

WALTHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE
Waltham, Massachusetts
SPECIAL MEETING

MINUTES

JUNE 23, 2026

SPECIAL MEETING

The Special Meeting of the Waltham School Committee convened at 6:00pm. Present were Mr. Zanghi, Mr. Tarallo, Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. AlJammal, Ms. DeJoannis, Ms. Wong-Bigelow, and Mayor McCarthy. Mayor McCarthy presided.

The Committee recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**FY'27 SCHOOL
DEPARTMENT
OPERATING
BUDGET VOTE**

Dr. Mendonsa confirmed the City Council approved the School Department budget for FY '27 in the amount of \$132,847,897. based upon the Mayor's recommendation. The members received a breakdown of the amount per cost center and reviewed the information.

RECESS

The Chair called a recess at 6:22pm.

RECONVENE

The meeting resumed at 6:30pm with all members present.

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Tarallo, seconded by Ms. Wong-Bigelow, to hear from off-committee members. All in favor.

Mr. Tarallo asked Mr. Mazza to review the new documentation in comparison to the prior budget book drafts. A conversation followed about the budget book versions, the budget changes made over the last few months, and the amounts now being designated by cost center.

Ms. Wong-Bigelow asked about transportation expenses for general education and special education, including out-of-district transportation costs. Mr. Mazza explained where and how the amounts are reflected in the documents.

Ms. DeJoannis requested clarification on a decrease in Special Education transportation costs from information provided earlier in the month. Mr. Mazza and Mayor McCarthy confirmed a reduction was made following a reconciliation of accounts with the City Auditor, the Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations and the Assistant Superintendent of Special Education and Student Services. The Mayor indicated an additional \$200,000 in contingency funds was added back in following the reconciliation.

Based on a question about the contingency account, the Mayor explained her budget process and Mr. Mazza confirmed some of the contingency fund uses. Mr. Mazza also provided clarification on the availability of school funds to support various programs.

Mayor McCarthy asked the assistant superintendent for information on multiple budget increases and explanations were provided, including details about new positions and consolidated roles.

The conversation shifted to the Dual Language strand at Kennedy Middle School and additional information to support a cost increase was requested by Ms. Wong-Bigelow.

Mrs. Coleman asked Dr. Mendonsa if she believed the cost center amounts were appropriate for the school district for the year. The superintendent received confirmation from the Chair that if needed, a transfer between cost centers could be approved by the School Committee, during the school year. She then informed Mrs. Coleman that she believed the cost center allocations to be sufficient.

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Tarallo, seconded by Mrs. Coleman, to approve the total amounts provided by the School Department for each cost center account: 5100 (Personnel), 5200 (Operating Expenses), 5400 (Equipment and Unusals), and 5500 (Special Items) for a total FY '27 budget of \$132,847,897. All in favor.

VOTED: On motion of Mr. Tarallo, seconded by Ms. Wong-Bigelow, to request a finalized FY '27 budget book which details the approved amounts by line item within each cost center. All in favor.

The School Committee then discussed whether the additional items listed on the second agenda posted with the City Clerk's Office should be discussed at the meeting or tabled until the next Regular Meeting scheduled for July 9, 2026.

RECESS

VOTED: On motion of Mrs. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Tarallo, to take a recess at 7:52pm. All in favor.

RECONVENE

The School Committee reconvened at 7:55pm with Mr. Zanghi, Mrs. Coleman, Mrs. AlJammal, Ms. DeJoannis, Ms. Wong-Bigelow and Mayor McCarthy still present. Mr. Tarallo was not present.

VOTED: On motion of Mrs. Coleman, seconded by Ms. Wong-Bigelow, to proceed with discussing items two and three listed on the revised agenda at the Special Meeting. Roll call: Ms. Wong-Bigelow - yes; Ms. DeJoannis - yes; Mrs. AlJammal - yes; Mrs. Coleman - yes, and Mr. Zanghi - no.

SUPERINTENDENT'S METRICS

VOTED: On motion of Mrs. Coleman, seconded by Ms. Wong-Bigelow, to approve the Superintendent's Metrics. All in favor.

VOTE TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT FOR THE ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION

Mrs. Coleman confirmed this matter was previously discussed and approved by the members during an Executive Session. It was now being presented for a vote during a public meeting.

VOTED: On motion of Mrs. Coleman, seconded by Ms. Wong-Bigelow, to add a salary in the amount of \$194,580. for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027 to the contract for the Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. All in favor.

ADJOURNMENT

VOTED: On motion of Mrs. Coleman, seconded by Mrs. AlJammal, to move to Executive Session at 8:01pm to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and/or to conduct negotiations with nonunion personnel – Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, to include Dr. Mendonsa and Human Resources Administrator Kate Peretz, and to adjourn from there. All in favor.

Marisa Mendonsa
Clerk