

EASTHAMPTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

EASTHAMPTON MUNICIPAL BUILDING

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SCHOOL COMMITTEE FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

In Person/Hybrid

50 Payson Avenue, 1st Floor Conference Room

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

4:00 PM

Present

Megan W. Harvey, Laura Scott, Bonnie Atkins, Superintendent Michelle Balch, Director of Business Services Julia Saari-Franks, Mayor Salem Derby

Call to Order

Subcommittee Chair Megan Harvey called the meeting to order at 4:11 pm.

Public Comment

None

FY'27 Budget Update

Julia Saari-Franks, the Director of Business Services, presented the committee with the initial FY'27 budget highlights (see attachment). The document presents the largest cost drivers of the district's budget, including personnel costs and contracted (fixed) expenses, such as transportation and out of district tuition. The document also presents additions requested in the FY'27 budget, some of which are required and some of which represent growth in offerings and/or necessary changes to address identified achievement gaps. The document presents dollar increases and percent increases above what was approved in the FY'26 budget.

The committee discussed each major category of expenses to make sure the appropriate context is understood. The committee requested additional information for next week further breaking down the overall budget percent increase from last year into personnel costs, fixed/contractual costs, and additional costs.

Notably, the district can extend the contract for transportation with Durham Bus Company for an additional year at the negotiated 3% increase, but the contract with Van Pool has expired and will need to be renegotiated. Therefore, the exact increase in Van Pool transportation costs is unknown at this time.

A great place to learn and grow.

Finally, the committee discussed what budget information would be presented at the upcoming Finance Subcommittee meeting. In the past, the committee reviewed building specific budgets separately. The committee requested a different breakdown by “cost center” at the next meeting, however.

Other Business None

Next Meeting Dates Monday, March 2 2026 3:30 PM – In-person/hybrid
Monday, March 9 2026 3:30 PM – In-person/hybrid
Tuesday, March 24 2026 6:00 PM –School Committee Regular Session /
Public Hearing on FY’27 Budget – In-person/hybrid

Adjourn Laura Scott made a motion to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Bonnie Atkins. Motion passes unanimously. Meeting is adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Secretary