



SCHOOL COMMITTEE

BUSINESS MEETING OPEN SESSION MINUTES

May 5, 2025

Meeting:	School Committee
Date:	May 5, 2025
Location:	MERMHS Learning Commons
Attendees:	Pamela Beaudoin, Superintendent Michelle Cresta, Director of Finance & Operations Chris Reed, Chairperson Jake Foster Kate Koch-Sundquist, Vice-Chair Theresa Whitman
Absent:	John Binieris Anna Mitchell Erica Spencer
Guests:	
Recorded by:	Maria Schmidt
Link to Reports and Presentations	https://www.mersd.org/domain/785

A. Call to Order of – Mr. Reed called the School Committee Business meeting to order at 5:50 p.m. The meeting was paused while awaiting a quorum and reconvened at 6:04 pm.

B. Business Meeting Open Session

- 1) Public Comment (Guidelines for public comment can be found in sections BEDH and BEDH-E of the School Committee policy manual)** – None
- 2) Chairperson’s Report** – Mr. Reed made no report.

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3) Consent Agenda –

- Acceptance of Warrants: AP Vouchers 1067-1068. There was no payroll warrant for approval.
- Minutes for approval: April 28, 2025

Mr. Reed moved to approve the acceptance of AP Warrants 1067-1068 and payroll voucher for April 24, 2025. Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Reed moved to approve the minutes from April 28, 2025; Mr. Foster seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0.

4) Sub-Committee Reports

- **Elementary Facilities/MSBC Sub-Committee** (John Binieris/Theresa Whitman) – Ms. Whitman reported that the School Building Committee (SBC) had its first meeting with a representative from Dore + Whittier. They discussed the project timeline and reviewed the project webpage created by Dore + Whittier. The SBC voted to release the RFS for the project designer and reviewed how this process will differ from that for the OPM search. The SBC chose to forego its June meeting allowing for an in-person meeting in July, should they choose, to review what is received from the RFS for a designer.
- **Finance Committee** (Jake Foster/Anna Mitchell) – No Report
- **Negotiation Team Sub-Committee** (Kate Koch-Sundquist/Chris Reed) – No Report
- **Policy/Communication Sub-Committee** (Kate Koch-Sundquist/Erica Spencer/Theresa Whitman) – No Report

5) Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Beaudoin stated that district administration submitted its response to the information request from the Town of Essex boards. They have received no follow-up inquiries. Mr. Foster said that there were several emails about healthcare, and he asked if there were additional questions on the subject. Superintendent Beaudoin said that the district's legal counsel responded to the request for information regarding healthcare with a request for clarification and an estimate on the amount of work time required. The district has not received a response to this. The superintendent said that all citizen questions that were received have been answered. The FAQ page has been helpful for directing inquiries. Superintendent Beaudoin said that the district is now caught up on their responses to information requests around the budget.

6) Continued Business – FY26 Budget – Town Meeting Preparations. Superintendent Beaudoin had no budget updates.

7) School Committee Comment - None

C. Adjourn

Mr. Reed moved to adjourn the School Committee business meeting; Ms. Koch-Sundquist seconded the motion.

The motion passed 4-0.

Meeting Adjourned at 6:04 pm

School Committee Future Meetings

- May 13, 2025 (tentative)
- May 20, 2025
- June 3, 2025