuxman - yes
Ms. Brunell - yes
Ms. McDonough – yes
Ms Collins - yes
Mr. Brand – yes
Ms. Flathers - yes

6-0-0. Motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- 1. MSBA Memorial
 - a. <u>Initial Compliance Certification</u>
 - b. Recommendation to Approve Memorial School Building Committee (SBC) Chair
 - c. Memorial SBC <u>Public Application Form</u>

Dr. Spash reviewed the presentation on the MSBA Update and School Building Committee Launch. She stated that she would like to ask the consideration of the School Committee to vote Stephen Meyler in as the School Building Committee Chair. Dr. Spash then read Stephen Meyler's bio which highlighted his qualifications.

Chair Fuxman clarified that tonight only the Chair position was being discussed.

Ms. Collins made a motion to appoint Stephen Meyler as the Chair of the Memorial School Building Project Committee. Mr. Brand seconded the motion.

Questions were raised before finishing the motion:

Ms. Flathers asked what the process was for finding candidates? Dr. Spash stated that it was based on a conversation and a recommendation where he came very highly recommended. She commented that they had met with Stephen and talked about qualifications and his prior experience with the Kennedy Building Committee which made him an easy candidate to recommend to the School Committee.

Ms. Flathers asked if there were any other candidates or any conversations with the community asking for candidates or participation? Dr. Spash stated no, but that the School Building Committee is a critical role and someone with all the experience in Natick especially with the rules and regulations, felt to be the right recommendation. She also stated that they did not have anyone else come forward and did not have any other recommendations for this role

Ms. McDonough commented on her support for Mr. Meyler as she served with him on the Kennedy School Building Committee and feels very confident that he is the right person.

Ms. Brunell commented that moving forward we incorporate as much public participation as possible and that roles are available. She stated that it is important to have a process and wondered if there is a co-chair position? Ms. McDonough commented that for the Kennedy project, there was a vice chair position.

Chair Fuxman expressed his support for Mr. Meyler with experience as a Chair of the committee. He also agrees with the importance of community engagement in the process.

Ms. Flathers commented that she doesn't feel there is enough information and that we tend to lean towards people who have already done the job.

Ms. Collins made a motion to appoint Stephen Meyler as the Chair of the Memorial School Building Project Committee. Mr. Brand seconded the motion.

Chair Fuxman took role call to vote:

Chair Fuxman - yes
Ms. Gorseth - yes/virtual
Ms. Brunell - no
Ms. McDonough - yes
Ms Collins - yes
Mr. Brand - yes
Ms. Flathers - no

5-0-0. Motion passed.

Dr. Spash commented that Mr. Meyler would explain the process for a wider public application and that there is a link on the presentation for a public application form. Mr. Meyler then reviewed his presentation with regard to candidates.

Ms. Brunell asked about the March 12th deadline for accepting applications for the committee and how was that determined? Dr. Spash stated that they needed time for due diligence and to have it be done by March 31st.

Ms. Brunell asked about the question on the form that states "what backgrounds and areas of expertise" are they seeking? Mr. Meyler stated that some of the experiences that they are looking for are: architecture, engineering construction, sustainability, project management, and financial planning.

Ms. Brunell asked Mr. Meyler to be more specific with the four year commitment? Mr. Meyler stated that they would start with meetings once a month and then move to twice a month which will run about 2 hours at night and he will balance the meetings between in person or virtual. Dr. Spash commented to look at the Google doc provided which will outline everything.

Ms. Brunell questioned if it was typical that the recommendations of the members would go through the Chair of the building committee or would the School Committee also be involved reviewing the applicants that have applied? Mr. Meyler stated that traditionally the School Committee does not decide on members of the committee but that is usually done by the Chair and School Administration. Ms. Brunell asked if it is typical to Natick or MSBA? Mr. Meyler commented that he wasn't sure of other districts, but that it was traditional in Natick.

Ms. McMorran of the Net Zero committee, expressed support for the efforts of the School Committee as they started the process of the building committee. She expressed and encouraged their hope that sustainability and net zero goals would be incorporated in the process.

2. FY26 Budget Process

a. TLI and Student Services

Dr. Spash introduced Ms. Balboni, Ms. Miller and Dr. Fergusson who guided everyone through their budget presentation.

Ms. Brunell asked about contracted services in comparison to hired staff and wondered if they could speak of that? Ms. Miller stated that it would be a greater cost to contract out the services rather than hiring staff.

Ms. McDonough commented on how important systems and processes are and that we have the staff in place to do the work.

Chair Fuxman commented that building the multi-tiered systems of support is a critical part as well as figuring out where to cut costs.

Dr. Spash went over the timeline of budget presentations that were: Technology Budget on January 6th, the Override/No Override budget, Teaching, Learning and Innovation budget, and Student Services budget. She stated that next week they would be going over the Non Instructional budget that included fees, transportation and athletics.

Chair Fuxman discussed dates of when to vote on the budget and that FinCom has asked to shorten the process by adding a meeting. He commented that the Public Hearing will be on March 17 and the possible meeting on March 24th to vote.

Ms. Brunell commented that the Public Hearing notification needs to be 7 days per section 38N of Mass. General Law.

3. Superintendent Entry Plan Findings

Dr. Spash presented her presentation on the Entry Plan Findings.

Ms. Collins commented how impressed she was on the percentage (82-93%) of the secondary students to give input. Dr. Spash thanked the students and staff.

Mr. Brand commented with regard to the line on "data usage is not fully integrated" and asked what we want to learn from this? Meaning, a movement towards proactive data collection as opposed to reactive and what can we learn versus what we want to learn? Dr. Spash commented that through the School Improvement Plans, where we are trying to target down to student level data and quickly turn into action around intervention and perhaps will take both; a tight look at data and the bigger picture.

Ms. McDonough commented how valuable it is to have a new Superintendent look at our systems, all that support our students and a new idea for moving forward.

Ms. Brunell commented with regard to Dr. Spash's view on precision and data driven needs such as academics and showing Natick's strengths and opportunities.

Ms. Gorseth commented that she is grateful for the presentation as it felt truthful; in good ways and challenging ways and that we have it for a starting point.

Chair Fuxman commented how impressed he was with her process with the 90/90 meetings and that the data was used to tell a story of Natick. He also talked about having a strong foundation for a strategic plan with Dr. Spash's report.

4. Override update

Dr. Spash presented the Override Update presentation.

Chair Fuxman mentioned that there was another public forum on March 12th with regard to the override.

Ms. Brunell stated that the Select Board voted on the override with a \$7 million number that does not impact the Natick Public Schools portion of the FY26 budget.

Chair Fuxman mentioned what the School Committee members can and can not do when there is an override vote per our attorney. He then read one bulleted question that was: The School Committee may vote to take a position on the ballot question and issue an official statement reporting that position. He asked if the School Committee wants to take an official position? Ms. Brunell stated that she would draft a motion.

Ms. Brunell asked if there are other bodies that can take a vote as well or could support the override in a public way that are part of the school system?

Mr. Wood stated that the EAN can make a motion to endorse the override.

5. SY25/26 Calendar Update/Revised

Ms. Balboni went over the revised changes that were made to the calendar. Some of the changes were Veterans Day that switched from the 10th to the 11th, Lunar New Year notification was placed on the front of the calendar and to not list any holidays on the back of the calendar.

Ms. McDonough mentioned that policy JJ allows students and families to take a personal observance for a religious holiday.

Ms. Collins mentioned that there is a provision in the EAN contract for personal religious observance of an educator.

Ms. Balboni expressed concern with the calendar not listing the other observances with regard to homework

Ms. Collins made a motion to approve the calendar as presented. Mr. Brand seconded the motion.

Chair Fuxman took roll call to vote:

Chair Fuxman - yes
Ms. Gorseth - yes/virtual
Ms. Brunell - yes
Ms. McDonough - yes
Ms Collins - yes
Mr. Brand - yes
Ms. Flathers - yes

7-0-0 Motion passed.

FINANCE

1. Finance Committee Meeting Schedule

Dr. Spash mentioned that the Finance Committee Education subcommittee tomorrow from 5:00-7:00 pm.

Ms. Gorseth asked if there are any School Committee members that will be at the Education Subcommittee meeting for FinCom and will there be less than a quorum? Ms. Collins stated that it doesn't need to be less than a quorum, we just can't debate. Ms. Gorseth asked if perhaps people wanted to say something, then it should be less than a quorum. Mr. Brand commented that if it's something that was already discussed publicly, then it's still okay.

ACTION ITEMS

- 1. Vote to Approve Stephen Meyler as the School Building Chair for Memorial See above
- 2. Vote to Approve the revised SY25/26 School Calendar See above

Mr. Brand made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:57 pm. Ms. Collins seconded the motion.

Chair Fuxman took roll call to vote:

Chair Fuxman - yes Ms. Gorseth - yes/virtual Ms. Brunell - yes Ms. McDonough – yes

Ms Collins - yes

Mr. Brand – yes

Ms. Flathers - yes

7-0-0 Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

Linda McGrath

Natick Public Schools SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING <u>OPEN SESSION</u> MINUTES March 3, 2025

The School Committee held a meeting on Monday March 3, 2025, at 6:03 pm via an in-person and virtual meeting. Vice Chair Gorseth called the meeting to order and took roll call at 6:03 pm.

Members Present:

Chair Fuxman - not present

Vice Chair Gorseth - present

Ms. Brunell - present - left at 7:57 back virtually at 8:10

Ms. McDonough – present at 6:06

Ms Collins - present

Mr. Brand – present

Ms. Flathers - present

Ms. Scott - present/virtual at 7:50

Others Present:

Dr. Melissa Spash Superintendent

Susan Balboni Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning, Innovation and Equity

Matthew Gillis Assistant Superintendent of Finance

Linda McGrath Recording Secretary

Vice Chair Gorseth made a motion to move into Executive Session at 6:04 PM for the following purposes: Ms. Collins second the motion.

Vice Chair Gorseth took role call to vote:

Vice Chair Gorseth - yes

Ms. Brunell - yes

Ms Collins - yes

Mr. Brand - yes

Ms. Flathers - yes

5-0-0. Motion passed.

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a
detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares (EAN
Units A and B, Administrative Assistants, Food Service, Paraprofessionals, and Custodial and
Maintenance).

OPEN SESSION

Vice Chair Gorseth resumed the open session meeting at approximately 6:40 pm and stated that the meeting was being recorded by Pegasus.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

MOMENT OF SILENCE - To honor those who have sacrificed for our country.

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.

Josh Ostroff - Discussed YES for Natick and a few items relating to the upcoming election. He mentioned a candidate forum to be held on March 10th @ 7:00-9:00 pm and that they will be providing information for all candidates.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1. Dr. Spash gave an update on the application process for anyone in the community who might be interested in a position on the School Building Committee for Memorial Elementary School.
- 2. Dr. Spash mentioned that they are in the process of meeting with the FinCom Education Subcommittee and there will be a meeting Wednesday, March 5th that they will be participating in and possibly another meeting for next week as well.
- 3. Ms. Brunell announced the schedule for this week and next for the community to talk to the School Committee and Dr. Spash about the budget. There will be a PTO Wednesday, March 5th @ 8:00 pm and Thursday, March 13th @ 7:00 pm. They will also be at the Lilja council meeting, the Ben/Hem council meeting, the Wilson council meeting, and at the Community Senior Center this week. Ms. Brunell also announced that the School Committee will have their first office hours on March 18th.

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE - Jefferson Wood

No comment for tonight ~

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

The following announcements from Student Representative, Anthony Lu were made by Vice Chair Gorseth:

- 1. On 3/6 3/7 is the MCAS ELA March Retest and 3/11 3/12 is the MCAS Math March retest
- 2. On 3/20 is equity co-op day at Natick High School and students and clubs will create lessons teaching other Natick High students about equity. The theme for this year is "Community in Celebration".
- 3. On 4/9 a polar plunge to support the Special Olympics will be at the faculty parking lot at Natick High School, registration can be found by using this <u>link</u>. Additional information can be found by contacting Mr. DiAntonio, Sydni Chandler, or Bethany Loughran.
- 4. The class of '28 is hosting a Chipotle fundraiser on Saturday 3/15 from 5pm to 9pm. 25% of sales using the code 9YP2GWC during that time period will be donated to Natick High School's Class of '28.

METCO REPRESENTATIVE - Tamika Scott

No announcements for tonight ~

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Approval of Overnight Field Trip to Boston College
- 2. Approval of Overnight Field Trip to MASC Annual Conference/Hyannis, MA
- 3. Approval of Donation Memo
- 4. Enrollment Report March 1, 2025

Mr. Brand made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Collins seconded the motion. All in favor unanimously. 6-0-0. Motion passed.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- 1. Budget Presentation
 - a. User Fee Recommendations, Options & Review
 - b. Grants and Other Funding Sources

Mr. Gillis presented the User Fee Recommendations, Options and Review.

Ms. McDonough asked what was being proposed for athletic fees? Mr. Gillis stated that the fee was being increased from \$225 to \$275 for playing an average sport. She also asked what if being proposed for the family cap? Mr. Gillis said that it would be three sports that ranged from \$825 - \$1,350 depending on the sports.

Ms. Blocker explained that for theater, the Booster club generates funding so there isn't a fee. However, some of the larger plays/musicals do incur similar costs as some of the sports do.

Ms. Brunell mentioned about the middle school being charged the same in fees as the high school and believes it should be less

Ms. Gorseth asked about the number of spaces for ASAP and is it due to the physical space preventing ASAP from expanding? Ms. Cap-Renzi explained that it wasn't about the space but about staffing.

Ms. Flathers asked how new fee options would work with family caps? Mr. Gillis commented that some of the plays have cuts.

Ms. Collins asked Ms. Cap-Renzi if she would be comfortable with raising the fee in order to expand the program? Ms. Cap-Renzi stated that they need to increase the fee but not just to expand the program but to continue to cover the current costs.

Public On-line: Ms. Doran commented about the fee increases and the override and how it would be a wash for residents with students in the school system but not for the residents who do not have students in the school system.

Dr. Spash commented that this is a part of the no override/override plan in the budget book and that the presentation tonight on fees is the recommendation but feedback is welcome.

1. Budget Presentation - Continued

- a. User Fee Recommendations, Options & Review
- b. Grants and Other Funding Sources

Mr. Gillis reviewed the grants and other funding sources.

Ms. Flathers asked if Mr. Gillis had any concerns about the federal grants going away? Mr. Gillis stated he does not.

Ms. Gorseth asked about the 5 year capital plan regarding the amount that is penciled in for the Memorial School project and what is the timeline for the certainty of that number? Mr. Gillis went over the timeline and thought it would be a solid two year period from today.

There was further discussion with regard to the Kennedy Middle School project and construction costs.

Ms. Brunell asked about the cost savings when you take a salary position off a grant because you don't have to charge benefits and is that correct? Mr. Gillis stated yes.

Ms. Collins asked how are doing with regard to posting in a timely manner? Mr. Gillis stated they are making progress.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Vote to Approve the EAN Unit A and B Contract

Ms. Collins made a motion to approve the contract as outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding between the School Committee and the EAN Units A and B. Mr. Brand seconded the motion. All were in favor unanimously. 6-0-0. Motion passed.

2. <u>Vote to Approve School Committee and EAN Joint Statement Regarding Conclusion of Contract Negotiations</u>

Ms. Collins made a motion to approve the press release as developed with minor edits discussed earlier for release to the public about the settled contracts. Mr. Brand seconded the motion. All were in favor unanimously. 6-0-0. Motion passed.

Mr. Wood talked about the Interest Based Bargaining process and appreciates the collaboration.

2. Midyear Literacy Update

Ms. Balboni presented the Midyear Literacy Update along with Sandy Lemon.

Mr. Brand asked about trends with the dips and inconsistencies across grades and do we think that it relates to the cohorts or the practice? Ms. Balboni stated that she did not dig into the sub-groups of each grade but that it is a concern. Dr. Spash commented about the data she has focused on and that we are 6 points higher than the prior year.

Mr. Brand asked about the exceeding number of students of the past few years? Ms. Lemon commented that those students are traveling from third to fourth grade but now encountering a new curriculum.

Ms. Flathers asked about the testing gaps? Ms. Balboni commented that there were challenges with testing in the fall.

Ms. Flathers asked in regards to the audit, if it's being identified that teachers are using their own materials? Ms. Balboni stated that they are constantly auditing what is happening in the classroom.

Ms. Collins expressed concern that there are not any students slipping through.

Ms. Gorseth asked about the EL or ML learners, are they coming in equally throughout all grades? Ms. Balboni commented that it is really all over the place, no rhyme or reason.

Ms. Gorseth asked about students from other districts where they have bilingual programs? Ms. Balboni stated that there are different bilingual programs.

Ms. Brunell asked if the pilot of the literacy programs will be the 25/26 school year? Ms. Balboni stated yes.

Dr. Spash commented that what was presented tonight are benchmarks.

3. Override Update

Ms. Gorseth gave an override update and asked what the School Committee can do in the next three weeks?

Ms. Flathers asked about voting? Ms. Gorseth commented that there was already a vote on the preliminary budget number.

Ms. Collins stated that they have not specified the source. Ms. Collins asked Dr. Spash if her plan was to still notify staff shortly after the override vote? Dr. Spash commented that they would know which positions would be eliminated and then move through the union for bumping. She also commented that it has to do with the hiring cycle for teachers and doing right by our educators.

Mr. Brand commented that he would like to take a position as a School Committee, but until then, he suggested sticking with the school council meetings, PTO meetings, Community Senior Center, etc... His thought is the more people know, the more they are likely to vote.

Ms. Brunell made a motion to support the ballot override question that reads: Shall the Town of Natick be allowed to assess an additional \$7,000,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the operating and capital budgets of the Town and the Public Schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025. Ms. Collins seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Gorseth took role call to vote:

Vice Chair Gorseth - yes Ms. Brunell - yes Ms. McDonough - yes Ms Collins - yes Mr. Brand – yes Ms. Flathers - yes

6-0-0. Motion passed.

Ms. Collins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 pm. Mr. Brand seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Gorseth took role call to vote:

Vice Chair Gorseth - yes Ms. McDonough - yes Ms Collins - yes Mr. Brand – yes Ms. Flathers - yes

5-0-0. Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted:

Linda McGrath
Recording Secretary



ITEM TITLE:	Approval of Executive Session Meeting Minutes from 2.24.25 and 3.3.25
DATE:	
ITEM TYPE:	
ITEM SUMMARY:	
BACKGROUND	

INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ITEM TITLE: Natick High Graduation Requirements

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY: a. Competency Determination - LINK

b. Overall Credits and Distribution

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description File Name Type

graduation requirements 4.4.25._Competency_Determination_and_Graduation_Req._at_NHS_4_7_25.pdf Cover Memo

Natick High Graduation Requirements

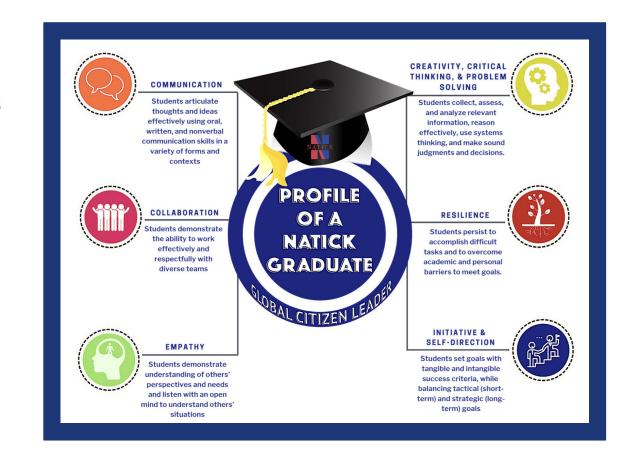
Competency Determination & Credits Required to Graduate From Natick Public Schools

School Committee Presentation 4/7/25



Our Goals for Students

- Provide a rigorous, student-centered education that reaches all learners
- Educate students in line with the NPS
 Profile of a Graduate
- Allow students to be the best versions of themselves both in high school, and in post-secondary life.



Our Goal Tonight

- Share our plans for Natick High School's graduation requirements for Class of 2026 and beyond, as defined in our <u>Handbook</u>.
- Specifically, outline the impact of Ballot Question #2 on NHS and its graduation requirements.
- Get your feedback (<u>SC policy re: graduation requirements</u>)

Four Parts to NPS Graduation Requirements

01

Earn
Competency
Determination

03

Distribution Credits

Specific NHS courses all graduates must pass

02

Overall Credits

Total number of credits graduates must earn

04

30 Hours of Community Service

O1. Competency Determination

The Ballot Measure, MCAS & Graduation Status

Overview

Implications of Vote

Proposal for NPS

What did November Ballot Question #2 ask voters and how did the voters decide? Now that we have the results of the vote, what does this pragmatically mean for school districts across the Commonwealth? How do these changes impact Natick?

November Ballot Q2: Summary

As required by law, summaries are written by the State Attorney General. This proposed law would eliminate the requirement that a student pass the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) tests (or other statewide or district-wide assessments) in mathematics, science and technology, and English in order to receive a high school diploma.

Instead, in order for a student to receive a high school diploma, the proposed law would require the student to complete coursework certified by the student's district as demonstrating mastery of the competencies contained in the state academic standards in mathematics, science and technology, and English, as well as any additional areas determined by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

November Ballot Q2: Full Text

Be it enacted by the People, and by their authority: A LAW REQUIRING THAT DISTRICTS CERTIFY THAT STUDENTS HAVE MASTERED THE SKILLS. COMPETENCIES AND KNOWLEDGE OF THE STATE STANDARDS AS A REPLACEMENT FOR THE MCAS GRADUATION REQUIREMENT. Section 1D of chapter 69 of the General Laws, as appearing in the 2022 Official Edition, is hereby amended by striking from the first sentence of sub-paragraph (i) the words, ", as measured by the assessment instruments described in section one I." and replacing them with the following: "by satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the student's district as showing mastery of the skills, competencies, and knowledge contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests described in section one I administered in 2023, and in any additional areas determined by the board."

The Voters Decided

State Results

Yes: 59.1%

No: 40.9%

Voters in Natick and across the state do NOT want MCAS to determine graduation status. Natick Results

Yes: 55%

No: 45%

How Does M.G.L. and DESE Now Define Competency Determination?

The "competency determination" shall be based on the academic standards and curriculum frameworks for tenth graders in the areas of mathematics, science and technology, history and social science, foreign languages, and English, and shall represent a determination that a particular student has demonstrated mastery of a common core of skills, competencies and knowledge in these areas, as measured by the assessment instruments described in section one I by satisfactorily completing coursework that has been certified by the student's district as showing mastery of the skills, competencies, and knowledge contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests described in section one I administered in 2023, and in any additional areas determined by the board.

Implications: What remains the same after the ballot question?

Students must take MCAS.



Schools & districts will be evaluated by DESE based on MCAS & students earn scholarships via MCAS

Students need to achieve Competency Determination (CD) to graduate per state and federal laws.

Implications: What did the ballot question change?

Passing MCAS



Earning Competency
Determination (CD)

Districts need to develop a mechanism to assess each students' CD, which can't be MCAS or a simple completion of local graduation requirements.

Our Task

Determine which coursework at Natick High School, if completed successfully, would allow students to demonstrate "mastery of a common core of skills, competencies and knowledge in these areas contained in the state academic standards and curriculum frameworks in the areas measured by the MCAS high school tests described in section one I administered in 2023."

- Subjects tested in 2023:
 - 10th grade ELA standards
 - 10th grade math standards
 - One of the following: Biology, Physics, Chemistry or Technology/Engineering
- Our courses are already aligned to the state's academic standards and curriculum frameworks

What Are Other Districts Doing?

ARLINGTON (LINK)

Students at Arlington High School meet the Competency Determination by successfully completing coursework aligned with the Massachusetts Curriculum Frameworks that covers the following content or higher.

- English Grade 9-10
- Algebra 1 and Geometry
- At least one of Introductory Physics, Biology, Chemistry or Technology/Engineering (not currently available)

BROOKLINE - Proposed (LINK)

English: A passing grade in the following:

- Responding to Literature: Humanities or equivalent
- World Literature or equivalent

Math: A passing grade in the following:

- Geometry
- Algebra II

Science: A passing grade in one of the following:

- Physics
- Chemistry
- Biology

What Are Other Districts Doing?

HOPKINTON - PROPOSED (LINK)

Students must meet CD standards. These would be to complete:

- 9th and 10th grade English with a passing grade;
- Complete ninth and 10th grade mathematics with a passing grade (must include geometry and Algebra 1 and/or 2); and with a passing grade
- Complete one of three core science classes (either biology, chemistry or physics)

Students who do not meet the CD requirement will be monitored and supported during Grades 11 and 12 and must either make up coursework they did not pass or pass relevant subjects before they can graduate.

NEWTON - DRAFT (LINK)

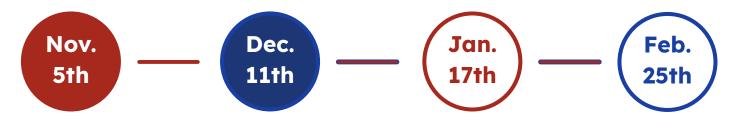
English Language Arts: Full credits earned in the equivalent of at least two years of English taught at the high school level

Math: Full credits earned in the equivalent of at least two years of Math taught at the high school level **Science**: Full credits earned in one science course at the high school level. The science course can be a course in physics, biology, chemistry, or technology/engineering.

Definition of "high school level":

- NPS courses: Courses that are taught using standards from the current high school MA Curriculum Frameworks.
- Courses in other states: Courses that are taught using the sending state's high school standards.
- Courses in other countries: Courses taught in high schools.

A Changing Landscape



Question #2

Ballot
Initiative
Passes
(link)

DESE releases
guidance to
districts on
student
Competency
Determination
(link)

Gov. Healey
Establishes
Massachusetts
K-12 Statewide
Graduation
Council
(link)

Board of
Elementary and
Secondary
Education (BESE)
Discusses
Changes to Regs.
(link to BESE agenda)

(link to Globe article)

Impact on Natick

Students who earned CD in a subject prior to 12/2024 will retain that CD status.

Class of 2025

Virtually all of the seniors have attained CD via MCAS as of 12/2024.

Class of 2026

Most juniors have earned CD via MCAS as of 12/2024;
Need a plan for those who haven't and new students.

Class of 2027+

No sophomores will have earned CD via MCAS in ELA or math; many will have earned CD in physics.

Natick's Proposal for CD

Students in the Class of 2025 and 2026 of Natick High School, will be considered to have met the Competency Determination (CD) requirements as defined by all relevant DESE regulations and M.G.L. c. 69, s. 1D (i)

To achieve CD in **English Language Arts (ELA)**, students will need to have done ONE of the following:

- Earned Meets Expectations or Exceeds Expectations on the 10th grade ELA MCAS or ELA MCAS Retest prior to December 2024
- Passed one of the following high school courses: 10th grade English, 11th grade English, 12th grade English courses, OR the equivalent

To achieve CD in **Mathematics**, students will need to have done ONE of the following:

- Earned Meets Expectations or Exceed Expectations on the 10th grade Mathematics MCAS or Mathematics MCAS Retest prior to December 2024
- Passed one of the following sets of courses OR the equivalent:
 - Algebra I & Geometry
 - Algebra II & Geometry

To achieve CD in **Science**, students will need to have done ONE of the following:

- Earned Partially Meets Expectations, Meets Expectations or Exceed Expectations on one of the following prior to September 2024: the High School Physics, Chemistry, Technology & Engineering or Biology MCAS
- Passed ONE of the following courses: Physics, Chemistry or Biology, OR the equivalent

Community Engagement

- Student Principal's Roundtable
- NHS School Council
- NHS Leadership Team members including
 - English, math and science department heads
 - ELL department head
 - Guidance department head
 - Special education coordinator,
 - Northstar program leader
- Tri-County Superintendents' group
- Messaging to NHS Caregivers (link)

02.

Overall Credits

Proposal

130 Total Credits



120 Total Credits

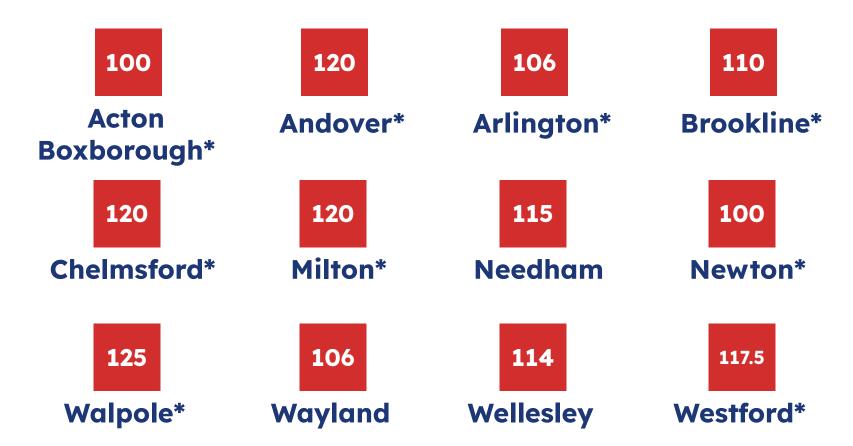
Natick
Class of 2025 &
Earlier

Natick Class of 2026 Onward

Why?

- Bring us in line with our DARTS and neighboring districts
- Support students who struggle to reach the overall number of credits for graduation
- Little impact on most; big impact on a few

Total Credits in "Natick Equivalents"



^{*} DART School (<u>full data set</u>)

Groups Consulted

HS Data Team

NHS School
Council

Principal's Roundtable

HS Guidance Department NHS Leadership Team

O3. Distribution Requirements

NPS Distribution Credits

Total Required Credits/Subjects	Class of 2025
To graduate:	
English: (8 semesters)	20 credits
Mathematics: (8 semesters)	20 credits
Science: (6 semesters)	15 credits
Social Studies: (6 semesters)	15 credits: Global Awareness - 5.0 Civics – 2.50 credits and 1 sem. any other SS course – 2.50 or AP US Government - 5.00 US History – 5.0
Foreign Language: (4 semesters)	10 credits
Physical Education: (4 semesters)	10 credits
Health: (1 semester)	2.5 credits
Fine Arts: (2 semesters)	5.0 credits

Distribution Credits - Proposed Changes

Total Required Credits/Subjects	Class of 2026 Onward
To graduate:	
English: (8 semesters)	20 credits
Mathematics: (8 semesters)	20 credits
Science: (6 semesters)	15 credits in a lab science
Social Studies: (6 semesters)	15 credits: Global Awareness - 5.0 Civics – 2.50 credits and 1 sem. any other SS course – 2.50 or AP US Government - 5.00 US History – 5.0
World Language: (4 semesters)	10 credits
Physical Education: (4 semesters)	10 credits
Health: (1 semester)	2.5 credits
Fine Arts: (2 semesters)	5.0 credits

Summary of Proposal

Competency Determination

District

Defined

Proposal

Linked Here

Overall Credits

Reduce from

130 credits to

120 credits

Distribution Requirements

Two Changes

Foreign Language

→ World Language

6 sem. of a science

6 sem. of a lab science

MSBA Eligibility Phase **ITEM TITLE:**

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

a. Educational Profile Questionnaire - LINK **ITEM SUMMARY:**

b. Enrollment Projection Analysis - LINK
1. 5 Year Avg - LINK

2. 3 Year Avg - LINK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

File Name	Type
4.7.25epq_msba.pdf	Cover Memo
4.7.25enrollment_projection_analysis.pdf	Cover Memo
4.7.25_enrollment_projectionpdf	Cover Memo
4.7.25enrollment_projection.pdf	Cover Memo
	4.7.25epq_msba.pdf 4.7.25enrollment_projection_analysis.pdf 4.7.25_enrollment_projectionpdf



Natick Public Schools CENTRAL OFFICE

13 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760

Dr. Melissa Spash, Superintendent

Susan Balboni, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning, Innovation and Equity Matthew Gillis, Assistant Superintendent for Finance

April 3, 2025

To: Ms. Elise Gorseth, Chair, and Members of the School Committee

From: Sue Balboni, Assistant Superintendent

Subject: Educational Profile Questionnaire - Memorial Building Project

INTRODUCTION

As part of the Memorial Building Project, we are required to complete an Educational Profile Questionnaire or EPQ. This EPQ is required to be submitted no later than May 5, 2025. This questionnaire has been completed by myself in collaboration with Mr. Matthew Gillis, Assistant Superintendent for Finance. In completing the questionnaire we used the original SOI to complete the required information as well as known building specs for the current Memorial as well as all other schools in the district.

SOI

Draft EPQ to be submitted 5.5.2025



Natick Public Schools

BUSINESS OFFICE

13 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760

Matthew J. Gillis, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

Melissa Spash, Superintendent of Schools Susan Balboni, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation

April 3, 2025

TO: Melissa Spash, Superintendent

School Committee

FROM: Matthew J. Gillis

RE: MSBA Enrollment Projection Analysis

Overview

As part of the eligibility phase submit a decent amount of information about Natick so MSBA can get a closer look at if we are match for their grant program to construct or renovate a new Memorial School. Enrollment, and a finalized enrollment projection, is one of the main drivers in the scope of the project and how many square feet (SF) MSBA will approve to reimburse. Simply, the more students approved via enrollment projection, the more SF MSBA will approve to reimburse for this project The goal is to get the right sized new Memorial for the next 50 years.

Enrollment History

Actual Enrollment, MSBA Tool

The following is the actual enrollment as of October of each year for the last ten years as provided by the district to the DESE. Years that are shaded in gray were entered by the district in this form.

School Year	K	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7	G8	G9	G10	G11	G12	Total
2024-25	367	364	359	435	373	401	421	407	409	394	436	422	385	5173
2023-24	359	354	425	371	392	429	404	412	414	433	427	381	378	5179
2022-23	356	418	368	395	420	405	411	404	442	420	395	380	394	5208
2021-22	406	359	382	421	394	413	409	434	412	394	384	387	381	5176
2020-21	332	393	417	405	414	422	430	411	401	379	380	383	408	5175
2019-20	407	421	423	425	429	447	421	406	388	392	387	408	439	5393
2018-19	424	436	434	428	445	450	406	402	383	384	408	430	378	5408
2017-18	426	443	429	435	458	423	405	380	378	396	433	374	397	5377
2016-17	448	433	442	465	424	414	400	380	402	423	364	383	369	5347
2015-16	435	456	462	441	417	407	372	402	418	381	393	361	378	5323

Comparison Summary

Projection, MSBA Tool

This baseline projection was created using data already populated in the questionnaire as well as information provided by the district in the previous pages. This is only intended to indicate general trends in district enrollment and is not intended on its own to establish the enrollment for a proposed school project. Districts that have received an invitation to the MSBA's Eligibility Period portion of the grant program will be encouraged to introduce additional factors that may impact the enrollment projection that informs the proposed project.

School Year	K	G1	G2	G3	G4	G5	G6	G7	G8	G9	G10	G11	G12	Total	Natick Total K-12 (3-Yr Avg)	Differnce
2025-26	329	373	365	361	430	377	393	420	409	402	395	432	424	5110	5186	(76)
2026-27	321	334	375	368	357	435	370	392	422	402	402	391	433	5002	5177	(175)
2027-28	355	327	336	377	363	361	426	369	394	414	402	398	392	4914	5140	(226)
2028-29	312	361	328	338	373	367	354	425	371	387	415	398	400	4829	5068	(239)
2029-30	300	317	362	330	334	377	360	353	427	364	388	411	400	4723	5012	(289)
2030-31	288	305	318	365	326	337	370	359	355	419	364	384	412	4602	4954	(352)
2031-32	287	293	306	320	360	330	331	368	361	348	420	361	385	4470	4900	(430)
2032-33	286	292	294	308	316	364	324	330	370	355	349	416	362	4366	4826	(460)
2033-34	285	291	293	296	304	320	357	323	332	364	355	346	418	4284	4779	(495)
2034-35	284	290	292	295	293	308	314	356	324	326	364	352	347	4145	4754	(609)

I shaded the text blue, because this is typically an early estimate, in my experience often on the low enrollment side, from MSBA. It is always easier (managing expectations) to add as the process proceeds than to reduce from initial reimbursement estimates. The purple numbers are from the inhouse projection I will share with our submittal. School Committee feedback in 2023 about NESDEC being inaccurate in multiple years had me review the methodology to get closer estimates without adding any factors in the projection equation.

Note 1 - MSBA's tool is looking at K-12

Note 2 – The SOI requested PK (5 classrooms) be included in the Memorial Project

Note 3 – This projection is likely to be reconciled later in the process, not solely with this submittal

Note 4 - K enrollment updates for FY26 will impact this projection

Note 5 – MSBA makes the rules for the process and holds the gold, so we follow their process; we may get to update our FY25-26 enrollment before this process (Eligibility Phase) is finalized in approximately October.

Analysis Part 1

It appears MSBA is using a ten-year history to project to calculate the factor for ten-year projection. The effect, for Natick, and especially when two of those ten years are artificially lowered by government policy during the pandemic, is a lower projection for student enrollment used in planning space needs and what the state will contribute to the cost of a new school. Applied, we may believe

we need 80,000 SF and if the state approves 65,000 SF, that means Natick has the option to build smaller or pay the full price for the SF MSBA does agree to reimburse.

In my experience, in some ways the world has changed rather rapidly and in other ways what parents want for their children has not changed. Parents want: safe neighborhoods and schools, an education that provides opportunities after Grade 12, a welcoming school environment, and opportunities to grow outside of the classroom via sports, arts, clubs and activities. Natick provides all of the above and does so more affordably than most of neighbors, so the desire to attend NPS and remain through graduation is pretty stable.

Analysis Part 2

Please review the two in-house projection summary sheets. I include the 3-yr average for multiplier shaded in yellow on the left of the projection. The five-year projection multiplier is shaded light blue. Every multiplier above 1.0 results in projection increase, and every projection below 1.0 results in projection decrease, and of course exact 1.0 results in no mathematical change. The aggregate average from K to 12 is above 1.0 for both in-house projections, indicating enrollment is largely stable once students enter NPS for Kindergarten. Note: The five-year projection likely underestimates enrollment and is for reference and comparison only.

The cells that have blue outlines track the FY26 Kindergarten class as they progress through each grade. As of March 26, 2025, we have 330 students enrolled for next year. MSBA's early tool has Natick at 329 K students for next year, 2025-26. Between now and the first day of school may net another 20-30 Kindergarten students. Not all parents know to enroll in K the spring before their child starts school. Every school system has some late spring and summer registrations, and Natick is no different. So, we will very likely have more actual K students than in the initial projection year and that will change the projection so we are less likely to undersize the building.

Natick In-house Projection, 3 Yr Avg, Cohort Survival

Cohort Survival Method, 3 YR Avg, Removes outlier /anomoly years FY21 & FY22, post Pandemic

School Year	К	G1	G2	G3	G4	K-4 Total	CRs K-4 /20	CRs K-4 /23
2025-26	344	364	361	434	370	1873	94	81
2026-27	336	348	371	369	434	1858	93	81
2027-28	341	355	379	368	368	1811	91	79
2028-29	340	364	347	363	378	1792	90	78
2029-30	328	344	371	355	362	1760	88	77
2030-31	328	332	351	379	354	1744	87	76
2031-32	328	332	339	359	378	1736	87	75
2032-33	328	332	339	346	358	1703	85	74
2033-34	328	332	339	346	345	1690	84	73
2034-35	328	332	339	346	345	1690	84	73

K enrollment for Sept will be better known and may exceed MJG's projection or MSBA's projection

Conclusion Summary

Last, but not least, NHS, opened in 2013, was designed for about 1,400 students and the building has been over capacity almost immediately after opening. Kennedy is at capacity in just a few years. Wilson is almost full and all other schools are effectively slightly over capacity or the 5 PK classrooms at the East school would fit in our elementary schools

Hopefully, this demonstrates that we are aware of the process and probable outcomes and will advocate for Natick appropriately to get the right size elementary school.

CC: Stephen Meyler, SBC Chair

CC: James Errickson, Town Administrator

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028
Live Births	390	394	397	364	356	380	360	347	347	347	347	347
School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2032-33
Multiplier			10/1/2024									
5 Yr Avg		Actuals										
0.3147	138	123	123	115	112	120	113	109	109	109	109	109
0.9217	356	359	367	336	328	350	332	320	320	320	320	332
1.0170	418	354	364	365	341	334	356	337	325	325	325	325
1.0043	368	425	359	356	367	343	335	358	339	327	327	327
1.0066	395	371	435	428	358	369	345	337	360	341	329	329
0.9885	420	392	373	367	423	354	365	341	333	356	337	325
1.0112	405	429	401	396	371	428	358	369	345	337	360	341
0.9815	411	404	421	421	389	364	420	351	362	338	331	353
0.9981	404	412	407	403	420	388	363	419	350	361	338	330
1.0043	442	414	409	414	405	422	390	365	421	352	363	339
0.9825	420	433	394	407	407	398	415	383	358	413	346	357
1.0144	395	427	436	439	413	412	404	421	389	364	419	351
0.9896	380	381	422	423	435	408	408	399	416	385	360	415
1.0041	394	378	386	383	424	436	410	410	401	418	386	361
							440	400	100	400	100	400
	138	123	123	115	112	120	113	109	109	109	109	109
	1957	1901	1898	1851	1817	1749	1733	1693	1677	1669	1638	1638
	1662	1659	1638	1634	1585	1602	1531	1504	1478	1389	1391	1364
	1589	1619	1638	1651	1678	1655	1636	1613	1564	1580	1511	1484
	5208	5179	5174	5136	5080	5006	4900	4810	4720	4637	4540	4485
			CALLED THE REAL PROPERTY OF THE PARTY OF THE	5251	5192	5126	5013	4919	4829	4746	4649	4594
	5346	5302	5297	5251	5192	5120	5013	4313	4029	4740	7049	4004

Calculation based on cohort survival method - HOUSING GROWTH NOT YET INCLUDED

Live Birth Data rom Town Clerk 2017 forward, 2025 births forward is estimated at 347

children born, but not yet enrolled Shaded birth rates and enrollment projection d

Multiplier is a FIVE year average from most recent history available, includesd COVID Shutdown/Reboot/Anomoly FY21 & FY22

FY21& 22 Years Distort Enrollment Projections

Year	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029
Live Births	390	394	397	364	356	380	360	347	347	347	347	347	347
School Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35
Multiplier			10/1/2024				-						
3 Yr Avg		Actuals			989				8				
0.3354	138	123	123	122	119	127	121	116	116	116	116	116	116
0.9450	356	359	367	344	336	359	340	328	328	328	328	328	328
1.0126	418	354	364	364	348	341	364	344	332	332	332	332	332
1.0196	368	425	359	361	371	355	347	371	351	339	339	339	339
1.0219	395	371	435	434	369	379	363	355	379	359	346	346	346
0.9985	420	392	373	370	434	368	378	362	354	378	358	345	345
1.0250	405	429	401	402	380	444	377	388	371	363	388	367	354
0.9921	411	404	421	426	399	377	441	374	385	368	360	385	364
1.0016	404	412	407	405	426	399	377	442	375	385	369	361	385
1.0104	442	414	409	416	409	431	403	381	446	379	389	373	36
0.9844	420	433	394	408	410	402	424	397	375	439	373	383	367
1.0144	395	427	436	439	413	416	408	430	403	381	446	378	389
1.0144	380	381	422	433	446	419	422	414	436	409	386	452	384
1.0086	394	378	386	384	437	449	423	425	418	440	412	389	456
	138	123	123	122	119	127	121	116	116	116	116	116	116
	1957	1901	1898	1873	1858	1802	1792	1760	1744	1736	1703	1690	1690
	1662	1659	1638	1648	1613	1651	1599	1585	1577	1496	1506	1486	146
	1589	1619	1638	1664	1706	1687	1677	1667	1632	1669	1617	1603	159
	5208	5179	5174	5186	5177	5140	5068	5012	4954	4900	4826	4779	475
	5346	5302	5297	5308	5296	5268	5189	5129	5070	5017	4943	4895	487
	3340	0002	0201	0000	0200	0200	0.00						
					LNOTVET	NOLLIDES	Diverselle to		TDD				
Calculation bas						NCLUDED -	- Blue cells ti	rack FYZ6 K	IRD			,	
ive Birth Data						ination data	based on es	timated birth	ic:				
Children born, l Multiplier is a T	but not yet eni		Shaded birth						15,		de company and		

ITEM TITLE: TEC FY26 Budget and Collaborative Agreement

DATE: ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY: Q3 Updates-Proposed FY26 Budget & Approved Collaborative

Agreement - LINK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description File Name Type

tec fy26 budget and collaborative agreement $\begin{array}{c} TEC_BOD_Quarterly_Notes_2025\text{-}\\ 03\text{-}21_(2).pdf \end{array}$

Emily J. Parks
Executive Director

Dan Shovak
Director of Finance & Operations



Zachary Abrams Director of Student Services

> Jean Kenney Director of Professional Learning & Leadership

To: TEC Member Districts

From: Emily Parks, Executive Director

Date: March 24, 2025

Re: Q3 updates - Proposed FY26 Budget and Approved Collaborative Agreement

FY26 Proposed Budget

At the TEC Board of Directors meeting on March 21, 2025, the Board reviewed and discussed the proposed FY26 budget. The budget proposal had previously been discussed by the Budget Subcommittee, which voted to recommend the budget to the full Board. At its next meeting on May 9, 2025, there will be a vote by the full Board to approve the budget.

As per the TEC Collaborative Agreement, I am providing notice to member districts of the scheduled budget vote. I am also providing a copy of the <u>FY26 proposed budget document</u> and am happy to address any questions or concerns prior to the Board's vote.

TEC Collaborative Agreement

In January, TEC's member districts unanimously approved the new <u>TEC Collaborative Agreement</u> extending TEC membership to the Sharon Public Schools and King Philip Regional School District on July 1, 2025. On March 15, 2025, it received final approval from the Commissioner of Education. Please retain a copy of the <u>fully executed Agreement</u> for your records.

Q2 Financial Report

At the February meeting of the TEC Board of Directors, Treasurer Brad Jackson presented the Q2 financial report. He noted that the rise in enrollments and associated tuition revenue, along with the ongoing expansion of TEC's Student Data Privacy Program, have been key factors in the financial stability of the organization through the 2nd quarter. With a considerable portion of TEC's expenses being attributed to one-time costs for renovations and classroom outfitting already having occurred, TEC is anticipating a successful close to the FY2025 fiscal year.

ITEM TITLE: Finalize SY26 Fees

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY: FY26 Fee Schedule - LINK

User Fees Recommendation - LINK

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

RECOMMENDATION:

ATTACHMENTS:

Description File Name Type

fy26 fee schedule 4.7.25._Memo_on_Fees_(1).pdf Cover Memo user fee recommendations 4.7.25._user_fee_recommendations.pdf Cover Memo

Memo

To: Natick School Committee

From: Catherine Brunell, Member of the Budget Working Group

Date: 4/1/2025

Subject: FY26 Fee Schedule

Highlights

- Recommendation for raising fees to progressively adjust to market value, cost to the district and to increase fees revenue as an offset to the general fund.
- Select fees are used as a means of fiscal responsibility to offset the cost of particular optional services.

In the <u>FY26 Budget book</u>, increases to fees for ASAP & Preschool tuitions, buses, athletics and rentals were recommended. The fee adjustments would result in a total increase of \$215,000 in offsets to the general fund. These numbers were presented to the full School Committee and then referred to the Budget Working Group.

The Budget Working Group considered the input from the School Committee and the impact of fees within the FY26 Budget. At several meetings, Mr. Gillis, Assistant Superintendent of Finance, presented market analysis and Natick's current fees within the scope of the full budget while members considered the options.

Our final recommendation is built upon the administration's analysis of surrounding districts, assessing the individual programs and the costs they incur while being cognizant that Natick has not raised fees in some cases since 2015. The following recommendations balance making necessary adjustments hopefully without driving usage down or putting an undue burden on any one program.

The consensus that we came to is as follows:

1) Follow the recommended changes to ASAP and the Preschool tuitions as outlined in the FY26 Budget Book. (Pages 108-110: ASAP, Page 104: Preschool)

2) Bus Fees:

- o Increase by \$25 (12%) or for a total of \$225 for the FY26 School Year
- o Family Cap to \$450.

3) Athletic Fees:

- Overall, we recommend a tiered athletic fee approach based on sport-specific expenses so that the fees better reflect the costs incurred by the district and remain in line with comparable districts. See the market analysis here.
- The chart below explains the increases by sport and school level.
- Family cap would be \$825-\$1350 (depending on the sport played)

	FY24 Fee	Est.	Recommendation		
Sport	Amount	Payers	Fee Amount	\$ Change	Revenue Offset
Athletic User					
Fee	\$ 225	1153	\$ 275	\$50	\$ 317,075
Alpine Ski Fee/					
Hockey Fee	\$ 400	149	\$ 500	\$100	\$ 74,500
Football/Swimm					
ing/Diving	\$225	120	\$ 325	\$125	\$ 39,000
Unified Sports					
Teams	\$100	93	\$ 125	\$25	\$ 11,625
Middle School					
Sports	\$200	421	\$ 250	\$25	\$ 105,250
			Estimated		
Actual Revenue	\$ 493,570		Revenue:		\$ 547,450
			Est. Increase		\$ 53,880

4) Rentals

- The current Rental rates are far below surrounding towns or schools.
- Groups are defined in this document on page 3.
 - Group 1 Recreation and Town usage when revenue producing
 - o Group 2 Local Non-Profit Groups
 - o Group 3 All others

	Room Fee Chart												
School	Space	Group	Proposed Fee p/hr	Group	Proposed Fee p/hr	Group	Proposed Fee p/hr						
HS	Full Gym	1	\$40	2	\$100	3	\$ 150						
Kennedy	·	1	\$30	2	\$75	3	\$ 100						
Elem/MS	Full Gym	1	\$20	2	\$40	3	\$ 60						
HS	Auditorium	1	\$0	2	\$100	3	\$ 175						
Elem/MS	Auditorium	1	\$0	2	\$80	3	\$ 150						
HS	Lecture Hall	1	\$0	2	\$50	3	\$ 60						
HS	Library	1	\$0	2	\$20	3	\$ 75						
ALL	Classroom	1	\$0	2	\$15	3	\$ 20						
ALL	Conference Room	1	\$0	2	\$20	3	\$ 25						
HS	Cafeteria	1	\$0	2	\$50	3	\$ 75						
HS	Cafeteria & Kitchen	1	\$40	2	\$75	3	\$ 125						

Rental						
Revolving	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	* As of 2/28/25
Beg Balance	\$1,784.15	\$ 1	\$ 11,432	\$ 22,453	\$	(63,917)
Total Revenue	\$15,974.99	\$ 43,067	\$ 59,417	\$ 131,051	\$	90,228
Total Exp	\$17,758.59	\$ 31,636	\$ 48,396	\$ 217,420	\$	136,222
Ending Balance	\$0.55	\$ 11,432	\$ 22,453	\$ (63,917)	\$	(109,910)

Note: FY26 Revenue reflects actual and receivable, Expense appears some OT charged here in error, research in progress

The adjustments are projected to raise an additional \$215,000 into the general fund for the FY26 budget. These increases, while never popular, are recommended to ensure that fees cover select services when appropriate and possible.



Natick Public Schools

BUSINESS OFFICE

13 East Central Street, Natick, MA 01760

Matthew J. Gillis, Assistant Superintendent for Finance & Operations

Melissa Spash, Superintendent of Schools Susan Balboni, Assistant Superintendent for Teaching, Learning, and Innovation

April 3, 2025

TO: Melissa Spash, Superintendent

School Committee

FROM: Matthew J. Gillis RE: User Fee Recommendations

Overview

The following are the recommended fee changes after receiving feedback from the budget presentations, override discussions, and feedback from the budget subcommittee. The following charts set the new rates. The SC can move to approve all rates, in motion or by each category with a header below.

The <u>fee presentation</u>, named "FY26 User Fees – Recommendations and Options" has links to FY25 view market comparisons. In short, most of our fees are below the average user fee, however, charging fees to access optional programs can serve as a barrier to access for some families and the School Committee and Administration try to find the right balance.

Description	Per Parti	icpant	Ехре	ense Offset	GF Org	GF Obj	
Bus Fee Increase	\$	25.00	\$	51,875	70330184	533500	
Athletic Fee Increase	\$	25.00	\$	52,600	79351181	511300	
ASAP Overhead/Admin	12% fee	increase	\$	65,000	70141000	511500	
PreK - Tuition Increase	7% fee ii	ncrease	\$	30,000	73232697	511300	
Rental Revolving	Various (Changes	\$	16,000	70422000	520200	

Transportation Fees

The user fee for school bus service has been static since 2019, possibly earlier. A \$25 per user increase, for a new fee of \$225 per user, is recommended for FY26. This is a 12.5% increase not expected to change ridership. The estimated revenue increase from this program is \$51,875 above a \$200 per user fee.

Bus User fee	2130	\$ (225)	\$ (479,250)
Financial Assistance discount	50	\$ (113)	\$ (5,625)
Late Fee 1	13	-100	\$ (1,300)
Late Fee 2	30	-125	\$ (3,750)
Refund, cancelled service	80	225	\$ 18,000
Estimated Revenue			\$ (471,925)

I recommend the School Committee vote to approve the \$225 user fee for the bus and the new family cap will be commensurate with the increase.

Athletic Fees

The last presentation showed options for a \$50 increase across all athletic programs, but upon a closer look at the costs of particular sport programs, fees were adjusted to be more equitable to the actual costs of running the program. The football/swimming & diving fee is new to reflect the additional costs of pool rental and equipment and other expenses for football. The fee increase per respective sport is not expected to result in a significant participation change.

I recommend approving the breakdown of the athletic fees in the chart below.

\$50 increase - dispersed	Option C					
FY26 Base Budget		Payers	Fee	Amount	Rev	enue Offset
Athletic User Fee	•	1153	\$	275	\$	317,075
Alpine Ski Fee/ Hockey Fee		149	\$	500	\$	74,500
Football/Swimming/Diving		120	\$	325	\$	39,000
Unified Sports Teams		93	\$	125	\$	11,625
Middle School Sports		421	\$	250	\$	105,250
Estimated Revenue					\$	547,450
Est. Revenue Increase		1936			\$	53,880

- Most High School athletic teams see a \$50 increase.
- Hockey, (Downhill)Skiing, Football, Swimming & Diving teams all see a \$100 increase.
- Unified Sports, and Middle School Sports see a \$25 increase as their seasons/programs have lower expenses and total frequency of games and practices compared to other HS sports.
- The new Family cap maximum reflects the cost of the 3 sport seasons, whichever cost calculation for actual participation is highest will prevail in determining the cap dollar amount.

Rental Fees

Rental fees were last updated in 2016, nearly 10 years ago. The program struggles to recover the costs of having guests and community groups use the facilities when school programs are not in session. The fee schedule below is recommended for FY26 rental rates. The rates below are both significant increases from the old rates, but significantly lower than rates from public schools like Framingham, Wellesley, Needham and Brookline, so we do not expect to see much change in rental use.

The current (and old) rates are below for reference.

Natick Public Schools Rental Fee Schedule All rentals shall be made and billed in full hour increments. MINIMUM RENTAL IS TWO HOURS. Effective 7/1/16

Natick High School

	Gre	oup I	Gro	up II	Group III		
	Town De	partments	Communi	fit Natick ity Groups, as & Activities	All Other Groups, Organizations, and Activitie		
Space	Monday to	Vacation Weeks, Saturday and Sunday	Monday to Friday*	Vacation Weeks, Saturday and Sunday	All Rental Dates		
Auditorium#	\$5/hr	\$38/hr	\$15/hr	\$43/hr	\$750+ \$48/hr		
Lecture Hall##	\$5/hr	\$38/hr	\$15/hr	\$43/hr	\$200+ \$48/hr		
Conference Room, Library, Classroom, Cafeteria	\$5/hr	\$38/hr	\$15/hr	\$43/hr	\$200+ \$48/hr		
Gymnasium	\$5/hr	\$38/hr	\$15/hr	\$43/hr	\$300+ \$48/hr		
Café with use of Kitchen	\$76/hr	\$76/hr	\$86/hr	\$86/hr	\$300+ \$96/hr		

#Auditorium Manager charges of \$40/hour apply when this space is reserved at the High School. Our manager and/or their trained operators will also be hired for all functions requesting usage of the light board and/or sound systems. Requests for both the light board and sound systems will require two operators to be hired and is billable at \$40/hour per person. These charges are in addition to posted rental fees.

##Support services charge of \$40/hr applies to all groups in addition to posted rental fees when use of the technology in the area is requested.

The new rates break out a labor rate that is consistent for overtime services and a room rate that is consistent 24/7/365. The proposed overtime rates end subsidizing custodial overtime by tier groups. The proposed room rates stand on their own and the day of the week does change the hourly cost to access and occupy the room/space.

Room Fee Chart - Option 2									
Room Rates	Room/Space	Tier	Proposed Fee p/hr	Tier	Proposed Fee p/hr	Tier 3	Proposed Fee p/hr		
HS	Gym	1	\$40	2	\$100	3	\$	150	
Kennedy	Gym	1	\$30	2	\$75	3	\$	100	
Elem/MS	Gym	1	\$20	2	\$40	3	\$	60	
HS	Auditiorium	1	\$0	2	\$100	3	\$	175	
Elem/MS	Auditiorium	1	\$0	2	\$80	3	\$	150	
HS	Lecture Hall	1	\$0	2	\$50	3	\$	60	
HS	Library	1	\$0	2	\$20	3	\$	75	
ALL	Classroom	1	\$0	2	\$15	3	\$	20	
ALL	Conference Room	1	\$0	2	\$20	3	\$	25	
HS	Cafeteria	1	\$0	2	\$50	3	\$	75	
HS	Cafeteria & Kitchen	1	\$40	2	\$75	3	\$	125	

AllTiers	Tier /Group	osed for p/hr	Federal Holiday Rate		
Custodial OT Rate	1	\$ 50	\$	65	
Custodial OT Rate	2	\$ 50	\$	65	
Custodial OT Rate	3	\$ 50	\$	65	
HS Auditorium Manager	All	\$ 50	\$	50	
Food Services Staff	All	\$ 45	\$	60	

After School Activities Program

The ASAP Program recommendation has a 12% increase across all after-school program options. The fee increase has two intentions: to reduce the waiting list and to bridge the gap between other local after school programs. Since there are openings in the before school program no fee increase is sought for those services.

Days	Nati		Natick ASAP FY26 (12% Increase)						Natick Longfellow FY25				Wayland BASE FY25*		Natick YMCA FY25**	
2	\$	229	\$	256	\$	200	\$	171	\$	299	\$	306	\$	299	351	
3	\$	296	\$	332	\$	235	\$	257	\$	449	\$	449	\$	440	491	
4	\$	387	\$	433	\$	305	\$	343	\$	539	\$	581	\$	575	632	
5	\$	481	\$	539	\$	360	\$	429	\$	629	\$	683	\$	688	698	

See slides 8 & 9 in the presentation for more details on the rates.

Pre-K Tuition

In the FY26 budget book, page 110 of the pdf document, there are the 4% and 7% fee increase options. As part of the recommended budget a 7% fee increase to cover the cost of para for the program and is part of the \$215,000 in revenue offsets listed on page 25 of budget pdf. I still recommend approving the 7% increase across all day options for the Pre-K program.

The 7% fee increase is not expected to change participation and is needed to keep pace with inflation over time with prior program increases passed in the 2% and 3% range.

Smaller Participation Program Fees

The fees listed below are also due for increases and recommended.

		1								19		Recommended/
Fund	Description	Cur	rent Fee	Propo	sed Fee	Cha	ange	% Change	Reason	New	Revenue	Option
Foreign Student Tuition	Self Described	\$	20,000	\$	22,000	\$	2,000	10%	Recover costs if used for FY26, not used	\$	7.4	Recommended
	SPED-Sub											
North Star Tuitions	Separate	\$	42,400	\$	44,520	\$	2,120	5%	10% increase last yr	\$	4,240	Recommended
	Reserve Parking											
NHS Student Parking Fee	Space	\$	200	\$	225	\$	25	13%	Override Passes	\$	7,500	Recommended
Laptop Fees	Maint/Insurance	\$	50	\$	50	\$	-	0%	Program & Fee working as intended	\$	-	Recommended
	Fee Per											
NHS Trnascript Fee	Transcript		\$2	\$	3		1	50%	Cover Printing/Software Costs	\$	2,500	Recommended
	Weekly Rate - Full											
Summer Enrichment	Day	\$	300	\$	315	\$	15	5%	Program Stuggles to Self Fund FY23-25	\$	16,500	Recommended

ITEM TITLE: Sub-Committee and Liaison Assignments

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE:	METCO Representative Appointment - Process/Timing
DATE:	
ITEM TYPE:	
ITEM SUMMARY:	
BACKGROUND INFORMAT	ION:

ITEM TITLE: Superintendent Evaluation Process

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: Preview Upcoming Agenda Items

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: Vote to Approve SY26 fees

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

ITEM TITLE: Vote to Approve CBA MOU(s)

DATE:

ITEM TYPE:

ITEM SUMMARY:

BACKGROUND INFORMATION: