



**MEETING OF THE  
NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
BUDGET & PROPERTY SUBCOMMITTEE**



Monday, March 9, 2026 ~ 5:00 pm - 6:38 pm  
By Videoconference

MINUTES

Approved: March 20, 2026

Attending: Member Martyn, Member Saner Sullivan, Member Stein  
Also Attending: Business Administrator Jones

Documents Reviewed  
Out-of-School Time Plan  
February 9, 2026 Meeting Minutes

- I. **Announcement** that Meeting is Being Videorecorded
- II. **Roll Call** - Member Stein called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm and the roll was called. This meeting was held by videoconference and the roll and all votes taken were done so remotely.

Amy Martyn	Present
Robbie Saner Sullivan	Present
Michael Stein	Present
QUORUM	Present

- III. **Review of Minutes** - Member Saner Sullivan offered an amendment to the February 9, 2026 minutes. Member Martyn made a motion, seconded by Member Saner Sullivan, to approve the minutes as amended. The roll call vote follows.

Amy Martyn	Aye
Robbie Saner Sullivan	Aye
Michael Stein	Aye
VOTE	Aye 3

Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra	Member Tiffany Jewell	Member Robbie Saner Sullivan	Member Alenda Bartoli
Member Anat Weisenfreund	Member Renika Montgomery-Tamakloe	Member Michael Stein	Member Amy Martyn
	Member Cindy Mahoney	Member Valerie Reiss	

IV. **District-Wide Out-of-School Time Child Care Program** - Member Stein provided background information on the decision to offer District-wide out-of-school time child care. He said that tonight's agenda items should be considered by the Subcommittee.

A. EEC Vouchers - Member Stein said that NPS programs operate under a license from DESE. An opportunity exists to be licensed by the EEC which would make NPS eligible for the State voucher program. Operational considerations include attendance at a two-hour workshop, a new CORI check for providers, and monthly billing. There was discussion about the joint meeting of the Curriculum and Budget & Property Subcommittees that was not scheduled. Member Stein described Leeds' pricing, i.e., no charge for students on the free lunch program and \$7 hourly for others. Business Administrator Jones expressed support for having a voucher program. In response to a question from Member Martyn, Member Stein said that families are connected to the voucher program through DCF and TANF. There is a waiting list. Member Martyn made a motion, seconded by Member Saner Sullivan, to recommend to the School Committee that the out-of-school time program pursue EEC vouchers. The roll call vote follows.

Amy Martyn	Aye
Robbie Saner Sullivan	Aye
Michael Stein	Aye
VOTE	Aye 3

B. Program Hours - Member Stein said that the proposed program offers hours of 2:15 pm to 5:15 pm. He said that there is a desire to have the program extended to 6:00 pm to mirror the Y's program. Member Martyn expressed concern that that would make for a long day for staff and she questioned whether we would be able to find sufficient staff. Member Stein said that external staff could be hired. The financial model for the program was discussed specifically whether it should be a single entity or an every tub on its own bottom model. Business Manager Jones said that if the latter is adopted, we would have to figure out what to do if one of the programs was not solvent. Member Martyn asked about funding sources for start-up costs. Business Manager Jones described three possibilities, i.e., borrowing from the Leeds surplus; including start-up costs in the strong budget; or requesting funds from the City. Member Stein asked whether it was right to use the Leeds surplus and suggested discussing this with the Leeds School Council. Business Manager Jones confirmed that the Leeds program is set up as a statutory revolving account allowed by DESE. Member Martyn made a motion, seconded by Member Saner Sullivan, to recommend to the School Committee that the hours of the out-of-school program be from 2:15 to 6:00. The roll call vote follows.

Amy Martyn	Aye
Robbie Saner Sullivan	Aye
Michael Stein	Aye
VOTE	Aye 3

Member Martyn made a motion, seconded by Member Saner Sullivan, to recommend to the School Committee that the finances of this program be structured to be District-wide and that the Subcommittee engage with Leeds to learn the implications of using their surplus for start-up costs. The roll call vote follows.

Amy Martyn	Aye
Robbie Saner Sullivan	Aye
Michael Stein	Aye
VOTE	Aye 3

- C. Program Capacity - Member Stein said the target program enrollment is 50 percent of all enrolled students. A comparison cannot be made with Leeds because it does not have a Y program. There was a discussion of establishing space usage parameters with the Y program. Member Stein said he would raise this issue at the School Committee meeting.
- D. IEP Amendment Process - Member Stein asked how IEP amendment modifications can be made in advance of the launch of the program. Business Administrator Jones described the significant budgetary issues raised including, but not limited to, transportation, 1:1 paraeducators, 1:1 nurses, and potential overtime. She suggested putting Superintendent Bonner’s presentation back on the agenda. Member Stein said the presentation will need to be modified based on these decisions.
- E. Rate Scale and Options - The Subcommittee discussed the possibility of adopting a sliding scale fee structure for which Members Saner Sullivan and Martyn expressed support. Business Administrator Jones said that she would prefer to have history before doing this, that she is not opposed, and that she wants the program to be sustainable. Member Saner Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Member Martyn, to include a higher-end option for pay in the District-wide after-school program as an opt-in for caregivers that want to do that. The roll call vote follows.

Amy Martyn	Aye
------------	-----

Robbie Saner Sullivan	Aye
Michael Stein	Aye
VOTE	Aye 3

F. Subcommittee Next Steps - Member Stein said that, assuming the School Committee accepts the Subcommittee’s recommendations, these would be next steps for the next meeting. Member Saner Sullivan asked whether, given her network of knowledge, Superintendent Bonner couldn’t accomplish this faster. Member Stein responded that Superintendent Bonner didn’t want this program, she didn’t work with the two subcommittees, that the bar for trust is low, and that oversight is required. There was discussion about the role of the Subcommittee and the responsibilities of the Superintendent.

G. Enrichment Programs - Not discussed.

**V. Mid-Year Appropriation Request**

A. Capital Spending Items and CIP - Member Stein said he wants more visibility in capital expenses.

B. Directive to ALT for Mid-Year Requests - Member Stein said the Committee’s request was different from what was put forward by the Mayor and expressed dissatisfaction with the process. Member Martyn said that there will be a CIP presentation in October and that she would prefer to focus on the FY27 budget. Business Administrator Jones described the time pressures involved with the mid-year appropriation. Member Saner Sullivan asked to table this discussion. Business Administrator Jones said that job descriptions associated with the appropriation have been posted.

VI. **FY27 Budgets** - Business Administrator Jones reported that the level service budget represents a 6.4 percent increase, the Mayor’s budget is a 5.5 percent increase, and the strong budget is an over 14 percent increase. There is a \$500,000 gap between the Mayor’s budget and the level services budget. She said that there are increases in addition to staff costs including, but not limited to, utilities and transportation.

IV. **Future Meeting Topics and Dates** - Business Administrator Jones said that she wants to provide an in-depth quarterly report in April and that she wants this to be a regular agenda item. The following meeting dates were scheduled: Friday, March 20, 4:30 pm, Monday, April 6, 5:00 pm; and Monday, April 13, 5:00 pm.

V. **Adjourn** - Member Saner Sullivan made a motion, seconded by Member Stein, to adjourn. The roll call vote follows.

Amy Martyn	Aye
------------	-----

Robbie Saner Sullivan	Aye
Michael Stein	Aye
VOTE	Aye 3

The meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm.

Draft