AGENDA

SPECIAL PUBLIC HEARING MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SCHOOL COMMITTEE MANCHESTER SCHOOL DISTRICT SAU #37

Monday, October 26, 2026 **6:30 p.m.**
Mayor and all School Board Members **Aldermanic Chambers**
Student Member Julie Langlois (WHS) **City Hall (3rd Floor)**

1. Mayor Ruais calls the meeting to order.

2. The Clerk calls the roll.

3. Mayor Ruais advises the purpose of the special public hearing meeting is to give the residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the board regarding a donation of $55,000 from Canine Companions for a support/companion dog. All people wishing to speak will have up to three (3) minutes to do so, and any comments must be directed to the chair. Any resident wishing to speak will come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized and give their comments.

4. Mayor Ruais advises that if there is no one else present wishing to speak, a motion is in order to take all comments under advisement and further to receive and file any written documentation presented.

5. This being a special meeting of the board, no further business can be presented unless by 2/3 majority and a motion is in order to adjourn.

Statement of nondiscrimination: *It is the policy of the Manchester Board of School Committee, in its actions, and those of its employees, that there shall be no discrimination on the basis of age, sex, race, color, marital status, physical or mental disability, religious creed, national origin or sexual orientation for employment in, or operation and administration of any program or activity in the Manchester School District. The Title IX Coordinator is Dr. Kelly Espinola for staff and students.*

Manchester School District
Finance Committee Meeting - October 14, 2026
Grants, Gifts and Donations

Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation (Donation)
Amount: $6,325
Purpose: To support the purchase of musical instruments at Gossler Park Elementary School.

Canine Companions (Donation)
Approximate Amount: $55,000
Purpose: To provide the district with a support/companion dog.

From: **Cecilia Garcia** <cecilia@mhopus.org>
Date: Tue, Jul 21, 2026 at 12:00 PM
Subject: Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation - Gossler Park Elementary School Campaign Page Update
To: <nschnick@mansd.org>

Dear Natalie,

I hope you and the students at Gossler Park Elementary School are enjoying the summer and getting ready to return to school! I am reaching out to connect with you regarding your program's Adopt A School campaign page. As the page has been active for over a year, we'd like to share that the campaign has funded $6,325, which enables us to purchase the following instruments **worth a retail value of $18,095**:

- 1 Cello (1/2 Size)
- 1 Cello (3/4 Size)
- 3 Violins (3/4 Size)
- 1 Violin (1/2 Size)
- 1 Alto Saxophone
- 2 Clarinets
- 2 Trumpets
- 1 Trombone

Please let me know if you would like to move forward with these instruments. If your program's needs have changed significantly, let us know by **Monday, July 27**, so we can discuss how to best maximize the impact for your students.

There is also a small amount of funding remaining after providing the above-listed instruments, which, while not enough to add another instrument, could be used to supply reeds, mouthpieces, or other consumables. If you have a need for those, please let me know along with any preferences (reed type/strength, mouthpiece type/size).

Once confirmed, we'll proceed with our granting process, which includes a formal award email, a grant agreement, and delivery details.

We look forward to hearing from you soon! Please feel free to reach out with any questions.

Kind regards,
Cecilia Garcia, *Program Associate*
818-762-4328 | mhopus.org
Enjoy our newsletter Opus Notes



September 28, 2026

To Whom it May concern,

This letter is to provide written confirmation of the cost associated with Canine Companions Facility dogs. The total cost to your facility is $0.

Each one of our dogs, from the day of birth to the day they graduate, the estimated total cost for each dog is $50,000 to $60,000.

If you have any questions or require additional documentation, please contact me at 631 561-0252 or koloughlin@canine.org.

Sincerely,

Katy O'Loughlin

Applicant Program Manager

Canine Companions

Northeast Training Center
286 Middle Island Road, Medford, NY 11763
631 561-0200 | 800 572-2275

canine.org

Legal Notice

A **special meeting** of the Manchester Board of School Committee will be held on **Monday, October 26, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.**, in the Aldermanic Chambers of City Hall, for a public hearing on the following donation: a donation of $55,000 from Canine Companions for a support/companion dog. (UL - Oct. 16)