



**FALMOUTH PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**340 Teaticket Highway**  
**EAST FALMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS**

School Committee Meeting

January 13, 2026

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**Location: Administration Building, 340 Teaticket Highway, East Falmouth, MA 02536**

**Members:**

Terri Medeiros, Chair  
Glenda Cohen, Vice-Chair  
Melissa Keefe, Secretary  
Susan Augusta  
Michael Heylin  
Christopher Lumpkin (Arrived at 7:01)  
Katrina Nevin  
Margaret Souza  
Kelly Welch

**Administrators/Other:**

Lori Duerr, Superintendent  
Paul Dart, Director of Finance & Operations  
(left meeting at 9:05 PM)  
Andy Waugh, Attorney

**OPEN Meeting 6:35PM**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

MOTION by Mike Heylin that the Committee not enter Executive Session this evening due to concerns regarding the legality of posting the two agenda items. Mr. Heylin stated that the Union item should be posted separately tomorrow and allow for the required 48-hour posting period. **SECONDED** by Katrina Nevin.

Mr. Heylin further stated that the item does not meet the criteria for an Executive Session and does not comply with the required posting timeframe. He added that if the School Committee proceeded with an Executive Session, he would not attend.

HEARD Margaret Souza asked Attorney Waugh for his position on moving forward with an Executive Session. Mr. Heylin objected, stating that questions should not be directed to legal counsel during Open Session while a motion is on the floor.

Attorney Waugh responded that the School Committee could vote on Mr. Heylin's motion, and if a majority agreed, the Committee would not meet in Executive Session that evening. Alternatively, a motion to enter Executive Session could be made and voted upon.

Attorney Waugh further stated that if the agenda was posted under Executive Session purposes 2, 3, and 7, Purpose 2 would address collective bargaining, Purpose 3 would address potential litigation, and Purpose 7 would allow for the review or approval of Executive Session minutes.

HEARD Mr. Heylin question the timeframe required for posting a meeting agenda. Attorney Waugh stated that it used to be 48 hours, but there is some flexibility when amending the agenda.

HEARD Katrina Nevin state that after a conversation with the Attorney General she also believes the posting for Executive Session is not valid in regards to the purpose of “litigation.”

HEARD Susan Augusta recommend that the Board vote on the first motion.

HEARD Katrina Nevin suggest alternate language for the motion.

HEARD Chair Medeiros state that the School Committee also abide by local practices.

HEARD Megan Zottoli, from the audience, state she would be recording.

The Chair paused the meeting to verify the that the meeting was being televised by FCTV (technical difficulties).

Mr. Heylin restated his original motion, citing two concerns regarding the proposed executive session agenda items. First, one of the items does not reasonably fall within the parameters for an executive session. Second, the agenda was not posted at least 48 hours in advance, which does not provide adequate notice for the public to understand the matter to be discussed. For these reasons, he moved **not** to enter executive session and instead to post only the union MOA tomorrow morning for a meeting to be held soon. **SECONDED** by Katrina Nevin. Roll Call Vote. **IN FAVOR:** Mike Heylin, Glenda Cohen, Terri Medeiros, Katrina Nevin. **OPPOSED:** Margaret Souza, Melissa Keefe and Susan Augusta. **MOTION CARRIES.**

HEARD Terri Medeiros inform the Board that there will be a training session with MASC to review meeting procedures.

**MOTION** by Mike Heylin to recess at 6:55 PM. **SECONDED** Katrina. Roll Call Vote. **IN FAVOR:** Mike Heylin, Glenda Cohen, Terri Medeiros, Katrina Nevin, Margaret Souza, Melissa Keefe and Susan Augusta. **MOTION CARRIES.**

Re-Opened Public Meeting 7:15 PM

HEARD Pledge of Allegiance

HEARD Terri Medeiros recite the recording statement.

HEARD Margaret Souza recite the Falmouth Public Schools Mission and Vision Statement

### **Student Advisory**

HEARD Isabelle Greyson report on the following High School activities:

- Feb 4 and 5<sup>th</sup> Clipper Challenge Days
- Both girls and boys basketball are doing great
- Both girls and boys hockey are also doing great
- Winter Choir concert Thursday 7:00pm
- Senior trip will be to a Red Sox Game
- College planning night on 1/22
- James and the Giant Peach as well as Legally Blonde in the Spring

- Foreign exchange program is an option

## **HEARD questions and comments following Miss Greyson's report**

### **Public Comment**

HEARD Meghan Zottoli of Carriage Shop Road state that parents have the right to ask questions and that retaliation against a parent by an election official is a violation and an abuse of an elected position. The School Committee's responsibility is to students, and when parents experience retaliation, it erodes trust and undermines the relationship between families and the school system.

HEARD Raquel Russell, Hayway Road, state that she does not think that the "Visitors to School" policy should be changed. To grant one person (Superintendent) the sole authority is not good practice. She asks that the policy goes back to the policy subcommittee for further review.

### **UPDATE by Wampanoag Tribe**

HEARD Roxanne Mills Brown, Tribal Education Director, update the Board on the Indian Education Grant and the services it will provide to students. Currently there are 328 native students in 7 districts. Falmouth has approximately 111 students.

Ms. Mills further stated:

- Continue the Teacher retention program
- Administrative Assistant/ Data position is currently vacant
- Upcoming partnership meeting with Administration
- Thanked the School Committee for the beautiful land acknowledgement, which she uses often

HEARD John Hanlon, Assistant Director, update the School Committee on the following activities:

- Continue to have lunch groups at Morse Pond School
- Meeting with students at High School once a month
- Kitty Hendricks will continue with the female cultural activities
- Teaching a course at 4 C's on indigenous education (free for all FHS students)
- Funding available for driver's education, tutoring, sports and other enrichment activities
- NEED program offers local field trips and the tribe will help organize

HEARD questions and comments following the tribe's update.

### **Superintendent Update**

HEARD Dr. Duerr update the Board on the following:

1. Thank you to the Office of Finance, HR, and Operations as well as our front desk receptionist Kristin Rego, for all their hard work during the budget season.
2. Fortunate for strong relationships with community partners.
3. According to new regulations (2023-2024), The School Building Committee will be appointed by the Select Board.
4. Dr. Duerr requests that the Strategic Plan process be delayed until Spring or Fall.
5. The NYC trip previously approved by the School Committee has been cancelled due to low interest.
6. The College Board recognized FHS for earning a place on the AP school honor roll. Outstanding work for allowing more students to take AP courses.
7. Update on DECCA: 11 students joined for the first year. These students participated in a competition in Hyannis. Three of those students received medals finishing in the top 5 over all and won seats at the state conference.

HEARD questions and comments following Dr. Duerr's update

HEARD Glenda Cohen state that she is disappointed that we are putting off the Strategic Plan process and encourages the Board to pursue it sooner rather than later.

### **PRESENTATION of FY27 Budget**

HEARD Lori Duerr and Paul Dart review the budget presentation via PowerPoint. This presentation was first shown at the December 9<sup>th</sup> School Committee meeting. No changes have been made to the presentation since that time. Dr. Duerr and Director Dart has shared the presentation with all School Councils and PTO's. A few of the increases of the budget include, out of district tuitions, special education transportation, and security (new SRO, and 2 safety monitors).

The FY27 Budget REQUEST \$64,987,284 (5.8% increase)

HEARD questions and comments after the Budget presentation.

### **PUBLIC HEARING on the FY27 Budget**

MOTION by Melissa Keefe to open the School Budget Hearing. SECONDED by Katrina Nevin. VOTE. UNANIMOUS. DISCUSSION. MOTION by Mike Heylin to close Public Hearing. SECONDED by Melissa Keefe. Vote. UNANIMOUS.

### **UPDATE on Budget FY26**

HEARD Paul Dart review the FY26 budget to date. He stated that the school finances are in good shape and there have been no surprises. HEARD questions and comments following Mr. Dart's update.

### **ACT on Submission of Green School Works Grant Application**

HEARD Paul Dart share with the Board that there has been a collaborative effort with sustainability officer Stephanie Madsen to apply for the Green School Works Grant. If awarded, the schools could be granted up to \$5,000,000 that can be used for solar parking canopies and/or for a heat pump (EF or TT). Mr. Dart recommends that the Board approves the application. MOTION by Susan Augusta to approve the Green School Works Grant Application. SECONDED by Mike Heylin. DISCUSSION. Mike Heylin suggested the following edit to the language of the letter of intent:

We are submitting MassCEC Green School Works applications for both East Falmouth Elementary School and Teaticket Elementary School, with the understanding that only one award may be granted, and that the awarded school will meet k-12 eligibility requirements for a minimum of 20 years.  
(delete "By submitting ....for the future")

MOTION by Mike Heylin to accept a friendly amendment. SECONDED by Katrina Nevin. Roll Call Vote. IN FAVOR: Terri Medeiros, Glenda Cohen, Melissa Keefe, Susan Augusta, Katrina Nevin, Chris Lumping, Mike Heylin and Margaret Souza. OPPOSED: No one. MOTION CARRIES.

### **PRESENTATION of Superintendent's Mid-Cycle self assessment progress**

Dr. Duerr's progress includes:

- Provide oversight, direction and support for student learning through student achievement data analysis, IST analysis, and the development of school specific objectives for student advancement.
- Standing expectations for Assistant Superintendent, Director of Student Services and DEIB Director and follow-up
- Establish practice of on-going review of time on learning

- Monthly meetings with Principals
- Ongoing professional development for teachers to increase student success
- Open door policy to talk to groups
- Maintain high expectations of consistent leadership
- High quality instructional material
- Increase in staff newsletters
- Four surveys have been administered
- Roundtable sessions (with interpreters)

HEARD questions and comments following Dr. Duerr progress report.

### **FIRST READ on Policy K1: Visitors to the Schools**

HEARD Lori Duerr present the changes to the policy taken from the MASC revised policy. DISCUSSION. The Chair stated that the policy will go back to the subcommittee and will be worked on, keeping the comments and suggestions in mind while revising.

### **ACT on Training Non-Medical Staff Administrating Medicine (Narcen) to Students**

HEARD Dr. Duerr report that this is a very specific request, and it is about training medical staff in emergency situations in NARCAN. Dr. Duerr recommends that the School Committee approves the training to non-medical staff. MOTION by Margaret Souza to approve the training of non-medical staff in the administering of NARCAN. SECONDED by Melissa Keefe. DISCUSSION. Vote. UNANIMOUS.

### **ACT on \$10,000 Grant from Stop & Shop for FHS Food Pantry**

HEARD Lori Duerr state that this grant will help stock the newly formed food pantry at the high school. Dr. Duerr also thanked Nell Fields for bringing this grant to our attention. MOTION by Mike Heylin to accept the \$10,000 grant from Stop and Shop. SECONDED by Melissa Keefe. Vote. UNANIMOUS.

### **Routine Business**

MOTION by Melissa Keefe to approve the minutes of December 9, 2025. SECONDED by Katrina Nevin. Vote. IN FAVOR: Terri Medeiros, Glenda Cohen, Melissa Keefe, Margaret Souza, Katrina Nevin and Susan Augusta. OPPOSED: No one. ABSTENTION: Chris Lumping and Mike Heylin. MOTION CARRIES.

### **Committee Reports**

HEARD Margaret Souza report on the following items from the Equity Advisory Committee:

- Create school based equity teams
- Expand Professional Learning
- Identify Challenges (scheduling, leadership capacity)
- Discuss strategic next steps
- Final presentation to School Committee in the Spring

HEARD Katrina Nevin report on the recent Student Advisory conversation where they discussed the following topics:

- Scheduling issues
- Internships
- Excused and unexcused absences

HEARD Terri Medeiros report that the VIPs “Be Bold” program for 4<sup>th</sup> grade girls has been very successful. The Chair also reported that the Cape Cod Collaborative is celebrating its 50th anniversary

## **Request for Follow-Up**

HEARD Mike Heylin request hiring an outside attorney.

HEARD Terri Medeiros state that she is looking to hire an outside consultant that will gather data and provide workshops. An extensive discussion took place amongst the members with many questions and comments. Some included:

1. What is the purpose of hiring this consultant?
2. It is not appropriate to meet with this consultant until there is a formal vote to hire her.
3. We need to discuss if we need a consultant.
4. We cannot continue doing what we are doing. As we have seen, with the latest open meeting violation. We must take this seriously. We need to inspire confidence from the community.
5. Whoever is hired, the confidentiality issue needs to be addressed.

MOTION by Terri Medeiros to adjourn. SECONDED by Margaret Souza. Vote. UNANIMOUS. Roll Call Vote.

ADJOURN at: 10:42 PM

*The following documents were included in the January 13, 2026, School Committee Packet. These documents can also be found on line at [www.ma-falmouth.civicsplus.com](http://www.ma-falmouth.civicsplus.com) or a copy is available at the Administration Building.*

- *FY27 Budget Presentation (PowerPoint)*
- *Draft Policy KI – Visitors in Schools*
- *MassCEC Green School Grant – Letter of Intent*
- *Green School Work Grant Application*
- *Draft Minutes of December 9, 2025*
- *School Counseling Connection Newsletter*

Submitted by,

Melissa Keefe  
Secretary

Minutes Approved: February 10, 2026

Recording Secretary: Sharon Reid