

Greenfield School Committee
Budget, Finance & Warrant Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes
May 18, 2026

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 11:30 a.m.

AC read the Chair Statement relative to meeting recordings.

2. Roll Call of Members:

Present: Ann Childs, Chair (AC), Melodie Goodwin (MG), M. McKenzie Webb (MW)

Also present: Roland R. Joyal, Jr., Interim Superintendent of Schools (RJ), Stephen Sullivan, Assistant Superintendent (SS), Andy Paquette, Business Manager (AP), Vera Ayrapetyan, Asst. Business Manager (VA)

3. Public Comment:

There were no members of the public present for comment at this time.

4. Approval of May 5, 2026 draft sub-committee minutes:

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

5. Budget update and discussion

The following items were discussed:

- Reserve accounts – vacancy savings, PreK, transportation, special education tuition, circuit breaker, school choice, etc., some of which have additional dollars in them that are carried over year-to year
- As a means to make up the \$1.25 million difference between the FY27 School Committee budget (\$25,465,283) and the Mayor's budget (\$24,147,803):
 - The full School Committee has already voted to use \$500,000 from the PreK revolving account
 - We are looking at utilizing the \$600,000 from vacancy savings
 - We will also look at utilizing \$125,000 out of the transportation reserve accountIn doing so, that would leave us \$0 additional dollars that we would need to ask for from the City.

The members stated it was nice to see some of our programs come back to life, i.e. music, band, etc., but they would also like to see the same for theater and other programs that haven't bounced back since the pandemic.

The members also commended RJ for his work with the budget numbers and proposal that has been shared with them today as a means to preserve staff.

It was noted that they do have concerns with what the future looks like for those reserve accounts. AP credited Greenfield for their use of ESSR funds, which were one-time expenses with little to no use for personnel. They told us to build up those reserves and that is exactly what we did, especially in light of the fluctuating special education and transportation costs.

There was a short pause in the meeting due to a power surge in the area.

Stephanie Duclos, Chapman Street, Greenfield was present via Zoom and stated she transferred her son to Turners through the Choice Program and was responsible for his transportation to and from school. She has concerns with current routes where we are transporting students to and from Holyoke, for example, and other out-of-district program locations. It was shared with her that those out-of-district programs are the only ones that may fit the needs of our students.

Greenfield School Committee
Budget, Finance & Warrant Sub-Committee
Meeting Minutes -May 18, 2026
Page 2

We are responsible for providing a quality education to all students, and we are committed to our children and families. This also holds true for our homeless population through the McKinney Vento program.

Discussion also ensued relative to the rising gas costs and their effect on the transportation budget. It was shared that we do have contingencies in place for this purpose.

6. Adjournment:

On a motion by MG, 2nd by MW, the meeting adjourned at 12:26 p.m. The vote was unanimous.

Approved: 6/1/2026