MEETING MINUTES OF THE
STOUGHTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
October 13, 2026

Regular meeting of the Stoughton School Committee held on Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in District Office, 31 Pierce Street, Stoughton, Massachusetts.

PRESENT: Ms. Chris Shannon, Chair; Ms. Jillian Distefano, Vice-Chair, Dr. Jenn Sears, Dr. Charlene Hollins, Ms. Karen Powers

ABSENT:

ALSO PRESENT – ADMINISTRATION: Ms. Juliette Miller, Superintendent; Jonathan D. Ford, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Matthew Colantonio, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Wellness

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Ashley Uden, Maureen Anderson

MEETING TO ORDER: Chair Chris Shannon opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Session
At 6:00 p.m. Dr. Jenn Sears made the motion, and it was seconded by Dr. Charlene Collins to convene in Executive Session Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 22(a), for the purpose of reviewing and approving Executive Session minutes of the September 22, 2026 Executive Session meeting. The vote was unanimous. The meeting will reconvene in open session. Minutes of the Executive Session are separate in accordance and compliance with Ch. 303 of the Acts of 1975, which permits the votes, and proceedings in Executive Session may be kept private as long as privacy will serve the purpose for which the Executive Session was called.

Regular meeting reconvened at 6:14 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

MOTION: by Ms. Karen Powers that the committee adheres to the vote that was taken at the September 22, 2026 meeting and place School Committee Communications after Student Council Advisory representative.
SECOND: by Dr. Jenn Sears.
ROLL CALL: Ms. Karen Powers – yes.
Ms. Jillian Distefano – no.
Ms. Chris Shannon – no.
Dr. Charlene Hollins – yes.
Dr. Jenn Sears – yes.

MOTION: by Ms. Jillian Distefano to move the School Committee Communications out of order for today to award the MCAS Perfect Score.
SECOND: by Dr. Charlene Hollins.
ROLL CALL: Ms. Karen Powers – yes.
Ms. Jillian Distefano – yes.
Ms. Chris Shannon – yes.
Dr. Charlene Hollins – yes.
Dr. Jenn Sears – yes.

1. **Public Comment**

No one signed up

2. **Student Council Advisory Representative (Ashley Uden)**

3. **MCAS Perfect Scores**

4. **Superintendent's Excellence Award Presentation to Max Arroyo**

5. **School Committee Member Communications**

6. **New Business**
    a. **MASC Annual Meeting Resolutions**
    b. **Proposed Town Meeting Article requesting $192,106**

MOTION: by Dr. Jenn Sears to approve the proposed Town Meeting Article requesting $192,106 in supplemental funding to address extraordinary unemployment compensation costs incurred by Stoughton Public Schools during FY27.
SECOND: by Ms. Jillian Distefano.
ROLL CALL: Ms. Karen Powers – no.
Ms. Jillian Distefano – yes.
Ms. Chris Shannon – yes.
Dr. Charlene Hollins – yes.
Dr. Jenn Sears – yes.

7. **Superintendent Reports and Recommendations**
    a. **CTE & Early College High School Update**
    b. **High School Class Ranking Change**
    c. **SPS Start of Year Updates**
        i. **Enrollment Update**
        ii. **Back to School Nights**
        iii. **Stoughton 300th Anniversary/Stoughton Day**

8. **School Committee Member Reports and Updates**
    a. **Committee FY27 Priority Updates**
        i. **Multi-Year Financial Forecasting Process**
        ii. **Equitable Access to Rigorous, Relevant, and Diverse Academic and Career Pathways**

    b. **School Committee Communications**
        i. **Parent Emails RE: Kindergarten Classroom Paraprofessionals**

c. Policy Subcommittee

i. Policy ACL - Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement

d. Budget Subcommittee

e. Pilgrim Area Collaborative

f. Stoughton Equal Opportunity Committee

9. Warrants

The warrants were entered into the record.

10. Acceptance of Minutes:

a. September 22, 2026

Edits were suggested.

MOTION: by Dr. Jenn Sears to approve the September 22, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes as amended.

SECOND: by Dr. Charlene Hollins.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Karen Powers – abstain.
Ms. Jillian Distefano – yes.
Ms. Chris Shannon – abstain.
Dr. Charlene Hollins – yes.
Dr. Jenn Sears – yes.

11. Congratulations to Dr. Jennifer Sears and the planning committee for the Stoughton 300th Anniversary Events on October 3!

12. Adjourn

At 7:38 p.m., Ms. Jillian Distefano made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded Dr. Charlene Hollins.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Karen Powers – yes.
Ms. Jillian Distefano – yes.
Ms. Chris Shannon – yes.
Dr. Charlene Hollins – yes.
Dr. Jenn Sears – yes.

List of Documents:

a. MCAS 2026 – Students Who Scored 560
b. Superintendent's Excellence Aware: Max Arroyo
c. Report of the Resolutions Committee
d. FY2027 Supplemental Budget Adjustment memo
e. Update to Class Ranking Report
f. Parent Emails RE: Kindergarten Paraprofessionals
g. Policy ACL – Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement
h. PAC – Meeting Summary of 10/1/2026
i. Warrants
j. Meeting Minutes:
    1. September 8, 2026

NEXT MEETING
Next Regular Meeting – October 27, 2026

Respectfully submitted, Nicole Douglas, Recording Secretary

Approved: October 27, 2026

STOUGHTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA
Tuesday, October 13, 2026 @ 6:00 PM
31 Pierce Street, Stoughton, MA
School Committee Conference Room

6:00pm Executive Session
Motion: Open Executive Session

Approval of Minutes

- **DISCUSSION**: Acceptance of Minutes: September 22, 2026
  - **Motion:** Acceptance of Minutes: September 22, 2026
- **Motion:** Leave Executive Session

6:15pm Open Regular Meeting
Public Comment (3 min per person; max of 15 minutes)

6:30pm Efficiency time goals

School Council Advisory Representative - Ashley Uden

Presentations

- MCAS Perfect Scores (Julie Miller)
- Superintendent's Excellence Award Presentation to Max Arroyo (Julie Miller)

New Business and Voting Items

- MASC Annual Meeting Resolutions (Chris Shannon and Jenn Sears)
- **DISCUSSION**: Proposed Town Meeting article requesting $192,106 in supplemental funding to address extraordinary unemployment compensation costs incurred by the Stoughton Public Schools during FY27

7:15pm Efficiency time goals
Superintendent Reports and Recommendations

- CTE & Early College High School Update
- High School Class Ranking Change
- SPS Start of Year Updates
  - Enrollment Update
  - Back to School Nights
  - Stoughton 300th Anniversary/Stoughton Day
- *Coffee and Conversation: Transportation* Recap

School Committee Member Reports and Updates

- Committee FY27 Priority Updates
  - Multi-Year Financial Forecasting Process (Jillian DiStefano)
  - Equitable Access to Rigorous, Relevant, & Diverse Academic & Career Pathways (Karen Powers)
- School Committee Communications (Chris Shannon)
  - Parent Emails RE: Kindergarten Classroom Paraprofessionals
- Policy Subcommittee (Jenn Sears & Charlene Hollins)
  - **INFORMATION:** Interacting with Law Enforcement Officers Engaged in Civil Law Enforcement

- Budget Subcommittee (Jillian DiStefano)
- Pilgrim Area Collaborative (Chris Shannon)
- Stoughton Equal Opportunity Committee (Chris Shannon)

7:50pm Efficiency time goals

Financial Updates

- Warrants (Jillian DiStefano)

7:55pm Efficiency time goals

Approval of Minutes

- **DISCUSSION**: Acceptance of Minutes: September 22, 2026
    - **Motion:** Approve Minutes: September 22, 2026

8:00pm Efficiency time goals

- Congratulations to Jennifer Sears and the planning committee for the Stoughton 300th Anniversary events on October 3!
- The next regular meeting of the School Committee is October 27, 2026 at 6pm.
- *October Coffee and Conversations: Transportation*
    - October 21, 2026 (9am - 10am; in-person and virtual)

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn

Votes may be taken on any of the above items.
Agenda items may be taken out of order.
Efficiency time goals are estimates; actual discussion may run longer or shorter.
For more information about the School Committee, scan the QR code

MCAS 2026 - Students Who Scored 560

Reading MCAS 2026		
Student	**School**	**Grade**
Weiss, Matthew	OMS	6
De Almeida, Sophia	OMS	8
Derba, Laila	OMS	8
Adjei Boateng, Caleb	SHS	10
Bennett, Kerrin	SHS	10
Collins, Emma	SHS	10
Cox, Brennan	SHS	10
Cunningham, Ava	SHS	10
Phan, Deven	SHS	10

Math MCAS 2026		
Student	**School**	**Grade**
Araujo, Caleb	Gibbons	3
DiBiasio, Kenzie	South	3
Fredette, Annabelle	Gibbons	3
Levine, Claire	South	3
Nota, Paige	Gibbons	3
Sajnani, Sonam	Wilkins	3
Vento, Levi	South	3
Weiss, Matthew	OMS	6
Studer, Xaven	SHS	10

Science MCAS 2026		
Student	**School**	**Grade**
Landry, Olivia	Dawe	5
Langley, Margot	SHS	9
Pimentel, Nicholas	SHS	9
Cox, Brennan	SHS	10
Cunningham, Ava	SHS	10
Studer, Xaven	SHS	10

Superintendent’s Excellence Award

Max Arroyo

I'm writing to share our selection for the Superintendent's Award for Excellence.

As someone new to Stoughton High School, I approached this decision carefully, and Max Arroyo was one of many incredible seniors who stood out to me. When I asked administrators and guidance counselors who know this class well for their recommendations, his name came back immediately and from several directions, they were eager to put him forward.

Max has competed in DECA for four years, earning State Champion honors and advancing to international competition before being elected chapter President. He is Vice President and Tutoring Coordinator of the National Business Honor Society, Treasurer of the National Honor Society, and Treasurer of the Student Council Executive Board. Outside of school he dances competitively with The Gold School's Project Moves Dance Company, performs annually in the Urban Nutcracker at the Boch Center, trains as an apprentice with the City Ballet of Boston, and works part-time. He plans to study Economics with a minor in dance.

Max is a strong example of the hard work and well-roundedness we hope to see in every SHS student.

Report of the resolutions committee

Members of the Resolutions Committee met on June 22, 2026 to consider resolutions proposed by member districts for consideration at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the Association. Members present were: Beverley Griffin Dunne, MASC President-Elect, (Peabody/Essex Voc.) Chair Ex Officio), Paul Schlichtman (Arlington), Bridget Garabedian, Chair-Division I (Tewksbury), Barbara Davis, Chair-Division III (Holbrook), Charlie Ellis, Chair-Division VIII (Nashoba Reg. Voc. Tech.), Steve Miller (Mt. Greylock Regional), Melissa Costa, Chair-Divisison IX (New Bedford), Stephanie Clougherty, MASC Vice President (Carver), Laura Often, Chair-Division IV (Grafton), Michael Boudreau (Hamden-Wilbraham Regional), Sean Kennedy (Hamden-Wilbraham Regional), Lawrence MacDonald (Nashoba Reg. Voc. Tech.).

ALSO PRESENT: Patrick Francomano, esq., MASC General Counsel, Glenn Koocher, MASC Executive Director

The following resolutions were moved forward by the Resolutions Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTION 1: SAFE ZONES
(Submitted by the New Bedford School Committee)

WHEREAS it is the right of every child, regardless of immigration status, to access a free public preK-12 education and for the District to welcome and support all students; and

WHEREAS the District has a responsibility to ensure that all students who reside within its boundaries, regardless of immigration status, can safely access a free public preK-12 education; and

WHEREAS federal immigration law enforcement activities, on or around District property and transportation routes, whether by surveillance, interview, demand for information, arrest, detention, or any other means, harmfully disrupt the learning environment to which all students, regardless of immigration status, are entitled and significantly interfere with the ability of all students, including U.S. citizen students and students who hold other legal grounds for presence in the U.S., to access a free public K-12 education; and

WHEREAS through its policies and practices, the District has made a commitment to a quality education for all students, which includes a safe and stable learning environment, means of transportation to and from school sites, the preservation of classroom hours for educational instruction, and the requirement of school attendance; and

WHEREAS parents and students have expressed to the District fear and confusion about the continued physical and emotional safety of all students and the right to access a free public preK-12 education through District schools and programs; and

WHEREAS educational personnel are often the primary sources of support, resources, and information to assist and support students and student learning, which includes their emotional health;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC recommends to school districts to adopt a model policy that includes the following:

The District shall interact with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), state or local law enforcement agencies acting on behalf of ICE, and any agents or officers of federal, state, or local agencies seeking to enforce federal immigration laws, strictly in accordance with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Guidance for Massachusetts Public Schools on Protecting Immigrant Students (incorporated into this Resolution), to ensure that the District fulfills its legal and moral obligation to provide all students, regardless of immigration status, access to a free public K-12 education.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee declares the District to be a Safe Zone for its students, meaning that the District is a place for students to learn, to thrive, and to seek assistance, information, and support related to any immigration law enforcement that interferes with their learning experience.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the District shall, within 30 days of the date of this Resolution, create a Rapid Response Team to prepare in the event a minor child attending school in the District is deprived of adult care, supervision, or guardianship outside of school due to a federal law enforcement action, such as detention by ICE or a cooperating law enforcement agency.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any request by ICE or other agencies to visit a school site should be presented to the Superintendent's Office for review as to whether access to the site is permitted by law, a judicial warrant is required, or any other legal considerations apply; this review should be made expeditiously, but before any immigration law enforcement agent or officer appears at a school site.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in its continued commitment to the protection of student privacy, the District shall review its record-keeping policies and practices to ensure that no data is being collected with respect to students' immigration status or place of birth; and cease any such collection as it is irrelevant to the educational enterprise and potentially discriminatory.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, should ICE or other immigration law enforcement agents request any student information, the request should be referred to the Superintendent's Office to ensure compliance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student constitutional privacy, standards for a judicial warrant, and any other limitation on disclosure; this review should be conducted expeditiously, but before any production of information is made.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the District shall post this Resolution in the main office of every school and at all school sites, distribute it to District staff, students, and parents using the District's usual means of communication, and ensure that it is translated into all languages spoken in students' homes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the District shall make resources—such as Red Cards, mock warrants, and mock subpoenas—available in the main offices, guidance offices, wraparound centers, and administrative buildings, and shall ensure that these resources are regularly restocked and shall include links to these resources in its published versions of the policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the District shall offer "Know Your Rights" trainings and family preparedness sessions in collaboration with immigrant advocacy organizations and with links to these resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the District shall offer a Q&A session for all District employees on the Attorney General's Guidelines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Committee directs the Superintendent to review District policies and practices regarding bullying, harassment, and discrimination and report back to the Committee at its next meeting and communicate to staff, students, and parents the importance of maintaining a bullying/harassment/discrimination-free environment for all students.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the District shall work with department heads on integrating immigration-related content across disciplines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the District shall minimize the presence of unfamiliar individuals—such as non-educators, police, security personnel, and other outsiders—on school sites.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Committee affirms that licensed educators in the District have the academic freedom to discuss this Resolution during class time provided it is age-appropriate; and students are to be made aware that District counselors are available to discuss the subjects contained in this Resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after-school providers and other vendors and service providers who contracted with the District shall be notified of this Resolution within 30 days and be required to abide by it; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent shall report back on compliance with this Resolution to the Committee at its next meeting.

RESOLUTION 2: VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL REPRESENTATION ON THE MASSACHUSETTS BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

(Submitted by the Nashoba Valley Technical School Committee)

WHEREAS the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has broad powers to set education policy and enact regulations for Massachusetts public schools; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts core curriculum is applied at Chapter 74 schools in a different manner than most comprehensive schools; and

WHEREAS Chapter 74 programs have extensive technical specifications as well as OSHA regulations; and

WHEREAS vocational/technical expertise is required for the safe and effective application of policies and regulations;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to add a seat to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education board specifically for a representative with vocational/technical experience.

RESOLUTION 3: VOCATIONAL/TECHNICAL REPRESENTATION ON THE MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY BOARD

(Submitted by the Nashoba Valley Regional Technical School Committee)

WHEREAS the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) is the established organization that assists public schools in the Commonwealth with building and renovation projects; and,

WHEREAS,vocational/technical schools have experienced an exponential increase in applications that far outpaces the current capacity of buildings; and,

WHEREAS Chapter 74 programs require physical spaces that can accommodate their program specifications as well as OSHA regulations; and,

WHEREAS the requirements of such programs are often drastically different from comprehensive school requirements;

THEREFOREBE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to add a seat to the MSBA board specifically for a representative with vocational/technical experience.

RESOLUTION 4: REGARDING CLARIFICATION OF SECLUSION STANDARDS WITHIN EMERGENCY BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE PROCEDURES (603 CMR 46.00)

(Submitted by the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee)

WHEREAS Massachusetts public schools are committed to fostering safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments in which preventive, proactive, and trauma-informed behavioral supports are the foundation of student success; and

WHEREAS school districts prioritize the use of preventive strategies, including de-escalation techniques, co-regulation supports, sensory and environmental accommodations, and other positive behavioral interventions designed to support students before behavior reaches a crisis level; and

WHEREAS despite the effective use of preventive and supportive interventions, there are rare circumstances in which a student may experience acute dysregulation and may present an imminent risk of serious physical harm to self or others, requiring immediate emergency response; and

WHEREAS 603 CMR 46.00 permits emergency interventions such as time-out, seclusion, and physical restraint only as a last resort in such limited circumstances, and requires that all less restrictive alternatives be attempted or deemed inappropriate based on the situation; and

WHEREAS clear understanding and consistent application of the definition of emergency seclusion—specifically involuntary confinement of a student alone in a room or area from which they are physically prevented from leaving—is essential to ensuring student safety, regulatory compliance, and protection of civil rights; and

WHEREAS districts would benefit from further clarity distinguishing emergency seclusion from supportive, supervised, and voluntary or staff-guided time-out practices used to assist students in regaining emotional regulation and returning to learning; and

WHEREAS the amended regulations regarding Physical Restraint, Timeout, and Emergency Seclusion become effective August 17, 2026 and as of June 1st, 2026, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) has provided no training to districts; and

WHEREAS the amended regulations do not offer the clarity required for successful implementation;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees urges DESE to provide additional clear guidance reinforcing the nuanced differences between time-out and emergency seclusion and in the Department's viewpoint types of situations/scenarios that would warrant both; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC supports DESE in further clarifying the distinction between time-out, and emergency seclusion, including the use of practical, real-life examples and decision-making tools for school personnel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that MASC encourage ongoing in-person statewide training and professional development to ensure staff are equipped to implement preventive strategies effectively and to respond appropriately when those strategies are not sufficient to prevent escalation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department make available entitlement grants for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that provide financial support to provide ongoing professional development to faculty, staff, and families in preventative behavior regulation strategies that include de-escalation, trauma informed practices, as well as appropriate reactive strategies for when students engage in activities that present an imminent risk of serious physical harm to self or others; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that MASC reaffirm its commitment to student dignity, safety, and access to education, and support policies that ensure emergency interventions are rare, clearly defined, consistently applied, and always secondary to preventive and supportive behavioral practices.

RESOLUTION 5: ALLOWING REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEES TO ACCESS SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVE FUNDS BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Submitted by the Nashoba Valley Technical School Committee)

WHEREAS Special Education Reserve Funds can help districts defray the costs of extraordinary or unexpected special education costs; and

WHEREAS Special Education costs have increased exponentially in recent years; and

WHEREAS Circuit Breaker reimbursement lags behind typical budget processes; and

WHEREAS school committees are the municipal legislature of the school district; and

WHEREAS Massachusetts General Laws currently require that districts seek approval from both the select board/city council and the school committee to access the funds; and

WHEREAS this puts an undue burden on multi-member districts that may have to seek approval from up to eight separate municipalities;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to approve the proposed budgetary amendment allowing districts to seek approval from the school committee only.

REAUTHORIZATION OF PREVIOUSLY APPROVED RESOLUTIONS

The 2023 Delegate Assembly approved an amendment to the By-Laws that resolutions will expire at the conclusion of the Delegate Assembly three years after their adoption. Expiring resolutions may be reconsidered and readopted by the delegates at the annual meeting at which the resolutions would expire. The rationale for the amendment was that it:

- Permits three years of focus on resolutions which overlaps with two legislative cycles.
- Provides an additional opportunity for school committees to be involved in the resolution process by championing resolutions that are set to expire.
- Allows the Association to affirm what's important to the current membership by re-adoption.
- Clears expired, less relevant, or no longer supported resolutions for new priorities.

Following are the three resolutions set to expire this November unless reauthorized by a vote of the Delegate Assembly.

- Regarding Investigations and Recommendations for Transportation Bidding Procedures
- Full, Stable Funding for METCO
- Massachusetts School Building Authority Assistance Programs

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REGARDING INVESTIGATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR TRANSPORTATION BIDDING PROCEDURES

(Originally sponsored by the Southeastern Regional Vocational Technical School Committee; Submitted for reauthorization in 2026 by the Mendon-Upton Regional School Committee)

WHEREAS school districts across the commonwealth are struggling with the problem of transportation services and the bidding and purchasing of these services; and

WHEREAS a stunning number of districts find that, after soliciting multiple bids, it is a frequent occurrence that only a single bidder submits a proposal; and

WHEREAS in light of the paucity of submissions, the single bidder is able to propose significant increases over previous years exacerbating not only financial matters, but also skepticism about the integrity of the bidding process.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the MA Association of School Committees prevail upon the Office of the State Auditor to investigate the bidding practices of school transportation providers, and to present such findings and recommendations as may be necessary to contain costs and make more efficient transportation services available for public schools.

MASC status update on this resolution:
MASC successfully lobbied the legislatre, via an FY25 Supplemental Budget, to direct the Office of the Inspector General to produce a Special Education Transportation Study. The findings of that study were published in February 2026. Among the findings are: (1) Massachusetts is an outlier in its use of a reimbursement model to fund student transportation, which puts significant administrative and financial burdens on local districts; (2) Vendors are not required to provide school districts with detailed invoices, making it impossible for districts to understand what they are paying for; and (3) There is no central repository for school transportation bids and contracts, depriving districts of helpful information when procuring these services. The report makes recommendations to address these issues and others. It also makes note that school transportation costs have been studied at least four times in the last 20 years with varying levels of success on follow-through of those studies' recommendations.

FULL, STABLE FUNDING FOR METCO

(Originally sponsored by the Arlington School Committee)

WHEREAS in 1966 the first 220 students rode buses from Boston neighborhoods to schools in seven suburbs; and

WHEREAS in 1968 the Massachusetts Legislature passed the Racial Imbalance Act, in which the Commonwealth accepted financial responsibility "for any town that wishes to enroll students from outside the district for the purpose of racial integration (subject to appropriation); and

WHEREAS in 1968 the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) assumed responsibility for implementing the provisions of the Racial Imbalance Act, providing support for students, families, and receiving districts; and

WHEREAS METCO's mission is to provide students with a strong academic foundation rich in cultural, educational, ethnic, socioeconomic, and racial diversity and foster the opportunity for children from Boston and from neighboring suburbs to develop a deeper understanding of each other in an integrated public school setting; and

WHEREAS over the last half century, METCO has reached tens of thousands of students, supporting 3,100 families annually in 31 participating suburban school districts and 190 public schools, with graduation rates and college attainment far above state averages; and

WHEREAS METCO creates environments where students, parents and teachers of different backgrounds can appreciate diversity, find common ground through shared experiences, build lifelong inter-racial friendships, and strive toward the mutual goal of preparing young people to become global citizens; and

WHEREAS METCO districts have expressed an interest in welcoming more METCO students into their schools; and

WHEREAS METCO has been recognized as the nation's most successful school integration program in the United States; and

WHEREAS requiring METCO funding to be subject to appropriation results in METCO families and partner districts spending considerable time and energy to lobby for fund-

ing to maintain the current level of services;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to create a stable funding structure to support METCO and its partner districts that fully funds the support provided by METCO, and the cost of providing services delivered by METCO's partner districts.

MASC status update on this resolution:
MASC has repeatedly made it known to the Governor and Legislature that METCO deserves a stable funding structure. Similarly, we have supported METCO's advocacy efforts for funding in the annual budget via line item 7010-0012. In the FY26 Budget we joined them in their effort to be fully funded at $33 million.

MA SCHOOL BUILDING AUTHORITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

(Originally submitted by the Wachusett Regional School Committee)

WHEREAS the School Building assistance program is the oldest capital grant program operated by the Commonwealth, as established in MGL Chapter 70B section 1; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) is charged with promoting the thoughtful planning and construction of school facility space in order to ensure safe and adequate facilities for public schools, and with assisting municipalities in meeting the cost thereof; and

WHEREAS the MSBA has improved the learning facilities of over 600,000 students across the Commonwealth by working with local communities to create affordable, sustainable, and energy efficient schools; and

WHEREAS the MSBA is limited in funding as stated in MGL 70B section 7, to $1,200,000,000 plus either the rate of growth in the dedicated sales tax revenue amount as defined in subsection a of section 35BB of chapter 10, or 4.5%; and

WHEREAS the MSBA has declared a pause on their Accelerated Repair Program and limits on their Core Projects due to rising costs and inflation, and the need to stay within the Annual Cap as referenced in the Memorandum of October 19, 2022 from the MSBA Deputy Treasurer and Executive Director; and

WHEREAS each year the Accelerated Repair Program is delayed results in an increase in application backlog among the Commonwealth's existing backlog of school building needs;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to amend MGL ch.70B, section 7 by removing the $1,200,000,000 cap; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts School Building Authority to reinstate the Accelerated Repair program for 2024 applications; and

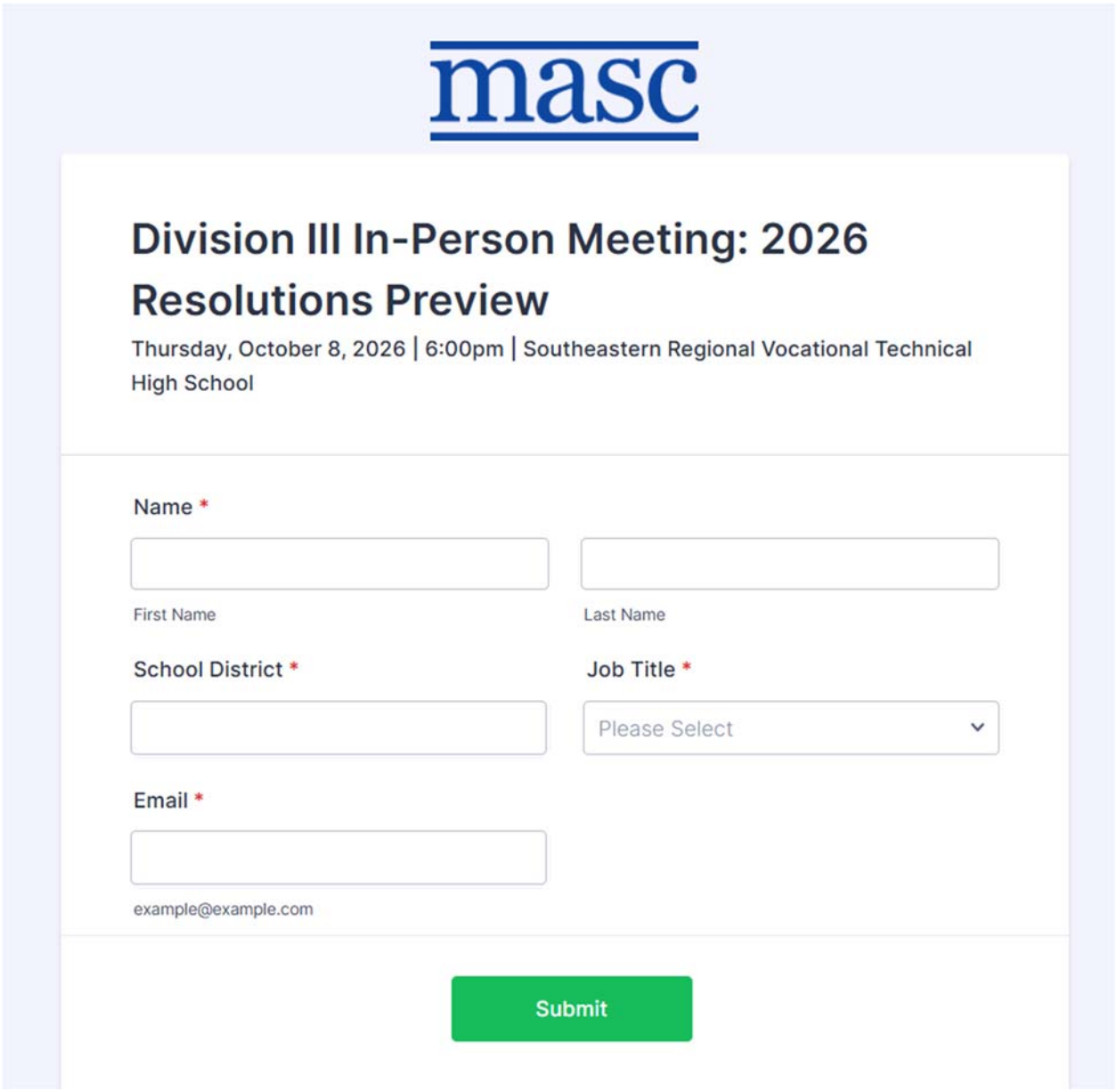
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to allow public preschools to be included in the Accelerated Repair Program and Core Program.

MASC status update on this resolution
The MSBA reinstated the Accelerated Repair Program and maintains an alternating schedule to have Statements Of Interest every two years. Public Preschools may be included in the Accelerated Repair Program and Core Program so long as the building does not exclusively serve Preschool. The cap has remained at $1.2 billion (not taking into account year over year adjustments as outlined in MGL 70B section 7). In the FY24 budget, the legislature made adjustments related to the cap. This included raising the cap to $1.2 billion (up from $800 million); ensuring funding for the accelerated repair program would not count towards this cap; and allowed for the cap to rise year over year by as much as 6.5% up from 4.5%.

Division III Meeting: 2026 Resolutions Preview

Join MASC as we host a an in-person meeting at Southeastern Regional for membership to gain a comprehensive understanding of the resolutions to be considered at the upcoming MASC Delegate Assembly. To prepare for the meeting, you can learn more about the resolutions on our website here. The team will provide an in-depth analysis of each resolution and share insights into the process that brought them forth to the annual conference.

Dinner will be served and prepared by the talented culinary students at Southeastern Regional.



If interested: please log into MASC to sign up

STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

31 PIERCE STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072

Juliette A. Miller, M.Ed, C.A.G.S.
Superintendent of Schools

781-344-4000 Ext 51232
j_miller@stoughtonschools.org

FY27 Supplemental Budget Adjustment

To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate or transfer from available funds sufficient funds to supplemental budget for FY2027 for the purpose of supplementing the appropriation for extraordinary unemployment compensation costs for the current fiscal year incurred by the Stoughton Public Schools; or take any other action relative thereto.

Inserted by: School Committee

Requested by: Superintendent of Schools

Date: September 29, 2026

Estimated costs: $192,106

STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

31 PIERCE STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072

Juliette A. Miller, M.Ed, C.A.G.S.
Superintendent of Schools

781-344-4000 Ext 51232
j_miller@stoughtonschools.org

To: Stoughton Town Meeting Members
From: Juliette Miller, Superintendent of Schools
Date: September 29, 2026
Re: FY27 Supplemental Appropriation — Extraordinary Unemployment Compensation Costs
Article: Supplemental Appropriation for Extraordinary Unemployment Compensation Costs Incurred by Stoughton Public Schools

Purpose

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide background and supporting information for the proposed Town Meeting article requesting a supplemental appropriation for extraordinary unemployment compensation costs incurred by the Stoughton Public Schools during FY27.

The Stoughton Public Schools currently has $150,000 appropriated in the FY27 budget for unemployment compensation costs. Based on unemployment claims received to date and an analysis of anticipated claims associated with the FY27 staffing reductions, the district estimates that total unemployment costs could reach approximately **$342,106** for the fiscal year.

Accordingly, the district is requesting a supplemental appropriation of **$192,106**, representing the difference between the current $150,000 appropriation and the current estimated total cost of $342,106.

Background

As part of the FY27 budget development process, the Stoughton Public Schools eliminated **45 positions**.

Through retirements, resignations, vacancies, reassignments, and other staffing changes, the elimination of these positions ultimately resulted in approximately **32 employees** losing their employment with the district. The position reductions resulted in unemployment compensation costs that were not fully reflected in the original FY27 unemployment appropriation.

Unemployment compensation costs are also inherently difficult to predict with precision. The district's financial responsibility can extend beyond the initial separation from employment. Individual claimants may remain eligible for benefits for an extended period, may initiate a claim after a delay, and, depending upon subsequent employment and eligibility, may return to the unemployment system later in the year.

For these reasons, the district cannot determine the final FY27 unemployment liability with certainty at this time.

Unemployment Costs Incurred to Date

The district has received two unemployment compensation bills to date:

Billing Period/Claim Group	Claims	Cost
Bill #1	16	$35,934.96
Bill #2	17	$69,902
Total Costs Incurred to Date		**$105,836.96**

These two bills represent $105,836.96 in unemployment compensation costs already incurred by the district.

With $150,000 currently appropriated for unemployment compensation, only $44,163.04 remains available in the existing appropriation.

Estimated FY27 Unemployment Liability

The district has reviewed the individual circumstances of former employees and the unemployment claims received to date in order to develop a reasonable estimate of the potential FY27 unemployment liability.

Based on this analysis, the district currently estimates total unemployment compensation costs of approximately $342,106 for FY27.

This figure is an estimate and not a guaranteed final expenditure. Actual costs may be lower or higher depending upon individual claimant eligibility, the duration of benefits, the timing of claims, subsequent employment, and other factors outside of the district's control.

The following summarizes the current financial position:

FY27 Unemployment Compensation	Amount
Current FY27 Appropriation	$150,000
Estimated Total FY27 Cost	$342,106
Estimated Supplemental Funding Required	**$192,106**

Why a Supplemental Appropriation Is Necessary

The FY27 budget included an appropriation of $150,000 for unemployment compensation based on historical unemployment expenditures and information available during the budget development process. Actual unemployment claims received during FY27, together with the anticipated liability associated with staffing changes, indicate that the existing appropriation will not be sufficient.

Without a supplemental appropriation, the district will exhaust its existing unemployment compensation appropriation while it continues to incur unemployment-related expenses during the fiscal year.

The requested supplemental appropriation is therefore intended to provide the funding necessary to meet the district's unemployment compensation obligations while maintaining the integrity of the FY27 operating budget.

Important Consideration Regarding the Estimate

The district recognizes that the requested amount is based on an estimate and that unemployment costs are inherently variable.

Eligibility and benefit duration are determined on an individual basis. Former employees may file claims at different points during the fiscal year, may receive benefits for varying periods, and may subsequently obtain employment. If an individual becomes unemployed again within the applicable period, the district may incur additional unemployment liability.

Consequently, the $342,106 estimate should be viewed as the district's best current projection rather than a fixed or guaranteed expenditure.

The district will continue to monitor unemployment claims and actual expenditures throughout FY27 and will report material changes as part of its regular financial reporting process.

Attachments:

1. Unemployment Compensation Bill — $35,934.96 (16 claims)
2. Unemployment Compensation Bill — $70,952 (17 claims)
3. Memo from Mr. Colantonio RE: Human Resources Update: Unemployment Claims (FY26)

Department of Unemployment Assistance
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development

Bill of Reimbursable Charges

Date: August 11, 2026
Letter ID: L0017511337
Account # (EAN): 78302320

TOWN OF STOUGHTON
PO BOX 4074
WAKEFIELD MA 01880-5374

Dear Employer:

Statement Period: July 31, 2026

Due Date	Total Charges	Statement Credits	Other Credits	Statement Total
09/10/2026	42,834.00	0.00	0.00	42,834.00

Log in to your online account to pay your bill. Unemployment Insurance (UI) can be paid by ACH Debit, ACH Credit, Credit Card, or Check.

If you disagree with any Benefit Charges...
You have **30 days** from the mailing date of this bill to request a review.
To request a review, log in to your online account. https://unemployment.mass.gov/Employers

Interest Charges and Collections
You must pay interest on any amounts not paid by the due date at 12% annually. In addition, late payments may be subject to fees and penalties under M.G.L. c. 151A, sec.15 and collections and fees under 815 CMR 9.00.

Questions?
Employer Charge and Seasonal Certification Unit
Department of Unemployment Assistance
Call us: (617) 626-5075
Email us: EmployerCharge@mass.gov

(16 claims) school 38747
town 4087
42834

revised due to shared employee w/town
school 35934.96
town 6899.04
42834

Department of Unemployment Assistance
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Labor & Workforce Development

Bill of Reimbursable Charges

Date: September 15, 2026
Letter ID: L0018090350
Account # (EAN): 78302320

TOWN OF STOUGHTON
PO BOX 4074
WAKEFIELD MA 01880-5374

Dear Employer:

Statement Period: August 31, 2026

Due Date	Total Charges	Statement Credits	Other Credits	Statement Total
10/15/2026	71,387.00	(435.00)	0.00	70,952.00

Log in to your online account to pay your bill. Unemployment Insurance (UI) can be paid by ACH Debit, ACH Credit, Credit Card, or Check.

If you disagree with any Benefit Charges...
You have **30 days** from the mailing date of this bill to request a review.
To request a review, log in to your online account. https://unemployment.mass.gov/Employers

Interest Charges and Collections
You must pay interest on any amounts not paid by the due date at 12% annually. In addition, late payments may be subject to fees and penalties under M.G.L. c. 151A, sec.15 and collections and fees under 815 CMR 9.00.

Questions?
Employer Charge and Seasonal Certification Unit
Department of Unemployment Assistance
Call us: (617) 626-5075
Email us: EmployerCharge@mass.gov

(17 claims) school 69902
town 1050
70952

STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

31 PIERCE STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072
www.stoughtonschools.org

Matthew Colantonio
Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Wellness
781-344-4000 Ext 70200
m_colantonio@stoughtonschools.org

Rose Antonelli
Human Resources Specialist
781-344-4000 Ext 70298
r_antonelli@stoughtonschools.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Julie Miller, Superintendent of Schools

CC: Budget Subcommittee

FROM: Matt Colantonio, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources & Wellness

DATE: July 30, 2026

RE: Human Resources Update: Unemployment Claims

Given the substantial impact to SPS personnel from FY26 to FY27, we wanted to provide an update with some unemployment information.

Below is the total amount of school unemployment charges for all of FY26:

Date	Total	# Claims
7/31/2025	$92.54	1
8/31/2025	$21,226.00	6
9/30/2025	$24,937.00	7
10/31/2025	$27,227.00	5
11/30/2025	$16,921.33	6
12/31/2025	$23,720.00	7
1/31/2026	$11,314.98	6
2/28/2026	$7,406.00	4
3/31/2026	$3,861.63	5
4/30/2026	$7,241.29	4
5/31/2026	$1,432.00	1
6/30/2026	$4,405.00	2
TOTAL	$149,784.77	

We have not received any claims with charges for FY27 yet (the 6/30/2026 charges is our most recent). However, we know there have been 33 initial unemployment claims filed since the end of the 2025-2026 school (20 teachers, 13 other employees). Not all of these initial claims will become charges, but the number is certainly larger than what is typical.

STOUGHTON HIGH SCHOOL
232 Pearl Street, Stoughton, MA 02072

MEMORANDUM

To: SHS Families and Students
Re: Update to Class Rank Reporting

Beginning this school year, Stoughton High School will no longer report an exact numerical class rank (e.g., "14th out of 320"), consistent with the practice already in place at many of the nation's most selective and highly regarded high schools.

In the past, class rank was only accessible via student transcripts. SHS school counselors have never officially reported class rank through Naviance. Moving forward, when students complete applications to colleges and universities, they will select the option indicating that the school does not report class rank.

WHAT STAYS THE SAME

Students' transcripts, GPA, and course rigor will continue to be reported in full, and SHS will continue to recognize a Valedictorian and Salutatorian each year. The SHS School Profile, provided to every college with every application, will clearly explain this reporting method and include a GPA distribution chart so admissions officers have complete context. Additionally, SHS will continue to publicly recognize the top 10 students in the graduating class.

Many scholarship and college applications ask students to report whether they fall within the top 10%, 20%, or 30% of their graduating class. Students can obtain this information at any time by contacting their assigned school counselor.

WHY WE'RE MAKING THIS CHANGE

- **It reduces unnecessary stress and competition.** Reporting a student's exact class rank turns academic performance into a constant comparison among classmates, which is consistently linked to elevated anxiety and burnout among high-achieving students.
- **It reflects how class rank is actually used today.** More than half of U.S. high schools no longer report an exact class rank — it has become the norm, not the exception, among competitive schools nationwide.
- **Colleges no longer rely on it.** Fewer than one in five colleges consider class ranks an important factor in admission decisions. Admissions offices use GPA trends, course rigor, and full transcript context instead — this change does not disadvantage SHS students.
- **It can unfairly penalize strong students.** In a rigorous, high-achieving class, a student can post excellent grades and still land outside the top 10% simply because their classmates are also excellent.
- **It discourages students from choosing the right courses for them.** When every course carries rank risk, students sometimes build a schedule to protect a number rather than to pursue their genuine academic interests.
- **It accounts for student mobility.** Because coursework completed in other districts is not included in SHS GPA or rank calculations, transfer students are ranked using only a partial academic record — which can skew every student's ranking, not just their own. Valedictorian and Salutatorian eligibility, for example, requires four consecutive years of enrollment at Stoughton High School.

OTHER MASSACHUSETTS HIGH SCHOOLS MAKING THIS SHIFT

Stoughton joins a number of Massachusetts public high schools that have already moved away from reporting an exact class rank, including:

- Newton North High School
- Wellesley High School
- Canton High School
- Hingham High School
- Mansfield High School
- Westwood High School
- Brookline High School
- Weston High School
- Needham High School
- Belmont High School

Enrollment 26-27	Jun, 26	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Dawe Elementary/504											
Kindergarten	59	48									
Grade 1	80	68									
Grade 2	70	81									
Grade 3	54	75									
Grade 4	70	58									
Grade 5	49	72									
	382	**402**									
Gibbons Elementary/432											
Kindergarten	67	48									
Grade 1	48	66									
Grade 2	64	49									
Grade 3	66	59									
Grade 4	72	70									
Grade 5	68	72									
	385	**364**									
Hansen Elementary/340											
Kindergarten	48	32									
Grade 1	53	50									
Grade 2	40	51									
Grade 3	47	42									
Grade 4	61	42									
Grade 5	34	56									
	283	**273**									
Jones Early Childhood/150											
Pre-School	130	109									
	130	**109**									
South Elementary/408											
Kindergarten	43	35									
Grade 1	37	44									
Grade 2	42	36									
Grade 3	53	44									
Grade 4	44	51									
Grade 5	52	48									
	271	**258**									
Wilkins Elementary/408											
Kindergarten	58	47									
Grade 1	46	59									
Grade 2	61	44									
Grade 3	65	57									
Grade 4	58	58									
Grade 5	37	59									
	325	**324**									
O'Donnell Middle/1864											
Grade 6	263	237									
Grade 7	265	258									
Grade 8	260	256									
	788	**751**									
Stoughton High/1086											
Grade 9	273	249									
Grade 10	267	246									
Grade 11	244	265									
Grade 12	236	241									
Grade 13	1	0									
	1021	**1001**									
TOTALS:	**3585**	**3482**									

Date: Sat, Sep 19, 2026 at 9:20 AM
Subject: Immediate hiring of Kindergarten paraprofessionals
To: <c_shannon@stoughtonschools.org>

Stoughton School Committee and Administration,

I am writing to advocate for the prompt hiring of kindergarten paraprofessionals for the Stoughton Public Schools.

As a mother of a kindergartner, a third-grader and a fifth-grater in the Stoughton public schools, and also the mother of a child with special needs, I am deeply concerned by the risk that the district chose to expose all our kids to when allocating budget resources this year.

Kindergarten paraprofessionals are a fundamental necessity for classes of 15-20 children, where many might have not been in a school setting till the day they stepped into an elementary school. It's impossible for a single adult to attend both to the social/emotional needs of that many children while also fulfilling the main goal of teaching.

Without immediate action, the kindergarten class of 2026/27 will experience an inevitable learning delay that has the potential to open significant gaps and set this class behind compared to prior years and other districts.

Even more importantly, this class will be exposed to **highly underestimated safety risks.** The kindergarten year is a crucial time for the manifestation of learning and behavioral special needs, and the **lack of a minimum adult: children ratio** will undermine the ability of the teacher body to identify such needs, properly differentiate teaching groups, and importantly, to keep everybody safe when the necessity of deescalating dysregulated behaviors arise. **At the age of 5/6, many kids, with and without special needs, are at flight risk**. Who is going to chase after a kid that unexpectedly leaves the classroom? Should the single adult in the class abandon the other 10-19 kids to chase after the one before he/she reaches an exit? Our district has precedents of this kind, even during times when having paraprofessionals in our elementary classes wasn't considered an option. **Does the district feel at ease with the risk of kindergarteners running out in the street due to lack of personnel?**

I have major concerns with my child spending 6 hours a day in a kindergarten classroom with only one adult. I wouldn't allow my kid to attend a birthday party supervised in such a way, but in Stoughton we're forced to do it to let out children access their right to education.

This year kindergarten teachers are facing a situation that they should have never been forced into, and this is a wrong that must be amended immediately.

Date: Mon, Sep 21, 2026 at 1:00 PM
Subject: Kindergarten Paraprofessionals
To: <c_shannon@stoughtonschools.org>, <c_hollins@stoughtonschools.org>, <j_distefano@stoughtonschools.org>, <k_powers@stoughtonschools.org>, <j_sears@stoughtonschools.org>, j_miller@stoughtonschools.org <j_miller@stoughtonschools.org>

Dear Superintendent Miller and Members of the School Committee,

I am writing to you as a new parent to the Stoughton Public Schools, with my oldest child beginning kindergarten at the South School this year. As we prepared for this exciting transition, I was honestly floored to learn that our kindergarten classrooms would not have paraprofessional support this year. Given the expectations placed on teachers in today's educational environment, as well as the expectations I have as a parent sending my child into the public school system for the first time, I find it difficult to understand how we can expect ONE kindergarten teacher, regardless of experience, to meet all of those expectations alone.

Kindergarten is an incredibly important transition for our children. For many students, this is their first experience in a full-day school environment. They are learning academics, but they are also learning how to navigate a classroom, regulate their emotions, follow routines, interact appropriately with peers, and become more independent. These are five-year-old children, and they do not all arrive at school with the same abilities or needs.

I understand that difficult decisions have to be made when budgets are limited. However, I believe we need to ask whether eliminating classroom support at the kindergarten level is truly an appropriate place to make those cuts.

I would ask each person involved in these decisions to genuinely put yourself in the position of one of our kindergarten teachers. Could YOU independently manage a classroom full of five-year-olds for an entire school day while also providing each child with the education, attention, support, and safe learning environment that you would be proud to provide?

I think most of us, if answering that question honestly, would say no.

One child having a difficult moment can require a significant amount of a teacher's attention. A kindergarten student may need help regulating their emotions, resolving a conflict, using the bathroom, understanding directions, or simply adjusting to being away from home for an entire day. While the teacher is addressing that child's needs, they are still responsible for every other student in the room. Every minute spent managing one immediate need is a minute in which that teacher cannot be fully available to the rest of the class.

This is NOT a criticism of our teachers. In fact, it is quite the opposite. We are asking an enormous amount of them.

A paraprofessional is not simply an extra set of hands. That additional adult allows the teacher to continue teaching while another child receives the support they need. It allows for small-group instruction, additional supervision, smoother transitions, and more individual attention. It also means that the needs of one student do not unintentionally take educational time away from every other child in the classroom.

As a new parent entering this school system, I want to feel confident that we are giving our teachers the resources they need to meet the expectations placed upon them. I also want to feel confident that when I send my child to school each morning, his teacher has the support necessary to provide the education and classroom environment that every parent hopes for their child.

Superintendent Miller and members of the School Committee, I respectfully ask you to reconsider the decision to operate kindergarten classrooms without paraprofessional support and to explore what can be done to restore that support.

These children only get one kindergarten year. We should be doing everything reasonably possible to make sure their teachers have what they need to make it a successful one.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

STOUGHTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Policy ACL - INTERACTING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ENGAGED IN CIVIL LAW ENFORCEMENT

The Stoughton Public Schools recognizes the importance of all students being known and valued, and strives to promote a safe, inclusive, and welcoming learning environment for all students. All students have a right to a free public education regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, immigration or citizenship status, disability, or sexual orientation.

Within the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, except as required by state or federal law or as required for the Commonwealth or its subdivisions to administer a state or federally supported or funded program, civil arrests for civil law enforcement, including federal immigration enforcement, are not allowed on school grounds during school hours, student drop off and pick up windows, before- and after-school programming and school-sponsored events without a Judicial Warrant or Judicial Order.

The Superintendent shall develop and implement procedures consistent with guidance issued by the Governor's Office, the Executive Office of Education, and/or the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The procedures shall be implemented, wherever applicable, in alignment with District Emergency Operations Plans, Medical and Behavioral Health Emergency Response Plans, and the School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding.

These procedures will be designed in accordance with the guidance provided and promote schools that are safe and accessible for students, staff and residents, and shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Identifying and designating a senior administrator to serve as the individual responsible for having primary contact with law enforcement agents engaged in civil law enforcement for the school system and the central point of contact for schools on interactions with civil law enforcement;

2. Identifying and designating a senior administrator at each school to serve as the individuals responsible for having primary contact with law enforcement agents engaged in civil law enforcement who arrive on site at the school or request information about students, employees, or other persons affiliated with the school;

3. Procedures for contacting the school district's attorney;

4. Procedures for contacting the senior administrator at the school and the district office in the event law enforcement agents engaged in civil law enforcement arrive on school

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grounds or request information about students, employees, or other persons affiliated with the school;

5. Procedures for documenting all interactions with law enforcement agents engaged in civil law enforcement while on school grounds;

6. Procedures for notifying a student's parents or guardian, or the student directly if the student is 18 years or older or emancipated, if a law enforcement agent engaged in civil law enforcement requests access to a student or student's information for any civil law enforcement purpose;

7. Procedures following the confirmation of law enforcement agents engaged in civil law enforcement on school grounds, including notifying parents and guardians, teachers, administrators, and school personnel;

8. Procedures to confirm and update students' emergency contacts, with allowance for more than one person to be listed, and alternative caregiver plans; and

9. A plan to share these procedures with students and families on the school district's website.

Once adopted, this policy and the accompanying procedures shall constitute the written emergency response plan required by the PROTECT Act.

CROSS REFS.: EBC, EMERGENCY PLANS
ECA, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS SECURITY
ECAF, SECURITY CAMERAS IN SCHOOLS
JIH, SEARCHES AND INTERROGATIONS
JRA, STUDENT RECORDS
KI, VISITORS TO THE SCHOOLS
KLG, RELATIONS WITH POLICE AUTHORITIES

LEGAL REFS.: PROTECT Act, August 2026

STOUGHTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

31 PIERCE STREET
STOUGHTON, MA 02072
781-344-4000 Ext. 51232

TO: School Committee Members

FR: Chris Shannon

DT: October 13, 2026

RE: PAC – Meeting Summary of 10/1/26

The PAC Board of Directors did their yearly re-organization with the following people being voted in as such:

Sheila Vaughn (Kingston) – Chair
Kendra Stetson (Marshfield) – Vice Chair
Steven Bois (Whitman-Hanson) – Secretary

The Board of Directors voted in favor of offering Retiree Health Benefits for FY28. This is an annual vote that enables PAC retirees to participate in PAC's health insurance after retirement.

All student-based policies were introduced for reviewing and/or amending. This has been a yearlong process of reviewing all of PAC's policies, and this is the final section to complete a full and comprehensive review. There will be a second read and vote for amending as needed in November. Two Business policies were introduced for amendments to modify language according to changes in law and PAC procedure.

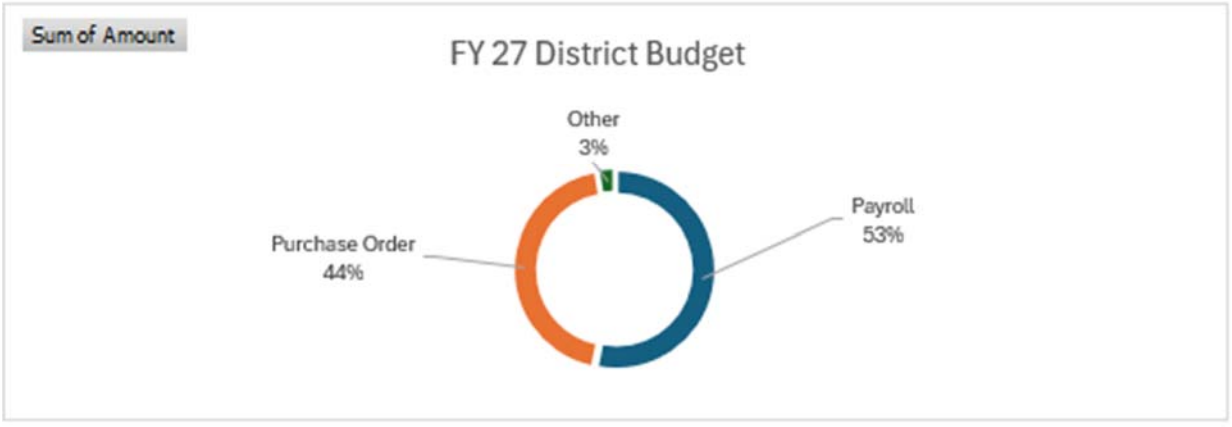
PAC's Executive Director, Dr. Dympna Thomas announced that she will be retiring in August 2027. The Board will be working to establish an Executive Director Search Committee and guidelines to post for the position at the next meeting.

The annual audit will be presented at the November meeting as well as the amended budget. From there, monthly budget and financial updates will be presented for the remainder of the year.

For inclusion in the School Committee meeting agenda of Oct 13, 2026 (for the record):
The warrants have been reviewed and approved by Jillian Distefano. They are submitted here for the record.

All warrants are available for review by the full School Committee.

Date	Warrant #	Warrant Classification	Amount	Notes
9/21/2026	OMS-SA	Other	$1,063.00	Reviewed by Jillian Distefano
9/24/2026	27-12S1	Purchase Order	$2,500.00	Reviewed by Jillian Distefano
9/24/2026	27-12S	Purchase Order	$98,314.32	Reviewed by Jillian Distefano
10/1/2026	27-13S	Purchase Order	$1,501,017.97	Reviewed by Jillian Distefano
10/1/2026	27-123S1	Purchase Order	$6,000.00	Reviewed by Jillian Distefano
10/1/2026	2706	Payroll	$2,194,577.59	Reviewed by Jillian Distefano
9/17/2026	2705	Payroll	$2,316,902.92	Reviewed by Jillian Distefano
FY27 Budget	$69,245,872.00	Remaining Balance	$54,765,841.69	



MEETING MINUTES OF THE
STOUGHTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
September 22, 2026

Regular meeting of the Stoughton School Committee held on Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., in District Office, 31 Pierce Street, Stoughton, Massachusetts.

PRESENT: Ms. Jillian Distefano, Vice-Chair, Dr. Jenn Sears, Dr. Charlene Hollins, Ms. Karen Powers

ABSENT: Ms. Chris Shannon, Chair;

ALSO PRESENT – ADMINISTRATION: Ms. Juliette Miller, Superintendent; Jonathan D. Ford, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction;

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Liza Andrade, Katrina Crowley, Ryan Augusta

MEETING TO ORDER: Vice Chair Jillian Distefano opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

Executive Session
At 6:00 p.m. Dr. Jenn Sears made the motion, and it was seconded by Dr. Charlene Collins to convene in Executive Session Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 22(a), for the purpose of reviewing and approving Executive Session minutes of the August 18, 2026 Executive Session meeting. The vote was unanimous. The meeting will reconvene in open session. Minutes of the Executive Session are separate in accordance and compliance with Ch. 303 of the Acts of 1975, which permits the votes, and proceedings in Executive Session may be kept private as long as privacy will serve the purpose for which the Executive Session was called.

Regular meeting reconvened at 6:17 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. **Public Comment**

No one signed up

2. **Student Council Advisory Representative (Liza Andrade)**

3. **New Business**
    a. **School Improvement Plan Presentations**
        i. **O'Donnell Middle School (Katrina Crowley)**
        ii. **Stoughton High School (Ryan Augusta)**

4. **Old Business**
    a. **Cell Phone Implementation Update**

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b. Superintendent's FY27 Goals

MOTION: by Dr. Jenn Sears to approve the approve the superintendent's FY27 goals.
SECOND: by Dr Charlene Hollins.
ROLL CALL: Ms. Karen Powers – yes.
Ms. Jillian Distefano – yes.
Ms. Chris Shannon – not present.
Dr. Charlene Hollins – yes.
Dr. Jenn Sears – yes.

5. Superintendent Reports and Recommendations

a. DESE End of Course Assessments
b. Groundbreaking Ceremony
c. Redistricting Committee Update

6. Committee Chair Updates

a. Redistricting Committee Representation

MOTION: by Dr. Charlene Hollins to appoint Dr. Jenn Sears to the Redistricting Committee.
SECOND: by Dr. Jenn Sears.
ROLL CALL: Ms. Karen Powers – abstain.
Ms. Jillian Distefano – yes.
Ms. Chris Shannon – not present.
Dr. Charlene Hollins – yes.
Dr. Jenn Sears – yes.

b. Digitizing School Committee Packet Update

7. School Committee Updates

a. School Committee Communications
i. Parent Emails RE: Kindergarten Classroom Paraprofessionals
ii. Parent Emails RE: Bus Transportation Availability
b. Policy Subcommittee
c. Budget Subcommittee
i. Stoughton Town Charter Review Committee Update
d. Facilities Subcommittee
e. Pilgrim Area Collaborative
f. Stoughton Equal Opportunity Committee

8. Warrants

The warrants were entered into the record.

MOTION: by Ms. Karen Powers to add committee member communications as a standing agenda item to all future agendas.
SECOND: by Dr. Charlene Hollins.
ROLL CALL: Ms. Karen Powers – yes.
Ms. Jillian Distefano – yes.
Ms. Chris Shannon – not present.
Dr. Charlene Hollins – yes.
Dr. Jenn Sears – yes.

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9. Acceptance of Minutes:

a. September 8, 2026

MOTION: by Dr. Jenn Sears to approve the September 8, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes as As written.

SECOND: by Ms. Karen Powers.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Karen Powers – yes.
Ms. Jillian Distefano – yes.
Ms. Chris Shannon – not present.
Dr. Charlene Hollins – yes.
Dr. Jenn Sears – yes.

10. Adjourn

At 8:30 p.m., Dr. Charlene Hollins made the motion to adjourn and it was seconded Dr. Jenn Sears.

ROLL CALL: Ms. Karen Powers – yes.
Ms. Jillian Distefano – yes.
Ms. Chris Shannon – not present.
Dr. Charlene Hollins – yes.
Dr. Jenn Sears – yes.

List of Documents:

a. School Improvement Plans
    1. O'Donnell Middle School
    2. Stoughton High School
b. Electronic Device Policy Memo
c. Survey Results for Digitizing Documents Memo
d. Parent Emails RE: Kindergarten Paraprofessionals
e. Parent Emails RE: Bus Transportation Availability
f. Warrants
g. Meeting Minutes:
    1. September 8, 2026

NEXT MEETING

Next Regular Meeting – October 13, 2026

Respectfully submitted, Nicole Douglas, Recording Secretary

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