

Notes from Superintendent Holcomb & the School Committee
12.7.25 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.

Joseph Case Junior High School Building Project

The Superintendent of Schools, Scott Holcomb, met with the Town Administrator and representatives from Finegold Alexander Architects and our Owner's Project Management firm, PMA, for a candid discussion about the ongoing Junior High Project. Please take a moment to watch the video by clicking here.



The School Building Committee (SBC) met on Thursday, December 4, 2025, to review upcoming timelines for several significant project decisions. Discussion topics included, but were not limited to, whether an auditorium should be included in the new junior high school and whether ground-sourced heat pumps should be used for the building's heating and cooling systems. These two items are scheduled for a vote at the next SBC meeting on December 18, 2025.

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.

Competency Determination Policy

The School Committee passed a policy on how our high school students earn a diploma through competency determination. For specific information, please refer to Policy IKFA by clicking here.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The Policy Subcommittee continues its work on drafting a new district policy on the use of AI. This week, we will be surveying high school students to gather input on how, if, and when they use AI in their education. Feedback from parents, staff, and students, along with examples of AI policies from other districts, will help the Subcommittee craft a proposal for the School Committee's consideration. The Policy Subcommittee includes two School Committee members: Sonya Barbosa and Ana Ponte-Porto.

Massachusetts Association of School Superintendent's Certificate of Academic Excellence





This year's MASS Certificate of Academic Excellence recipient is Emma Bouchard. By awarding this certificate we formally acknowledge Emma for her excellence, not only in grades, but also in character,

leadership, and her overall contribution to the school community. This award signals that Emma has distinguished herself among her peers statewide, and that her hard work and integrity have been recognized by district leadership. Congratulations to Emma. (Pictured above with Emma are her mother and father along with the High School Principal and Superintendent of Schools)