
**BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026
NHS NORTH BOARD ROOM**

A budget meeting of the Board of Education was held at NHS North on Wednesday, February 18, 2026. Ms. Lamphier called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Present: Ms. Giglio, Ms. Prinn, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Salvi, Ms. Lamphier, Ms. Lopez, Ms. Bishop

Also Present: Dr. Andrade, Mr. Poska, Dr. Scarpati, Ms. De Gray, Mr. Bowse

Also Present: Members of the Public, Channel 99 Videographer

Summary: Dr. Andrade presented data on student demographics, noting a 9500-student district with a \$191 million budget, including benefits, and an average class size of 19.4. He highlighted a 6% budget increase request, citing a need for 56 position cuts, including 21 high school teachers. The proposal includes a shift to a five-block high school schedule to maintain course offerings amid staff reductions. Concerns were raised about the impact on ELL and special education students, and the potential for additional cuts if the budget request is not met. The public hearing is scheduled for March 9.

Dr. Andrade begins the presentation, focusing on the number of students in athletics with IEPs, ELL, and 504s.

Dr. Andrade provided an overview of the district's numbers, including 9500 students, a \$191 million budget, an average class size of 19.4, over 2000 staff members, 797 graduates in 2025, and 49 spoken languages.

Discussion on Student Demographics and Inclusion:

- Dr. Andrade highlights the increase in ELL and special education students, noting the need for more services.
- A question is raised about pre-education programs for ELL and special education students, and Dr. Andrade discusses early identification and proactive measures.

Class Sizes and Enrollment Projections:

- Dr. Andrade presents projected class sizes for the upcoming year, noting variations at the elementary level.
- Dr. Scarpati discusses the impact of open enrollment and kindergarten registration on class sizes.
- Dr. Andrade highlights the projected enrollment for middle and high schools, noting fluctuations in certain grades.
- Keith Richard and Nate Burns discuss the potential impact of staff reductions on high school schedules and the introduction of a five-block schedule.

High School Schedule Redesign Proposal:

- Keith Richard and Nate Burns explain the rationale behind the five-block schedule, including increased flexibility and reduced class sizes.
- The proposal aims to maintain comprehensive high school offerings while minimizing disruptions and ensuring safe supervision.
- The new schedule would allow teachers to teach seven courses instead of six, reducing the need to eliminate programs.
- Concerns are raised about the loss of E block and its impact on student support and intervention time.

Budget Increase and Staff Reductions:

- Dr. Andrade presents the proposed budget increase of 6%, emphasizing the need for bold, courageous conversations.
- Ms. De Gray outlines the major budget increases, including transportation, staffing services, and special education contract services.
- The proposal includes reducing 56 positions, with the biggest impact at the high school level, to achieve the 6% increase.
- Concerns are raised about the impact of staff reductions on student support and the potential need for additional cuts if the budget request is not met.

Community Survey and Public Hearing:

- A question is raised about taking a community survey to gauge support for the budget request.
- Dr. Andrade explains that a public hearing will be held on March 9 for community input, with a potential vote on March 11.
- The importance of advocating for the budget request and the potential impact of additional cuts are discussed.
- Board members express their support for the proposed budget and the need for continued collaboration.

Ms. Giglio moved, seconded by Ms. Prinn, to adjourn at 7:28 pm. Motion passed 8-0.

Submitted by Gail Porter