

Greenfield School Committee
Budget & Finance Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes
December 8, 2025

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 11:01 a.m.

Due to laryngitis, AC will speak on behalf of KM to facilitate this meeting.

2. Roll Call of Members:

Present: Kathryn Martini (KM) (Sub-Committee Chair) via Zoom, Ann Childs (AC), Melodie Goodwin (MG)

Also present: Roland R. Joyal, Jr., Interim Superintendent of Schools (RJ), Andy Paquette, Business Manager (AP)

3. Public Comment:

There were no community members present or online to provide comment.

4. Approval of September 30, 2025 sub-committee minutes:

On a motion by MG, 2nd by AC, the minutes were approved as presented. The roll call vote was unanimous.

5. Review and potential discussion of budget listening input:

MG shared the following:

Newton School PTO meeting on November 17 at 3:30 p.m.:

- 6 participants were present: 2 teachers, the principal, 3 parents
- They requested additional staffing, including their concern for the need for a ready room teacher and instructional assistant for that room
- Another concern they posed was the need for district-wide literacy planning and evaluation of the new core

Discovery School at Four Corners PTO meeting via Zoom on December 2 at 5:00 p.m.:

- 7 participants were present: Parents and the principal
- They had no requests for staffing, no questions
- There was a lot of talk about fundraising
- They offered to send out an email to parents offering up any concerns they may have, but MG noted she has not received any emails of the sort to date

ELPAC meeting December 1, 2025 :

- 7 participants were present: 1 parent, 4 students, 1 teacher, and the director of special education
- They made the request for additional staffing for social studies and science, especially due to high class sizes in social studies for our ELL students
- Funding for professional development to address the Tier 1 supports
- Funding for family events to involve the students

AC shared the following:

Federal Street School Council meeting:

- They made the request for smaller class sizes and more instructional assistants
- They are enthusiastic about continuing the restorative justice program, but want to make sure we can build a solid, sustainable step-by-step program
- They want to see literacy programs that cultivate a whole school community, programs that will reach families and encourage reading at home and support fun learning, readings that connect other activities
- They suggested we explore Shelburne Buckland's bi-weekly food backpack program to assist in making our program economically feasible

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SEPAC:

- They made the request for professional development for all staff, especially instructional assistants, and specifically for standardization and consistency for IEP and 504 implementation and interpretation with annual continuity
- They want to see staff meet to talk about past students supports with their assigned staff for the following year to ensure supports are in place and there is a smooth transition for both the student and staff
- They want to see staff retention, moving away from revolving door consultants and subcontractors to district employees for the continuity and relationships they would build with students
- They support the restorative justice program's development and expansion, with training for the non-professional staff as well
- They would like more engagement with the School Committee in general, such as a representative

KM shared the following:

AEL PTO meeting on December 5:

- This meeting produced a sizable group
- They requested a sidewalk for drop-off and pick-up – Due to the location, it requires clarity as to whether this is a City or School Department project
- They also shared the need for adaptive playground equipment at the school for accessibility for all students (Although most of preceding items may be capital projects, she wanted to report them out as part of the outcome of the meeting.)
- They wish for a general commitment to keep AEL open

GMS PTO:

- They elected not to have a School Committee representative attend their meeting, but did put our invitation out there to their membership requesting their input

GHS School Council:

- Their last meeting was cancelled due to the recent snow day
- Principal Browning shared some input that was relayed from students:
 - Some classes have larger class sizes than others
 - Students are advocating for expanded band offerings

She also shared additional, written feedback from Federal Street School and SEPAC:

- Federal Street School PTO: They support a full-funded school budget that allows the PTO to really shine at the extras for enrichment and community building
- SEPAC: They highlighted the need for professional development for staff working with neurodivergent students

6. Begin the process of drafting budget guidelines for the fiscal year 2027:
Discussion and update of the FY26 budget guidelines relative to the development of the FY27 budget guidelines ensued, including the possible inclusion of feedback from the aforementioned listening sessions and the following priorities:
 - Curriculum and Instruction
 - Staffing/Volunteers
 - Professional Development
 - Transportation
7. Discuss and identify elements for the fiscal year 2027 Executive Summary budget booklet:

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A review and discussion on the draft 2027 Executive Summary budget booklet ensued:

- District Budget Administration
- Table of Contents
- Executive Summary
 - School Committee and District Administration
 - Superintendent's Message
 - Executive Summary
 - Revenue Change
 - Cost Increases
 - New budget Initiatives
 - Strategies to Balance the Budget
 - Areas to Watch
 - Graphic Breakdown
 - Budget
 - Employees
 - Students
 - Community
 - District Financial Overview
 - Summary of Revenue and Expenditures
 - Staffing
 - Benchmark Data – Student Achievement and District Performance
 - Per-Pupil Spending
 - Budget Trends & Projections
 - District Guiding Documents
 - Building the Budget

8. Adjournment:

On a motion by MG, 2nd by KM, the sub-committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 12:59 p.m. The roll call vote was unanimous.

Approved: 2/3/26