



Springfield Public Schools
Office of the School Committee
1550 Main Street, 2 FLR
Springfield, MA 01103-1410

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS

MINUTES OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING

Thursday, March 12, 2026

LOCATION

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

I. CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR MEETING – ROLL CALL

The Chair, Mayor Sarno called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

Roll Call Attendance:

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

A. Invocation

The meeting began with a moment of silence.

B. Pledge of Allegiance

The pledge of allegiance was led by the Chair, Mayor Sarno.

II. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

III. INFORMATIONAL/DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Discuss Superintendent Proposed Goals for SY25-26.

The School Committee received and discussed the Superintendent's proposed goals for the 2025–2026 school year. Superintendent Dr. Dinnall presented the draft goals to the committee, noting that the purpose of the presentation was to ensure full transparency and compliance with Massachusetts General State Law. The Superintendent stated that the proposed goals were aligned with the district's strategic priorities and were being shared publicly for review and discussion.

The Superintendent first outlined the Student Learning Goals, which included three proposed



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objectives for the 2025–2026 school year. The first goal is to increase the percentage of Grade 2 students reading at or above grade level by June 2026, as measured by end-of-year results from the i-Ready diagnostic assessment. The second goal is to improve the district’s mean average scale scores on the Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) in English language arts, mathematics, and science for Grades 3 through 8 in 2026 relative to the 2025 administration. The third student learning goal is to increase both the number and percentage of students who successfully complete advanced coursework by June 2026, as documented through the reporting system of the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The Superintendent then presented the District Improvement Goals. The first goal focuses on increasing the proportion of district staff who identify as racially diverse to more closely reflect the demographics of the student population and promote a more inclusive and equitable educational environment, as measured through district workforce data. The second district improvement goal is to provide leadership, resources, implementation support, and ongoing progress monitoring for middle school mathematics programming designed to increase the number and percentage of middle school students who enroll in and successfully complete Algebra I, or an equivalent course, by June 2026, as measured by district enrollment and course completion data.

The Superintendent also reviewed the Professional Practice Goals. These include leading the development and implementation of a district-wide classroom observation initiative aimed at strengthening the quality and consistency of Tier 1 instruction across all schools, with a focus on evidence-based instructional practices that support the development of foundational skills for all students. The final professional practice goal is to develop, communicate, and implement a comprehensive five-year district strategic growth plan aligned with the district’s Portrait of a Graduate framework, with the intent of fostering a shared commitment to high-quality teaching and learning, rigorous academic expectations, and equitable outcomes for all students.

Following the presentation, Mayor Sarno acknowledged that the Superintendent had previously shared the draft goals with both the Chair and Vice Chair and stated that they were in agreement with the Superintendent’s goals and continued vision for moving the school system forward.

Ms. Hurst expressed appreciation for the Superintendent’s transparency in sharing the goals publicly, noting that this had not necessarily been done in the past and stating that it was beneficial for the public to hear the proposed direction of the district. No further questions or comments were offered by the School Committee members. The discussion concluded with thanks extended to the Superintendent for the presentation.

IV. VOTING ITEMS:

- A. Vote to approve Superintendent Dr. Dinnall’s Proposed Goals for SY25-26.

With no further questions, a motion was made by Ms. Monroe Naylor and seconded by Ms. Hurst.

Roll Call Vote:



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

Motion passes to approve Superintendent Dr. Dinnall's Proposed Goals for SY25-26.

- B. Vote to approve White Street Elementary School's overnight field trip request to Red Gate Farm in Ashfield, MA on May 27, 2026, and returning May 29, 2026.

With no further questions, a motion was made by Ms. Monroe Naylor and seconded by Ms. Valentin.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passes to approve White Street Elementary School's overnight field trip request to Red Gate Farm in Ashfield, MA on May 27, 2026, and returning May 29, 2026.

- C. Vote to approve the amended CTE Admission Regulations Policy.

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

Motion passes to approve the amended CTE Admission Regulations Policy.

- D. Vote to approve the amended Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy.



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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passes to approve the amended Middle School Pathway Exploration Policy.

- E. Vote to approve the extension of the Norris, Murray and Peloquin LLC Contract (20250390) through June 30, 2026, and increase the not-to exceed amount to \$200,000.

With no further questions, a motion was made by Ms. Monroe Naylor and seconded by Ms. Hurst.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passes to approve the extension of the Norris, Murray and Peloquin LLC Contract (20250390) through June 30, 2026, and increase the not-to exceed amount to \$200,000.

- F. Vote to approve to enter into a new contract with Norris, Murray and Peloquin, LLC for the term of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 for a not-to exceed amount of \$150,000 with a 1-year option to renew from July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028 with all other terms the same.

With no further questions, a motion was made by Ms. Monroe Naylor and seconded by Ms. Crawford.

Roll Call Vote:

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



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

Motion passes to approve to enter into a new contract with Norris, Murray and Peloquin, LLC for the term of July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027 for a not-to exceed amount of \$150,000 with a 1-year option to renew from July 1, 2027 to June 30, 2028 with all other terms the same.

- G. Vote to approve the Assistant Superintendent of Community Engagement, Family Empowerment and Partnerships contract.

With no further questions, a motion was made by Ms. Monroe Naylor and seconded by Ms. Crawford.

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passes to approve the Assistant Superintendent of Community Engagement, Family Empowerment and Partnerships contract.

- H. Vote to approve the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development contract.

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

Roll Call Vote:

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

Motion passes to approve the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum, Instruction, and Professional Development contract.

V. PRESENTATIONS:



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A. Human Resources: Recruit, Retrain.

The School Committee received a comprehensive presentation from the Human Resources Department regarding ongoing efforts to strengthen recruitment, retention, and professional development across Springfield Public Schools. Chief Valerie Williams introduced the presentation by emphasizing the critical role Human Resources plays in supporting the overall health and effectiveness of educators and staff, which directly impacts student success.

Chief Williams introduced the senior leadership team and highlighted the collaborative structure of the department, noting that coordinated efforts across roles are essential to meeting district staffing needs.

The presentation outlined current recruitment strategies, including outreach at local, regional, and national events such as job fairs, community events, and targeted recruitment venues. The district utilizes television and radio advertising, billboards, social media, and centralized job posting platforms that distribute listings across major employment websites. In addition, the district conducts targeted recruitment at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), Hispanic-Serving Institutions, and in Puerto Rico to strengthen workforce diversity. The Committee discussed the importance of continuing to expand these efforts, including targeted outreach to underrepresented groups such as male educators and candidates with local or regional ties to Springfield.

Human Resources reported progress toward increasing staff diversity, noting that approximately 44% of staff currently identify as racially diverse, with steady annual growth. The district will continue refining recruitment strategies and tracking workforce trends to better align staff demographics with the student population.

The committee received detailed information on pipeline development initiatives, particularly the paraeducator-to-teacher pipeline. This program supports paraprofessionals in obtaining credentials and transitioning into teaching roles through structured partnerships with local institutions such as Holyoke Community College and Springfield Technical Community College. The program includes internships, direct employment opportunities, and pathways to four-year degree completion, resulting in intentionally high placement rates. The district will continue expanding these “grow your own” strategies, including early college and high school-based teacher pipeline programs, to sustain long-term workforce development.

Additional partnerships include a grant-funded collaboration with the University of Massachusetts Amherst and participation in national recruitment consortia. The Committee noted the competitive nature of educator recruitment and the importance of maintaining strong partnerships and visibility in these spaces.

The presentation also addressed licensure and certification support, particularly related to the Massachusetts Tests for Educator Licensure (MTEL). Human Resources provides preparation courses, financial assistance through test vouchers, and individualized coaching supports. The district also offers SEI endorsement courses and structured guidance programs for special education licensure at no cost to educators. These initiatives reduce barriers to certification and support staff advancement. The district will continue to expand these supports to improve



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certification rates and strengthen the educator pipeline.

The committee reviewed mentorship and retention efforts, including a comprehensive new educator orientation program and ongoing coaching support. New educators participate in a structured onboarding experience designed to introduce district systems, instructional priorities, and available resources. Multi-tiered coaching models provide targeted support for early-career educators, specialized instructional roles, and non-instructional staff. The district will continue enhancing these efforts, including exploring opportunities to incorporate additional community partners into orientation programming to further support staff integration and engagement.

During discussion, school committee members expressed appreciation for the depth and quality of the presentation and the strategic approach to workforce development. Members raised questions regarding recruitment of male educators, workforce demographics such as average age, and trends in hiring and attrition. In response, Human Resources indicated that targeted recruitment efforts are ongoing and that additional workforce data, including hiring trends, attrition rates, and exit interview findings, will be shared with the Committee to support future planning and decision-making.

Committee members also highlighted the effectiveness of internal pipeline programs and district-led professional development, as well as the importance of sustaining partnerships with local colleges and universities. The discussion reinforced the need for continued innovation and data-informed strategies to address staffing challenges and improve retention outcomes.

Public acknowledgment was given to the Human Resources Department for its comprehensive systems of support, strong organizational practices, and commitment to educator development.

B. Data on Graduation Rate and Drop-Out Rate.

The School Committee received a report on district graduation and dropout rates, reflecting outcomes for recent graduating classes and overall student trends. Mayor Sarno introduced the item, noting that the district continues to rebound from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and is moving back toward previously higher performance levels.

Superintendent Dr. Dinnall expressed appreciation for the work of the data and accountability team in ensuring accuracy and transparency in reporting. The Superintendent noted that the district was pleased to share positive progress with both the School Committee and the broader community.

The administration reported that the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education released statewide graduation data for the Class of 2025. The district presented a multi-year analysis of the four-year graduation rate, which measures the percentage of students graduating within four years of entering ninth grade. The district's graduation rate increased significantly from 78.6% in 2024 to 82.0% in 2025. It was noted that this improvement may be partially attributed to changes in state graduation requirements, including the removal of the MCAS competency determination requirement.

The committee also reviewed the five-year extended engagement rate, which reflects the



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percentage of students who either graduated or remained enrolled five years after entering high school. While a slight decrease was observed for the most recent reporting year, this trend aligned with prior fluctuations in cohort graduation outcomes. The administration emphasized that extended engagement rates remain higher than four-year graduation rates due to the additional time provided for student completion.

The annual dropout rate showed continued improvement, decreasing from 3.9% in 2024 to 3.3% in 2025. This represents one of the lowest dropout rates observed since 2008, excluding pandemic-impacted years. The committee acknowledged this as a strong indicator of progress in student retention and engagement.

The presentation included subgroup data analysis, comparing district performance to statewide outcomes. While an overall gap remains between district and state graduation rates, the data showed that gaps are significantly smaller among specific student groups. Graduation rates for African American and Hispanic students were nearly equivalent to statewide rates, with minimal differences. Multilingual learners and low-income students also demonstrated relatively small gaps compared to state averages. However, a notable disparity remains for students identified as exceptional learners, where graduation rates lag behind statewide counterparts. Similarly, while dropout rates for several subgroups were equal to or lower than state averages—including Hispanic students, multilingual learners, and low-income students—the dropout rate for exceptional learners remained higher than the state.

School-level data indicated that nearly all high schools experienced improvements in graduation rates, with several notable gains. Central High School increased its graduation rate by 6.4 percentage points, and the Conservatory achieved a 100% graduation rate. Additionally, the Conservatory reported a 0% dropout rate for the second consecutive year. Clarification was provided regarding data for smaller programs, noting that limited cohort sizes may impact percentage reporting and should be interpreted with context.

During discussion, school committee members acknowledged the district's continued recovery and progress toward pre-pandemic performance levels. The data was recognized as a reflection of district-wide efforts and collaboration across schools and departments. Members highlighted the significance of achieving parity with or exceeding state averages among several student subgroups as an important milestone.

The discussion also reinforced the need for continued focus on areas of disparity, particularly for exceptional learners, as well as sustained strategies to improve both graduation and retention outcomes. The district will continue monitoring subgroup performance, refining targeted supports, and using data to inform instructional and intervention strategies. Ongoing analysis of cohort trends and school-level performance will support continued progress.

VI. REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:

A. Student and Parent Concerns (Ms. Gresham, Chair)

- a. No report.



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B. Buildings and Maintenance (Mr. Gomez, Jr., Chair)

- a. The chair gave a report from the School Building and Maintenance Subcommittee regarding its meeting held on March 11. The subcommittee discussed ongoing considerations related to the naming of the Chestnut Accelerated Middle School gymnasium in honor of a student. An update was provided indicating that there has been continued communication with the student's family. The subcommittee reviewed the existing naming policy, raised questions, and is consulting with legal counsel while exploring alternative options. The matter remains under discussion and was tabled for further review.

The subcommittee also received an update on upcoming school building projects, including the proposed project at the Gerena School. A presentation outlined the projected timeline, with construction anticipated to begin in September 2025 and completion expected by June 2030. A community forum is scheduled to take place at the Gerena School on March 24 to provide an opportunity for public input and engagement.

Moving forward, the subcommittee will continue reviewing the gymnasium naming request in consultation with legal counsel and policy guidance, while also advancing community engagement efforts related to the Gerena School project and monitoring project planning milestones.

C. Legislative and Contracts (Ms. Crawford, Chair)

- a. The chair gave a report from the Legislative and Contracts Subcommittee regarding a recent meeting described as robust and substantive in nature. The subcommittee reviewed and discussed multiple agenda items, including facility naming protocols, individual contractual matters, proposed increases to GIC benefits, and an audit related to the district's food service vendor.

It was reported that four items were voted on during the meeting. The subcommittee also reviewed audit findings and noted that while some areas required mitigation, district leadership and staff responded promptly to address identified concerns. The work of the food service team was acknowledged for its responsiveness in implementing corrective actions.

The Chair emphasized the importance of subcommittee work, noting that much of the detailed review and analysis occurs at the subcommittee level prior to full School Committee action. It was also noted that these meetings are available for public viewing through Springfield Focus and the district's website for additional transparency and information.

Moving forward, the subcommittee will continue monitoring contractual matters, benefit-related proposals, audit follow-up actions, and policy considerations related to facility naming protocols, with continued updates provided to the full Committee as needed.

D. Curriculum and Programs (Ms. Hurst, Chair)



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- a. No report.

E. Budget and Finance (Ms. Monroe Naylor, Chair)

- a. The chair gave an update regarding recent budget engagement efforts. It was reported that a recent public hearing was well attended, with strong community participation. The district has implemented a comprehensive outreach strategy to ensure families and community members are informed about opportunities to provide input on the upcoming budget.

Communication efforts have included robocalls, school-based notifications, emails, and other outreach methods to increase awareness. Information regarding the budget process and upcoming engagement opportunities is being widely distributed. Additionally, plans are in place to ensure public access to the draft budget once available, including physical availability at community centers, local libraries, and the district's central office.

The subcommittee acknowledged the efforts of district staff, including the communications team, in supporting outreach and engagement. Moving forward, the district will continue to expand community awareness, facilitate public input opportunities, and ensure accessible distribution of budget materials across multiple locations.

F. Career Technical Education (Mr. Gomez, Jr., Chair)

- a. The chair gave an update regarding a recent Chapter 74 meeting held on February 26 at Putnam High School. It was reported that principals from Putnam Vocational Technical Academy and Springfield Technical High School (SciTech) presented their respective programs. The meeting provided an overview of offerings and initiatives within Chapter 74 vocational programs.

Mr. Gomez, Jr. noted that this was their first time attending the meeting and described the session as comprehensive, with a significant amount of information shared. Interest was expressed in continuing engagement and gaining deeper insight into program outcomes, particularly through hearing directly from students in future meetings.

The committee was informed that details for the next meeting will be communicated to the public once scheduled, with the intent of encouraging broader community participation and awareness. Moving forward, the district will continue to provide updates on Chapter 74 programming, increase opportunities for student voice in presentations, and ensure timely communication to the community regarding upcoming meetings.

G. Technology (Ms. Monroe-Naylor, Chair)

- a. No report.



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H. School Safety (Ms. Gresham, Chair)

- a. No report.

I. Diversity/Equity/Inclusion (Ms. Crawford, Chair)

- a. Scheduled upcoming subcommittee meeting on April 1st.

J. Innovation School (Ms. Valentin, Chair)

- a. The chair gave an update regarding the district's Innovation Schools initiative. It was reported that, under the leadership of district administration and school leadership, progress continues on the proposed Innovation School plans.

Ms. Valentin noted that educators within the participating schools have now approved their school-based Innovation Plans, marking a key milestone in the process required under Massachusetts law. This approval represents an important step forward in advancing the initiative.

The next required step will be the scheduling of a public hearing, during which community members will have the opportunity to review the plans in detail and provide feedback. The Committee emphasized the importance of maintaining transparency and continued community engagement throughout the process.

Acknowledgment was given to district leadership and school administrators for their work in advancing the initiative and supporting implementation efforts. Moving forward, the district will proceed with scheduling and conducting the required public hearing and will continue to engage stakeholders as the Innovation Schools process advances.⁶

VII. REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

- A. The School Committee received a report from Anthony Martins, Senior at Springfield Virtual School, highlighting student engagement, academic enrichment activities, and recent school achievements.

The representative began by acknowledging recent subcommittee and public meetings, including the Chapter 74 vocational program meeting held at Putnam High School, noting appreciation for the opportunity to observe district programming firsthand. The presentation emphasized the value of vocational and technical education opportunities available to students across the district and reflected positively on the experiences shared by participating schools.

An update was provided on senior-year activities, including ongoing planning for senior shirts, senior trip coordination, and senior sunset events. These activities are intended to support student engagement and create positive culminating experiences for graduating seniors. Appreciation was extended to senior advisors for their support and guidance in the graduating class.

The report also highlighted student participation in the Rise Design Challenge within science



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programming. Two teams advanced to the final competition held on February 27. One high school team, “The Plaque Seeker,” developed a project focused on addressing arterial plaque buildup and cardiovascular health through innovative design concepts. A middle school team, “The Tasty Tap,” designed a water purification and flavor-enhancement system aimed at improving water quality and reducing exposure to contaminants such as microplastics.

It was reported that both teams achieved first place in their respective divisions, recognizing their creativity, problem-solving skills, and successful presentation of their projects. Students will receive recognition for their accomplishments. The Committee expressed appreciation for the presentation and acknowledged the accomplishments of Springfield Virtual School.

VIII. REPORT OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

- A. Superintendent Dr. Dinnall provided an update to the School Committee, noting that in the interest of time, several items would be summarized with additional follow-up information to be shared separately as needed.

The Superintendent highlighted districtwide celebrations of Black History Month, noting multiple events held across schools honoring the contributions of African Americans to the nation. Committee members were provided with copies of the Springfield Educator publication and a commemorative Black History Month bookmark in recognition of the observance.

An update was provided on the district’s middle school transformation initiative, identified as a key strategic priority. The Superintendent reported that the six-week Saturday support program has launched successfully, with strong student engagement and positive participation in extended learning opportunities.

The Superintendent also shared reflections on attendance at the Youth Art Exhibition, led by the Director of Arts. The exhibit showcased student work in multiple mediums, including ceramics, oil painting, self-portraits, and portraiture. The Superintendent commended student talent and encouraged continued community engagement by visiting the exhibition.

An update was provided on the “Cocoa for Crossing Guards” initiative, through which district leadership visits crossing guard locations to express appreciation for their service. The Superintendent acknowledged crossing guards as essential, often underrecognized contributors to student safety and daily school operations.

The Superintendent also reported participation as a judge in a district cooking competition involving students from grades 6–12. Special recognition was given to two students from the Transition Academy who placed third in the competition. The Superintendent highlighted the importance of inclusive opportunities for students with disabilities, noting that Transition Academy students remain in the district through age 22 and engage in both academic and community-based learning experiences, including operating a district coffee shop at Central Office.

The Superintendent emphasized that these examples reflect the district’s commitment to ensuring that all students are supported, included, and provided opportunities for success. The Committee



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expressed appreciation for the Superintendent's report and for the continued sharing of district accomplishments through publications and communications efforts.

IX. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

X. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. The Vice Chair, Ms. Monroe Naylor provided a brief update regarding public input received outside of formal public comment procedures. It was reported that Counselor Gerry Martin visited earlier in the day to share concerns from the Outer Belt Civic Association, which were also submitted via email to the School Committee.

It was noted that the Mayor Sarno and the Vice Chair have already responded and forwarded the concerns to the appropriate district personnel for review and follow-up. While the individual was not able to participate in the public speak-out portion of the meeting due to the requirement that notifications be submitted at least 48 hours in advance, the committee confirmed that the concerns were received and will be addressed through the appropriate channels, with a formal response to follow.

- B. School Committee member, Ms. Valentin, raised two matters under new business related to district financial oversight and administrative practices, noting a desire to ensure adherence to appropriate procedures and applicable Massachusetts law.

The first request sought clarification regarding district policies governing employees placed on administrative leave or reassigned away from school buildings while continuing to receive full salary and benefits. The Committee member requested information on the duration of such assignments, governing policies, and the overall fiscal impact of long-term placements.

The second request asked for a review of district contracts executed over the past four fiscal years to confirm that all contracts requiring School Committee approval were properly brought before the Committee for a vote, and to identify any contracts executed under alternative administrative authority.

Ms. Valentin emphasized that the intent of the request was not to discuss individual personnel matters, but rather to ensure transparency, accountability, and clarity in district processes. The member requested that the appropriate district personnel provide written information addressing both administrative leave practices and contract approval procedures and further requested that the matter be scheduled for future Committee discussion or referred to the appropriate subcommittee for review.

District leadership and legal counsel discussed appropriate routing of the request and recommended that the matter be referred to the Legislative and Contracts Subcommittee for further review, rather than the Budget and Finance Subcommittee, given the nature of the inquiry. Committee members supported this recommendation.

During discussion, Ms. Hurst expressed interest in reviewing upcoming and pending contracts in greater detail, including contract expiration timelines and items scheduled for renewal or external



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approval. Members emphasized the importance of receiving advance information on contractual obligations to ensure adequate oversight and preparedness.

Ms. Valentin reiterated that the request was intended to support transparency, accountability, and public trust in the management of district resources, and affirmed respect for district staff and educators.

District administration indicated willingness to compile and share the requested information and to coordinate with legal counsel and subcommittee leadership. It was also noted that communication will continue between administration, legal counsel, and Committee leadership to ensure appropriate handling of the request and clarity on the next steps.

Next Steps:

- Referral of the matter to the Legislative and Contracts Subcommittee for review.
- District administration to prepare information regarding:
 - Administrative leave policies, procedures, duration, and fiscal impact
 - Contracts executed over the past four fiscal years, including identification of those requiring School Committee approval
- Coordination between district administration and legal counsel to ensure compliance with applicable policy and law
- Subcommittee to determine timeline for review and reporting back to the full committee
- Continued communication with committee leadership regarding pending and upcoming contract items

On a motion made by Ms. Hurst and seconded by Ms. Valentin, 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
Ms. Gresham - Absent
Ms. Monroe Naylor (Vice Chair) - Yes
Mayor Sarno (Chair) - Yes

The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Springfield Public Schools
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S P R I N G F I E L D P U B L I C S C H O O L S

Triny Vargas
Executive Assistant to the School Committee