

Notes from Superintendent Holcomb & the School Committee
12.14.25 Parent Newsletter

School Committee Meeting

The next School Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 15, at 6:00 PM in the School Committee Conference Room located in the Central Administration Building. The meeting will also be broadcast live on the Swansea Community Network Channel via their Facebook page.

Feinstein Foundation

Gardner Elementary and Joseph G. Luther Elementary are both Feinstein Leadership Schools who receive grant money to support their school based communities.

This year, the Feinstein Foundation has provided both schools with $1000 to be used specifically to restock the food pantries to support families in need during this holiday season.

Both Gardner Elementary and Joseph G. Luther Elementary collaborated with Stop and Shop to order non-perishable items that will be used to restock the school based food pantries.

We cannot thank the Feinstein Foundation enough for their ongoing generosity and support for our community. A special thank you to School Committee Member, Thomas Rodrigues, for renting the U-Haul truck and picking up all the items from Stop & Shop for us. Pictured below are Kim Carvalho (Stop & Shop Store Manager), Superintendent Scott C. Holcomb, James Carvalho-School Committee, Joanne Rebelo - Finance & Operations Director, Jen Kenyon - Gardner Elementary School, Holli Destremps-Accounts Payable, Crystal St. Pierre - Luther Elementary School, Elizabeth White - Assistant Superintendent, Thomas Rodrigues - School Committee Vice Chair, Mallory Aronstein - Town Administrator, Kim Orr - Food Service Director.



Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild's Contest Day

Niel Jeronimo - Theater Director, wrote to us and had the following news to share -

> *This year at the Massachusetts Educational Theatre Guild's Contest Day, the Case High Theatre Company competed in multiple statewide events, including acting, musical theatre, and technical competitions.*
>
> *Out of the entire state, in the Middle School Musical Theatre category, 8th grader Garret Madison placed third, and 7th grader Brandon Lopes won first place in the state!*
>
> *This is an incredible accomplishment, and we are so proud that two members of our district were recognized, and that one earned the top honor in Massachusetts.*
>
> *Thank you again for your continued support of the Case High Theatre Company. We will be updating our banner in the Case High auditorium this week to add Garret and Brandon's names.*
>
> *We are also proud to announce that Joseph Case Junior High School has now been state champions two years in a row, with Garret winning first place last year and Brandon earning that*

spot this year. This is a tremendous feat and a testament to the exceptional talent and dedication within our district.

We couldn't agree more with Neil!!! Pictured below are Brandon Lopes and Garret Madison.



Joseph Case Junior High School Building Project

We are excited to share that last Friday, 12.12.25, the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) voted unanimously to move the Joseph Case Junior High School Building Project from the Feasibility Study phase into Schematic Design.

This unanimous vote marks an important milestone in the process and reflects strong confidence in the work completed to date. Advancing to Schematic Design means the project team will begin developing more detailed building concepts, including preliminary layouts, educational spaces, site plans, and updated cost estimates, all aligned with MSBA guidelines and the District's educational vision.

While there is still more work ahead, this step brings us closer to delivering a learning environment that will serve our students and community for years to come. We are grateful for the continued support of the MSBA and our community, and we look forward to sharing updates as the project progresses. A special

thanks to the Educational Planning Team and the School Building Committee for all of their work as we wouldn't be here without them.

School Building Committee Update

The School Building Committee will be meeting this coming Thursday, 12.18.25 at 6pm in the Jr. High Auditorium. They will be taking a very important vote to determine if the new Joseph Case Junior High School has an auditorium and if the Junior High will use ground source heat pumps for heating and cooling of the building.

Budget for the School Department

The School Department will present the Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) budget, covering the 2026–2027 school year, to the School Committee on Monday, December 15, 2025. This initial presentation will focus solely on personnel costs for FY27. Other recurring expenses and capital expenditures will be presented at a later date. As a reminder, the vast majority of the School Department's budget is allocated to staff salaries.

It is also important to note that the School Department will begin separating its capital expenses from the operational budget and submitting those items as articles on the Town Warrant. For example, if a new school van is needed to transport students, it will not appear in the operating budget; instead, it will be submitted separately as a warrant article. The School Committee believes this approach aligns the School Department more closely with the budgeting practices of other municipal departments in town.