

Medfield Central Office Insights - Issue 17 - February/March 2026

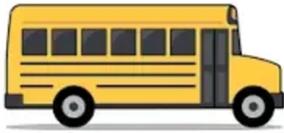
Jeffrey Marsden • 7 minutes ago • Friday, Mar 6 at 3:09 PM • **Medfield Public Schools**



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Jeffrey J. Marsden - Superintendent



District Policy Change- Bus Cameras

I am writing to inform you of a change in district policy regarding **Security Camera in Schools**. After reviewing the policy at multiple meetings, the Medfield School Committee approved the addition of "school transportation vehicles" to areas that we can include video cameras. Beginning March 11th, we will implement the use of video recording (not audio) on all school buses. This practice is consistent with surrounding districts. Of the fourteen school districts served by our transportation vendor, thirteen currently utilize video cameras on their buses.

The purpose of this change is simple: to enhance student safety and support a positive, respectful environment on our buses. School buses are an extension of the school day, and the expectations for student conduct remain consistent with our Code of Conduct. Video recording will help us more effectively investigate concerns, address behavioral issues fairly, and ensure that all students feel safe during their ride to and from school.

A few important points:

- Cameras will only record video while buses are in operation.
- Recordings will be used only for student safety and conduct related matters.
- Access to recordings will be limited to central office school

administrators and transportation officials. Transportation officials are required to notify the District before they access a recording.

- Recordings will be stored and maintained in accordance with applicable laws regarding student privacy. A self contained unit will be in each bus with an SD card, so the data is not saved in the cloud or outside system.

The vast majority of our students demonstrate responsible behavior on the bus each day. This added measure is intended to support drivers, protect students, and provide clarity if any issues arise.

Special Thank You

We want to recognize the outstanding efforts of our staff following the recent snowstorms. Our maintenance and custodial teams, along with the Medfield Department of Public Works, worked "around the clock" to ensure our buildings were safe and ready for students and staff.

Michael LaFrancesca - Director of Finance and Operations

FY27 Budget Process Update

The Medfield School Committee has approved a proposed FY27 budget of **\$46,646,145** (a 4.59% increase). The Medfield Warrant Committee has provided guidance within Proposition 2½ limits at **\$45,398,389** (a 1.8% increase), creating a current gap of **\$1,247,756**.

Dr. Marsden and I presented to the Warrant Committee on March 2nd and continue working toward a fiscally responsible solution that supports our students and community.

Like many communities, the Town of Medfield is facing financial pressure. Under Proposition 2½, property tax revenue can generally grow only 2.5% per year plus new growth, while costs for health insurance, special education, transportation, utilities, and contractual obligations continue to rise faster. This creates structural budget challenges that require careful planning and community discussion. The Warrant Committee has begun considering the possibility of an override to sustain the level of services our town expects.

For the schools, our priority remains protecting reasonable class sizes, academic programming, student supports, and extracurricular opportunities while maintaining fiscal responsibility.

Thank you for your continued partnership and engagement. We will keep the community informed as the budget process moves forward.

Staff Appreciation

Thank you to the students at Dale Street School who took time to recognize our bus drivers for their dedication to safely transporting students each day.



Mary Bruhl - Director of Student Services



English Learner Education Department (ELE) Update: Understanding ACCESS for ELLs

Each year, English Learners (ELs) in our district participate in the state-mandated ACCESS for ELLs assessment, developed by WIDA. This assessment measures students' progress in learning academic English across four domains: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. ACCESS provides valuable information about how well students are understanding and using English in school and helps educators tailor instruction to meet each student's language needs. The assessment reflects the tremendous growth our English learners make as they develop the language skills needed to fully engage with grade-level content.

ACCESS results also play an important role in determining students' English Learner (EL) or Former English Learner (FEL) status, based on criteria established by the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. When students reach the state-defined level of English proficiency, they formally exit EL services and are reclassified as Former ELs (FELs). This milestone reflects their readiness to access academic content independently while continuing to be monitored to ensure ongoing success. Medfield EL students started the ACCESS testing in January.

Christine Power - Director of Instruction and Innovation



Professional Learning Update

In Medfield Public Schools, the final bell of the day doesn't mark the end of learning. Driven by the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, many of our teachers engage in robust professional development (PD) to support their content knowledge and instructional skills well after student dismissal time.

This past year, Medfield educators participated in a wide array of specialized training, including literacy instruction, social-emotional instructional practices, and support for students' sense of belonging. At present, we are hard at work preparing for our signature professional event— Design Your Learning Day (DLD). Every year, Medfield Public Schools hosts approximately 400 educators from Medfield and area districts for a day of high-level collaboration. This event is well regarded by educators across Eastern Massachusetts and beyond for its high-quality and varied sessions. By bringing together outside experts and our own talented staff, DLD creates a unique space where teachers learn from the best in the field, and from each other, to bring fresh, cutting-edge strategies back to their classrooms.

Professional development in Medfield isn't just top-down; it's a collaborative effort. Professional Learning is planned with the guidance of the district's Professional Development Committee- a group of teachers and administrators that meets regularly to evaluate the district's needs and plan for the future. In addition, teachers can also lead professional development experiences for their peers via book study and workshops.

Regardless of the format it takes, our educators are committed to a lifelong journey of learning. By investing in our teachers, Medfield Public Schools supports active classrooms and supportive learning environments.



UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

March 6 & 7

Medfield High School Spring Musical
 Medfield High School Auditorium
 6:00 pm

March 9

Band-O-Rama
 Medfield High School Auditorium
 7:00 pm

March 10

String Fling
 Medfield High School Auditorium
 7:00 pm

March 11

Incoming 6th Grade Parent Information
 Night
 Blake Middle School
 6:00 pm

March 11

Choral Extravaganza
 Medfield High School Auditorium
 7:00 pm

March 11

Teacher Professional Development
 Early Release Day All Schools

March 19

High School Conferences Grades 9-12
 Early Release - **High School Only**

March 19

Incoming 7th & 8th Grade Parent
 Information Night
 Blake Middle School

6:00 pm

March 20

High School Conferences Grades 9-12
Early Release - **High School Only**

March 26 & 27

Middle School Conferences Grades 6-9
Early Release - **Middle School Only**

March 26

School Committee Meeting
Medfield High School LMC
6:00 pm

**[CLICK HERE](#) FOR FULL EVENT
CALENDAR**

**Inclusivity - Respect - Responsibility - Continuous
Growth**