



SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Thursday, January 5, 2026

LOCATION

City Hall, 36 Court Street, 2 FLR,
Room 220, Springfield, MA

I. CALL TO ORDER – ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – ROLL CALL

The Vice Chair, Ms. Monroe-Naylor called the Organizational Meeting to order at 12:33 PM.

A. Invocation

The meeting began with a moment of silence dedicated to Coach Shepherd.

B. Posting of the Colors

The presenting of the colors was led by Central High School's Airforce JROTC.

C. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by the Vice Chair, Ms. Monroe-Naylor.

II. SWEARING IN:

A. Swear in New and Formerly Elected School Committee Members.

The proceedings transitioned to City Clerk Gladys Oyola, who administered the swearing-in ceremony for the Springfield School Committee members. Both newly elected and returning members were asked to stand, raise their right hands, and repeat the oath of office. The oath affirmed their commitment to uphold the Constitutions of the United States and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, adhere to state laws and local ordinances, follow School Committee rules, and faithfully and impartially perform their duties as School Committee members. The ceremony concluded with congratulations to the members upon completion of the oath.

B. Establish Voting Order.

Vice Chair, Ms. Monroe-Naylor turned the proceedings over to the School Committee clerk, Mr. Vargas, to establish the voting order for the committee. Members were asked to draw numbered cards, which were then used to determine seating assignments and the sequence for voting. As each member's number was called, they were directed to move to the corresponding seat, ensuring the proper order was set. After confirming that all members were correctly seated and



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accounted for, the chair noted that the committee was ready to proceed with the upcoming voting items.

III. VOTING ITEMS:

A. Nomination and election of Vice-Chairperson.

A nomination by Ms. Hurst was made for Ms. Latonia Monroe-Naylor to serve as Vice Chair of the Springfield School Committee, and the nomination was seconded by Ms. Gresham. With no discussion requested, the re-elected Vice Chair directed the clerk to call the roll to proceed with the vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Valentin - Yes
Ms. Crawford - Yes
Ms. Hurst - Yes
Mr. Gomez, Jr. - Yes
Ms. Gresham - Yes
Ms. Monroe-Naylor (Vice Chair) - Yes
Mayor Sarno (Chair) - Absent

Motion passes to approve the nomination and election of Ms. Latonia Monroe-Naylor as the Vice-Chairperson of the School Committee.

B. Approval of Rules and Regulations of the School Committee: Robert's Rules of Order.

Attorney Keefe was invited to explain the purpose of Robert's Rules for newer members, noting that they serve as the parliamentary procedures governing how meetings are conducted, including how motions are made and how votes are taken. He explained that the rules provide a structured framework for running meetings and that reference materials are available for members.

With no further questions, a motion was made by Ms. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Gomez, Jr.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Valentin - Yes
Ms. Crawford - Yes
Ms. Hurst - Yes
Mr. Gomez, Jr. - Yes
Ms. Gresham - Yes
Ms. Monroe-Naylor (Vice Chair) - Yes
Mayor Sarno (Chair) - Absent

Motion passes to approve the Rules and Regulations of the School Committees Rules of Order.

C. Vote to amend the name of "Vocational Education Subcommittee" to "Career Technical



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Education Subcommittee."

The committee considered a vote to amend the name of the Vocational Education Subcommittee to the Career Technical Education Subcommittee. The change was proposed to align with existing rules and regulations and to reflect the expansion of technical programs beyond Putnam, ensuring the subcommittee represents all career and technical education programs within the district.

With no further questions a motion was made by Ms. Hurst and seconded by Ms. Gresham.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Valentin - Yes
Ms. Crawford - Yes
Ms. Hurst - Yes
Mr. Gomez, Jr. - Yes
Ms. Gresham - Yes
Ms. Monroe-Naylor (Vice Chair) - Yes
Mayor Sarno (Chair) - Absent

Motion passes to amend the name of "Vocational Education Subcommittee" to "Career Technical Education Subcommittee."

- D. Vote to amend references to "Vocational Education" and "Vocational Technical Education" in School Committee Policies to "Career Technical Education."

With no further questions a motion was made by Ms. Hurst and seconded by Mr. Gomez, Jr.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Valentin - Yes
Ms. Crawford - Yes
Ms. Hurst - Yes
Mr. Gomez, Jr. - Yes
Ms. Gresham - Yes
Ms. Monroe-Naylor (Vice Chair) - Yes
Mayor Sarno (Chair) - Absent

Motion passes to amend references to "Vocational Education" and "Vocational Technical Education" in School Committee Policies to "Career Technical Education."

- E. Vote to establish Chairpersons to Standing Committees.

The Clerk distributed the proposed subcommittee assignments, allowing members time to review their roles, including committee membership and chair responsibilities. It was noted that each committee member is expected to chair at least one subcommittee.

The proposed chair assignments were then presented: Ms. Monroe Naylor for Budget and



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Finance; Ms. Gresham for School Safety; Mr. Gomez, Jr. for Buildings and Maintenance; Ms. Gresham for Student/Parent Concerns; Ms. Hurst for Curriculum and Programs; Ms. Monroe-Naylor for Technology; Ms. Crawford for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Ms. Crawford for Legislative and Contracts; Mr. Gomez Jr. for Career Technical Education; and Ms. Valentin for Innovation School.f

With no further questions a motion was made by Ms. Gresham and seconded by Ms. Crawford.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Valentin - Yes
Ms. Crawford - Yes
Ms. Hurst - Yes
Mr. Gomez, Jr. - Yes
Ms. Gresham - Yes
Ms. Monroe-Naylor (Vice Chair) - Yes
Mayor Sarno (Chair) - Absent

Motion passes to establish Chairpersons to Standing Committees as noted.

F. Vote to establish an Innovation School Special Subcommittee.

The committee considered a vote to establish an Innovation School Subcommittee, a newly proposed subcommittee that will be overseen by Mrs. Valentin. Attorney Keefe was invited to provide an overview for committee members and the public, explaining that the purpose of the subcommittee is to support the transition of SEZP schools and their reintegration into the district as innovation schools. The subcommittee will assist the district throughout this process and make recommendations to the full School Committee regarding any necessary policy changes to support the transition.

With no further questions a motion was made by Ms. Gresham and seconded by Ms. Crawford.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Valentin - Yes
Ms. Crawford - Yes
Ms. Hurst - Yes
Mr. Gomez, Jr. - Yes
Ms. Gresham - Yes
Ms. Monroe-Naylor (Vice Chair) - Yes
Mayor Sarno (Chair) - Absent

Motion passes to establish an Innovation School Special Subcommittee.

G. Vote to accept Committee Vice-Chairperson's recommendation for appointment of chairperson and members to the Innovation School Special Subcommittee.



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With no further questions a motion was made by Ms. Hurst and seconded by Ms. Gresham.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Valentin - Yes
Ms. Crawford - Yes
Ms. Hurst - Yes
Mr. Gomez, Jr. - Yes
Ms. Gresham - Yes
Ms. Monroe-Naylor (Vice Chair) - Yes
Mayor Sarno (Chair) - Absent

Motion passes to accept Committee Vice-Chairperson's recommendation for appointment of Ms. Rosa Valentin as Chairperson and Ms. Denise Hurst and Ms. Barbara Gresham as members to the Innovation School Special Subcommittee.

IV. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Attorneys Melissa Murray and Ian Keefe to review ethics rules and regulations, open meeting law and public documents.

Attorney Murray, joined by Attorney Keefe, presented the annual review of required laws and regulations governing public officials, including the ethics law, open meeting law, and public records law.

Attorney Murray explained that members received materials outlining these requirements, along with acknowledgments and training obligations. She emphasized the need for annual review of conflict of interest laws, completion of mandatory ethics training every two years, and submission of required acknowledgments. Key points included prohibitions against misuse of position, self-dealing, nepotism, and improper gifts, as well as the importance of avoiding both actual and perceived conflicts of interest.

She also highlighted the open meeting law, noting the requirements for transparency, quorum, and what constitutes deliberation, including the risks of email communications outside of public meetings. Finally, she reviewed public records obligations, stressing that communications created by members are public records and encouraging the use of official Springfield Public Schools email accounts.

It was noted that the Chair, Mayor Sarno arrived at the meeting at 1:18 PM. On a motion made by Ms. Monroe-Naylor and seconded by Ms. Gresham, it was voted to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call Vote to Adjourn:

Ms. Valentin - Yes
Ms. Crawford - Yes
Ms. Hurst - Yes
Mr. Gomez, Jr. - Yes



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Ms. Gresham - Yes
Ms. Monroe-Naylor (Vice Chair) - Yes
Mayor Sarno (Chair) - Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 1:29 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Triny Vargas
Executive Assistant to the School Committee