
**BOE PUBLIC HEARING
MONDAY, MARCH 9, 2026
NHS NORTH BOARD ROOM**

The Board of Education held a public hearing at the NHS North Board Room on Monday, March 9, 2026. Ms. Bishop called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Present: Ms. Giglio, Ms. Prinn, Mr. Johnson, Ms. Raymond, Ms. Lewis, Mr. Salvi (6:11 pm), Ms. Lamphier, Ms. Lopez, and Ms. Bishop

Also Present: Dr. Andrade, Mr. Poska, Dr. Scarpati, Ms. De Gray, Saanvi Praturu (6:04 pm)

The BOE Public Hearing focused on Nashua School District FY27 Budget.

Stephen Scaer, 111 East Hobart Street, Nashua

- Mr. Scaer addressed the rising special education costs and the challenges in hiring special education teachers.
- He highlighted the demanding job requirements, bureaucratic hurdles, and unrealistic state standards as major issues.
- Mr. Scaer suggested local and state-level solutions to make the job more appealing and to adjust standards to better support students.
- He emphasized the need for clerical support and lower caseload sizes to improve the attractiveness of special education positions.

Gary Hoffman, 38 Perham Drive, Nashua

- Mr. Hoffman, President of the Nashua Teachers' Union, urged the board to pass the superintendent's recommended budget.
- He explained that the 6% increase is primarily due to special education costs and other uncontrollable factors, not salaries.
- Mr. Hoffman pointed out that adjusted for inflation, average teacher salaries have decreased, and he called for statewide special education funding.
- He also raised concerns about the disproportionate impact of budget cuts on the high school and the need for collaboration with the teachers' union on the new high school schedule.

Kenneth Heaton, Nashua

- Mr. Heaton, a social studies teacher at Nashua High School South, supported the budget proposal but raised concerns about the new high school schedule.
- He described the challenges teachers face in adapting to the new schedule and the need for policy changes to support them.
- Mr. Heaton outlined three key policies needed to make the new schedule work: lower class sizes, more time for curriculum realignment, and a structured study hall policy.
- He emphasized the importance of addressing these issues before the new schedule takes effect to ensure the best learning environment for students.

Jennifer Byrne, 155 Westwood Drive, Nashua

- Ms. Byrne, a parent and teacher, expressed concerns about the new schedule and its impact on students and teachers.
- She shared her experience co-teaching with a special educator, the challenges posed by students with high absenteeism, and the need for an attendance policy and better support for students to improve classroom performance.

- She also criticized the new schedule for not addressing the root causes of educational issues and calls for a more human-touch approach.

Richard Tino, 11 Burnside Street, Nashua

- Mr. Tino urged the board to make smart budgeting decisions and not rely on the aldermen for additional funding.
- He emphasized the importance of efficient allocation of resources and the need to close underutilized buildings to save money.
- Mr. Tino called for the board to think critically about the district's future, make long-term choices to address the district's needs, and make hard choices to support education effectively.

Beverly Mann, Nashua

- Ms. Mann advocated for the preservation of New Searles Elementary School, emphasizing its importance as a neighborhood school.
- She expressed concern about the potential closure of the school and the impact on the community.
- Ms. Mann also criticized the banning of books and calls for the restoration of access to diverse literature for students.

Kevin Fitzpatrick, Nashua

- Mr. Fitzpatrick, a special education (social studies) teacher, opposed the idea of cutting schools and emphasized the need for better support for education.
- He pointed out the lack of job opportunities in the city and the low starting wages for teachers, making it difficult to attract and retain talent.
- Mr. Fitzpatrick called for the board to be brave in asking for necessary resources to educate the population effectively.

Bill Ferraro, Indian Rock Road, Nashua (Read by Heather Raymond)

- Mr. Ferreiro asked about the funding status of the 192 open positions in the 2027 budget.
- Ms. De Gray explained that the positions include summer positions for special education teachers and paraeducators, as well as positions to offset current contractors.
- Mr. Ferraro asked a follow-up on the total dollar amount for wages and benefits for unfilled positions in the 2027 budget.
- Krystal De Gray agreed to provide a specific follow-up to the question.

The public hearing concluded.

Ms. Bishop moved, seconded by Ms. Giglio, to adjourn at 6:30 pm. Motion passes 9-0.

Submitted by Tara C. Kinsella