
**FINANCE & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20, 2026
NHS NORTH BOARD ROOM**

A meeting of the Finance and Operations Committee was held at NHS North on Tuesday, January 20, 2026 Ms. Lamphier called the meeting to order at 4:50 pm.

Present: Ms. Lamphier, Mr. Salvi (by phone)

Also Present: Ms. De Gray, Mr. Smith, Dr. Rodriguez, Mr. Beer

Also Present: Members of the Public, Channel 22 Videographer

Note: The meeting was held without an in-person quorum due to one member participating by telephone and due to newly appointed board members being unaware of the in-person quorum requirement.

Plant Operations

- Mr. Smith provided an overview of the solar panels installed on four schools: Dr. Crisp, Fairgrounds, Pennichuck, and McCarthy.
- The solar panels were installed in 2021 and 2023, and the cost effectiveness is compared to 2019.
- The savings are approximately \$5,000 per month for three schools, with McCarthy not having data for comparison.
- The electricity produced is only used for 46-47%, with the rest going into the grid.
- Mr. Smith explained the purchase payment agreement (PPA) and the annual payments over a 20-year lease.
- The \$5,000 savings is free and clear after all bills are paid.
- Mr. Smith discusses the overproduction of electricity and the potential for storing energy with batteries.
- The state legislature and space constraints limit the use of batteries, and the option to purchase the fields after six years is discussed.
- Mr. Smith compared McCarthy Middle School electricity and natural gas usage to the now closed Elm Street Middle School.
- The new school uses twice as much electricity due to air handlers, fans, and energy-efficient electronics. Despite higher electricity usage, the new school uses about a third of the natural gas, saving money.
- Ms. Lamphier and Mr. Smith discussed the efficiency of the new school's energy-efficient boilers and insulation.
- The savings on natural gas are significant, contributing to overall cost savings.

Technology

- Dr. Rodriguez presented a request to purchase 100 laptops to replace some of the aging inventory.
- The laptops are priced at \$598.49 each, with a total cost not to exceed \$100,000.

- Ms. De Gray adds that the laptops were included in the budget presentation last year and recommends approval.
- Dr. Rodriguez answered questions.

Ms. Lamphier moved, seconded by Mr. Salvi, to approve the purchase of 100 laptops for staff (replace aging equipment) from IT Insiders at a cost not to exceed \$100,000.00. Budget line 91.1.992225.71228 Computer Equipment. Motion passes 2-0.

Special Education

- Mr. Beer presented six special education service contracts. Providers include:
 - NextStep (2)
 - Heaven Sent
 - Applied ABC (3)
- Lengthy discussion ensued with Mr. Beer and Ms. De Gray answering several questions.

Ms. Lamphier moved, seconded by Mr. Salvi, to approve the Special Education Contracts listed on the F&O Memo dated January 20, 2026 under their corresponding accounts. Motion passes 2-0.

Ms. De Gray reviewed the quarterly credit card report (information only).

Ms. De Gray presented the FY26 December financial report (information only).

Ms. De Gray reviewed the FY26 December transfer report.

Discussion and questions followed.

Ms. Lamphier moved, seconded by Mr. Salvi, to approve the FY26 December Transfer Report. Motion passes 2-0.

Ms. Lamphier moved, seconded by Mr. Salvi, to adjourn at approximately 5:53 pm. Motion passes 2-0.

Submitted by Gail Porter