

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE

NEWBURYPORT, MASSACHUSETTS

**School Committee Business Meeting
Amended**

Monday, October 17, 2022

6:30PM

**SC Packet Checklist: SC Business Meeting Agenda October 17, 2022
SC Business Meeting Agenda Notes October 17, 2022
SC Business Meeting Minutes October 3, 2022
Middle School Overnight Field Trip
SC Resolution in Support of Fair Share Amendment
MASC Resolutions 1-6**

Newburyport Public Schools
Newburyport, MA
School Committee Business Meeting - AMENDED
Monday, October 17, 2022

6:30 PM, Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950

The Mission of the Newburyport Public Schools, the port where tradition and innovation converge, is to ensure each student achieves intellectual and personal excellence and is equipped for life experiences through a system distinguished by students, staff, and community who: - practice kindness and perseverance - celebrate each unique individual - value creativity; experiential, rigorous educational opportunities; scholarly pursuits; and life-long learning - provide the nurturing environments for emotional, social, and physical growth - understand and embrace their role as global citizens.

Please note: The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. The meeting will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 & streamed via <https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/>.

Business Meeting Agenda:

1. Call to Order

2. Public Comment

3. Student Recognition

4. *Consent Agenda (warrants and minutes 10-3-2022) – possible Vote

5. Student Representative Report

6. *Middle School Overnight Field Trip – May 2023– possible Vote

7. *School Committee Resolution in Support of the Fair Share Amendment – possible Vote

8. *MASC Resolutions 1-6 – possible Vote

9. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
- b. Policy Subcommittee – Juliet Walker
- c. Joint Education Subcommittee – Bruce Menin
- d. Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee – Bruce Menin
- e. Transportation Advisory Committee – Juliet Walker

10. Superintendent's Report

11. New Business

12. *Executive Session at 8:00PM – vote

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

*Possible Vote

Adjournment

****The School Committee reserves the right to call executive session, as provided under Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(2), of the General Laws to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations, collective bargaining and/or potential litigation.**

**Newburyport School Committee
Meeting Agenda Notes**

**Monday, October 17, 2022
6:30PM @ Senior/Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA**

AGENDA NOTES - AMENDED

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law. The meeting will be televised locally live on Comcast Channel 9 or stream via <https://ncmhub.org/share/channel-9/>.

Business Meeting Agenda

3. Student Recognition

First grade student, Declan Quimby, is being recognized for helping Ms. Rachel Brown distribute stamps at the end of the day for students who are displaying expected behaviors in the hallway and displaying our clipper values. The staff are very grateful for Declan's help at school!

4. *Consent Agenda (warrants & minutes 10-3-2022) – possible Vote

5. Student Representative Report: NHS students Olivia Hansen & Avery Hochheiser will provide the report.

6. *Middle School Overnight Field Trip – May 2023 – possible Vote

Principal Nick Markos and Nock staff will present information regarding an 8th Grade overnight class trip to Philadelphia / Ellis Island on May 23 through May 25, 2023. (see attached)

7. *School Committee Resolution in Support of the Fair Share amendment – possible Vote

The Fair Share Amendment is a proposal to amend the Massachusetts Constitution to create an additional tax of four percentage points on the portion of a person's annual income above \$1 million. The new revenue would be for "quality public education and affordable public colleges and universities, and for the repair and maintenance of roads, bridges and public transportation."

8. *MASC Resolutions 1-6 – possible Vote

The six resolutions, along with descriptions, are enclosed in the packet. Members will review and decide if they wish to support the resolutions or not. The MASC Annual meeting will be held in Hyannis on Wednesday, November 2, 2022.

9. Subcommittee Updates

- a. Finance Subcommittee – Brian Callahan
- b. Policy Subcommittee – Juliet Walker
- c. Joint Education Subcommittee – Bruce Menin
- d. Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee – Bruce Menin
- e. Transportation Advisory Committee – Juliet Walker

10. Superintendent's Report: MCAS Update, 1:1 Device, Integrated Feasibility Study Update

11. New Business

12. *Executive Session at 8:00PM – vote

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(1) to discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual.

FYI: Upcoming Dates:

- ✓ **Transportation Advisory Subcommittee:** Tuesday, October 18 @ 4PM
- ✓ **Policy Subcommittee Meeting:** Monday, October 24 @ 7PM
- ✓ **NYS Parent Speaker Series** – Wednesday, November 2 at the Nock Auditorium @ 7PM
- ✓ **School Committee Business Meeting:** Monday, November 7 at 6:30PM at the High School
- ✓ **Early Release Day:** Tuesday, November 8
- ✓ **Veterans Day:** Friday, November 11 – schools closed
- ✓ **NEF Auction** – Saturday, November 12 @ City Hall Auditorium
- ✓ **Joint City Council & School Committee Meeting:** Tuesday, November 15, 2022

*Possible Vote

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
School Safety and Security - Community Forum
Senior Community Center, 331 High Street, Newburyport, MA 01950
Monday, October 3, 2022

SCHOOL SAFETY AND SECURITY - COMMUNITY FORUM
6:30 PM

Superintendent Sean Gallagher presented various school safety and security measures. Assistant Principal Mike Testa, Facilities Director Steve Bergholm, Student Resource Officer Kyle McElroy, and Sgt. Greg Whitney was on the panel. Building principals and School Committee members were also available for questions.

Agenda:

- Creating a Culture of Belonging
- Emergency Operation Planning
- Physical Plant Security
- Practice and Professional Development
- Partnerships
- Question & Answer session

The Community Forum adjourned at 7:25 PM

NEWBURYPORT SCHOOL COMMITTEE BUSINESS MEETING
7:30 PM

Present: Mayor Sean Reardon, Sarah Hall, Juliet Walker, Bruce Menin, Steve Cole
Absent: Brian Callahan

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mayor Sean Reardon called the School Committee Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee to order at 7:30 PM. Roll call found all members present, except **Brian Callahan**. All those present stood for the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this point **Vice-Chairman Sarah Hall** took over chairmanship of the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

There was no public comment at this time.

STAFF RECOGNITION:

Sixteen teachers were recognized for pioneering the co-teaching models at the Bresnahan. They completed a two-day training with Mary Gehring (a Co-teaching and Inclusion Specialist from the Collaborative for Educational Services). This model of teaching will transform the Bresnahan to create truly inclusive classrooms. These teachers are at the forefront: Robin O'Malley, Keri Lynch, Julie Carroll, Caitlin Marsh, Nick Bushnell, Kelsey Giovannacci, Chrissy

Platt, Becky Chapman, Alex Surro, Katara Harding, Bethany Granoth, Michaela Ayres, Janis Cahill, Julie Malchow, Anne Larnard, and Nonie Olson.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Warrants:

Motion:

On a motion by **Steve Cole** and seconded by **Mayor Reardon** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and forward to the City Auditor for payment the following Warrant:
Warrant 8067 FY23 \$ 411,845.01

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan absent for vote

Minutes:

On a motion by **Bruce Menin** and seconded by **Juliet Walker** it was

VOTED: To approve, receive and file the following:
School Committee Business meeting minutes of Monday,
September 19, 2022.

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan absent for vote

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE REPORT:

NHS Student Representatives Olivia Hansen & Avery Hochheiser were introduced and presented the following report:

Bresnahan Updates:

Kindergarten students went to Applecrest farms today - they learned about apples and tried the farm's apple cider.

Zero the Hero came last week to celebrate the 20th day of school. Our youngest students practiced number facts with him. He will come again on Day 50.

The whole school is still dedicated to PBIS. You can consistently see students modeling expected behaviors in all areas of the school.

We will have our first school assembly on Friday and Mr. RM has songs prepared for the music classes to perform together.

We just wrapped up DIBELS assessments so targeted small groups reading instruction and reading groups will begin soon in each classroom. Teachers are diving into the MyView writing curriculum and are continuing with the comprehension component of MyView and foundations.

There are groups of teachers pioneering the co-teaching models at the Bresnahan and completing the two-day training with Mary Gehring.

Molin Updates:

4th graders kicked off their school year with a place-based educational program on a Gundalow, which is a type of sail boat that used to roam the Merrimack and Piscataqua Rivers by the thousands from the mid 1600's until the very early 1900's. They learned about our impact on

the river/environment, about some of the critters that live in the rivers and their importance, as well as sailing and navigation tips all while sailing the rivers. Thank you to 4th grade teacher Leigh Cassidy and STEM teacher Kristen Daigle for organizing the amazing experience for our students, and thanks to the PTO for funding the buses for this trip.

Nock Updates:

8th Grade students are participating in the Nock Speaker Series which shrinks our community and connects and exposes our students to many different professions and engages students listening skills, the ability to analyze information and formulate questions for the speakers. 7th Grade students will be participating in 2 PBE trips over the next 2 weeks. They will explore Maudslay and Joppa and begin to make real world connections to the science and social studies curriculum.

6th Grade students will be working with Project Adventure at the end of this month and engage in team building activities that support the growth of the whole child.

Students across the whole building have begun collecting socks for our Annual SOCKtober drive along with many students participating in Cross Country, the intro to running club as well as preparing for the Nock Fall Play.

High School Updates:

Ben St. Lawrence was part of the annual National Down Syndrome Time Square video presentation and Buddy Walk. He has done work to raise money to support the Down Syndrome community and through his participation in the Buddy Walk this coming Saturday, he was selected to have his picture displayed throughout Times Square.

Jennifer Masone and Sasha Leydon have done extensive work to destigmatize mental health. Through working with the Bring Change to Mind organization, they will be kick-starting our local chapter so that students have peer groups and resources to receive support around mental health needs.

Lyza Marion and Kellan Dermott were recognized for being named as commended students in the 2023 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Last Monday, Co-sponsored with the Institution for Savings, the College and Career Center held the regional college and career fair. There were 95 colleges and universities present, 18 community organizations, over 250 students and families, and they represented 16 different high schools. Students and families engaged with the college admission reps and community organizations, arming them with information and materials to move forward in their process for life after high school. NHS thanks the Institution for Savings, Spindrift Sparkling Water, Aroma Joes Coffee House in Salisbury, Stone Crust Pizza, Pomodori Pizza, the Greater Newburyport Chamber of Commerce, Giuseppe's Italian Restaurant, as well as the Class of 2023 families who donated food and water for the reps to enjoy. It was a tremendous success.

NHS athletics has earned the Boston Globe Division 3 Dalton Award for the second consecutive year. This award is given to the most successful high school athletic program in the state of Mass. NHS has won two times in the 46-year history of this award. Congratulations to our athletes, coaches and Athletic Director Kyle Hodsdon for earning this great honor.

Current records for this year are:

Boys Soccer: 9-0 CAL 1st Place

Girls Soccer: 9-1 CAL 1st Place

Volleyball: 10-1 CAL 1st Place

Field Hockey: 6-1-1 CAL 1st Place

Girls Cross Country: CAL 3-0 1st Place

Boys Cross Country: CAL 3-0 1st Place

Golf: 9-3 CAL 2nd Place

Football: 2-2 CAL 2nd Place

PROPOSED EF CUBA TRIP 2024 / OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP:

NHS Principal Andy Wulf provided information for a proposed field trip to Cuba during April vacation in 2024.

Juliet Walker explained the transportation policy.

Bruce Menin inquired re: subsidies.

Motion:

On a motion by **Juliet Walker** and seconded by **Bruce Menin** it was

VOTED: To grant preliminary approval consistent with the SC policy JJH for the school to plan a student trip to Cuba in April 2024 with the understanding the final details (including logistics, timing and cost) will be brought back before the School Committee for final approval.

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan absent for vote

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES:

Finance Subcommittee:

Steve Cole said they have not met.

Policy Subcommittee:

Juliet Walker said they will meet on October 24th.

Joint Education Subcommittee:

Bruce Menin had no information to present at this time.

Transportation Subcommittee:

Juliet Walker said they will meet one more time.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT:

Superintendent Gallagher reported on the following:

- **Sheila Spalding** has resigned from the School Committee. **Mayor Reardon** said they will be taking resumes to replace Ms. Spalding.
Juliet Walker, Bruce Menin, Steve Cole and Superintendent Gallagher spoke regarding Ms. Spalding's work with the community, CPAC and that she was a great leader and will be greatly missed.

NEW BUSINESS:

Sarah Hall spoke regarding the MASC meeting on the 2nd through the 5th. Six resolutions will be voted on. They will be discussed at the next School Committee meeting. **Bruce Menin** discussed past resolutions.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion:

On a motion by **Mayor Reardon** and seconded by **Steve Cole** it was

VOTED: To adjourn the Business Meeting of the Newburyport School Committee
at 8:05 PM.

Motion Passed

Brian Callahan absent for vote

MIDDLE SCHOOL OVERNIGHT FIELD TRIP - MAY 2023



Philadelphia and Ellis
Island

Program Length:

3 Days

Program Dates:

May 23-25, 2023 (Private Group)

Day by Day Itinerary

Tuesday, May 23:

This morning, depart by private motor coach from Nock Middle School to Philadelphia. Arrive in Philadelphia, stretch your legs, and get ready to run up the “Rocky Stairs” at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and take in the vast views of the city from the top! This afternoon take an orientation walking tour of Old City, and chose to visit one of Philadelphia’s museums - including The Franklin Institute, a leading science and technology museum, the Mutter Museum, America’s first medical museum, or The Eastern State Penitentiary, which was once the most famous prison in the world. Tonight, attend a Philadelphia Phillies game!

Wednesday, May 24:

This morning, take an in-depth guided tour of Independence Hall, an UNESCO World Heritage Site, and the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence and the signing of the U.S. Constitution. Take some time to walk Independence Mall, considered “America’s Most Historic Square Mile” and visit the Liberty Bell Center, to see the 2,080 pound Liberty Bell, which was rung to announce the Declaration of Independence. Later, enjoy lunch at The Reading Terminal Market, and try a famous Philly Cheesesteak, or chose from one of the many restaurants and cafes in this historic landmark. After lunch, visit the The National Constitution Center to learn the story of the Constitution from Revolutionary times to the present through more than 100 interactive, multimedia exhibits, film, photographs, text, and artifacts. Later, continue on a walking tour of some of Philadelphia’s most iconic sites, including Franklin Court, The Bank of the United States, Washington Square Park, Christ Church, Betsy Ross House, Elfreth’s Alley and the Love Statue. Tonight, attend a dinner and dance party!

**Students and their teachers will be divided into smaller groups during the tours of Independence Hall and The National Constitution Center.*

Thursday, May 25:

This morning, depart Philadelphia for New Jersey, and catch the ferry at Liberty State Park to Liberty Island. Take some time to explore Liberty Island and capture the perfect photo of the Statue of Liberty. Later, return to your motor coach for your trip home to Newburyport.

What's Included:

- Private Round Trip Motor Coach from Newburyport to Philadelphia
- Teacher-Leader Chaperones (10-1 student to teacher ratio)
- School Nurse and Assistant Nurse
- Full Time Professional Program Directors in Philadelphia
- Hotel Night Security
- Triple/Quad Student Room Accommodations
- Metro Pass to Phillies Game
- Day 1 - Dinner
- Day 2 - Breakfast and Dinner
- Day 3 - Breakfast and Lunch
- Entrance to all Attractions and Activities
- All Tips and Gratuities
- 24-Hour Support
- All Taxes and Fees

School Committee Resolution In Support of the Fair Share Amendment

WHEREAS, the best way to help working families and build a stronger economy for us all is to make sure that we have quality public schools for our children, affordable public higher education, and a reliable transportation system; and

WHEREAS, students need a well-rounded education, founded on a rich and varied curriculum that includes STEM, humanities, the arts, and athletics; and

WHEREAS, major investments in public education are needed to help students recover academically, socially, and emotionally from the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, additional funding is needed to ensure that all schools can maintain or provide small class sizes, offer social-emotional support, and hire additional counselors, nurses, and social workers; and

WHEREAS, new state revenue is necessary to rebuild crumbling roads and bridges, improve our public schools from Pre-K through college, invest in fast and reliable public transportation, make public higher education affordable, and improve access to walking and cycling; and

WHEREAS, Massachusetts needed new investments in our transportation and public education systems even before the COVID-19 pandemic, and now those investments are needed more than ever to lift our economy into an equitable and long-lasting recovery;

WHEREAS, our Commonwealth's highest-income residents, who have seen their collective net worth increase sharply in recent years, pay a lower percentage of their income in state and local taxes than the rest of us, and clearly have the ability to pay a little more for the investments we all need;

THEREFORE, let it be resolved that the Newburyport School Committee supports the proposed Fair Share Amendment that would create an additional tax of four percentage points on annual income above one million dollars and dedicate the funds raised by this tax to quality public education, affordable public colleges and universities, and repair and maintenance of roads, bridges, and public transportation.

report of the resolutions committee

The members of the Resolutions Committee met on July 5, 2022 to consider resolutions proposed by member districts for consideration at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Association. Members present were: Stacey Rizzo, Chair, Revere; Andrea Wadsworth, Lee; Jason Fraser, Plympton and Silver Lake Reg.; Paul Schlichtman, Arlington; Barbara Davis, Holbrook; Stephanie Clougherty, Carver; Beverly Hugo, Framingham; Beverly Griffin Dunne, Peabody and Essex North Shore Vocational School; Margaret Hughes, Narragansett; Robert Swartz, Gardner

The following resolutions were moved forward by the Resolutions Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

RESOLUTION 1: REGARDING SANCTUARY LAWS FOR TRANSGENDER STUDENTS

(Sponsored by the Lexington School Committee and co-sponsored by the Worcester, Somerville, Grafton, and Franklin School Committees)

WHEREAS the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has a long history of standing for civil rights, including advocacy for a bill of rights in the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS Massachusetts codified gender identity as a protected class in the 2011 Act Relative to Gender Identity; and

WHEREAS all children deserve a safe environment in which to grow up; and

WHEREAS some state governments are now criminalizing supportive medical care for trans individuals, moving to bar families from traveling to access such care, and otherwise violating the civil rights of trans children and their families; and

WHEREAS the defense of the civil rights of the historically marginalized is contained within the first article of the Massachusetts Constitution right of "seeking and obtaining their safety and happiness;"

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Great and General Court to join with other states in the passage of so-called "sanctuary" laws to ensure such children and their families have "the power of enjoying, in safety and tranquility, their natural rights and the blessings of life," as guaranteed by the Constitution of the Commonwealth.

RATIONALE: The 2011 passage of the Act Relative to Gender Identity marked a Massachusetts commitment to the civil rights of transgender residents. Laws recently passed or being considered in other states would put into question this protection, as some such laws call for families to be prosecuted for seeking medical treatment for their children, even across state lines. This is a profound violation of the civil rights of these children, and it increases the potential harm both to them and to their families. In response, a number of states are considering so-called sanctuary laws which would shield families from such prosecution, and extend to those children the rights guaranteed to them by Massachusetts law. As of the passage of this resolution, no such bills have been filed in Massachusetts. The Legislature must back up the 2011 Act with this further protection.

RESOLUTION 2: TO INCREASE THE MAXIMUM BALANCE ALLOWED BY THE SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVE FUND

(Sponsored by the Plympton School Committee)

WHEREAS the Municipal Modernization Act allows for municipalities in conjunction with their school districts to create a Special Education Reserve Fund to cover the cost of unanticipated or unbudgeted special education costs, including the cost of out-of-district placements and special education transportation; and

WHEREAS the current language of the Special Education Reserve Fund caps the balance at 2 percent of annual net school spending, which for many rural and small districts does not leave enough in reserves to meet the needs of a single student who is placed into a collaborative setting, never mind a student who may be medically fragile and in need of an intensive residential placement; and

WHEREAS school districts with large student bodies are more likely to experience multiple unanticipated and unbudgeted special education related expenses throughout the school year;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to amend Chapter 40, Section 13E, by deleting "2 percent of the annual net school spending" and by inserting the following "5 percent of the annual net school spending."

RATIONALE: Current prices for special education day programs in Massachusetts Collaboratives can cost a district between \$50,000 to \$70,000 per student and private provider day programs can cost districts between \$70,000-\$100,000 per student. These prices do not include the cost to transport the students to these separate settings which is part of the overall price and can fluctuate in cost. Private residential special education settings can cost a district between \$120,000-\$250,000 per student.

The 5 percent cap would allow for deeper investment of the municipality's own monies towards preventing mid-year budget crisis and positioning the school district to have the ability to provide an appropriate public education in the least restrictive setting to all students. The 5 percent cap would also allow reserves to grow to a sustainable level which hopefully would not be wiped out by a single year of special education related expenses.

RESOLUTION 3: MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

(Submitted by the Arlington School Committee)

WHEREAS the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has broad powers to set education policy and enact regulations for Massachusetts public schools; and

WHEREAS the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has the power to choose a receiver to replace an elected school committee; and

WHEREAS the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education governs educator licensure in Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS practicing educators and school committee members are prohibited from serving on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education; and

WHEREAS the teaching profession is the only profession or trade in Massachusetts where the holders of a license are prohibited from serving on its governing board; and

WHEREAS professional expertise and a commitment to public governance should not disqualify a person from serving in a leadership role;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls for the enactment of legislation to repeal the provision of Massachusetts law that prohibits practicing educators and sitting school committee members from serving on the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls for legislation to reconstitute the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education by including members with expertise as licensed educators and members with expertise in public school governance.

RESOLUTION 4: PRESERVING LOCAL GOVERNANCE OF MASSACHUSETTS SCHOOLS

(Sponsored by the Arlington School Committee)

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has exercised its power to take over school districts in Lawrence in 2011, Holyoke in 2015, and Southbridge in 2016; and

WHEREAS the placement of the public schools of Lawrence, Holyoke, and Southbridge in receivership has removed their respective school committees from their role as the governing board for their schools, and has replaced local governance with a state receiver; and

WHEREAS a Boston Globe analysis of test scores, graduation rates, college enrollment, and a dozen other metrics in Lawrence, Holyoke, and Southbridge shows state receivers have failed to meet almost all of its stated goals for the districts; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has no plan, strategy, or timeline for restoring local governance and accountability to the voters of Lawrence, Holyoke, and Southbridge; and

WHEREAS the Massachusetts Association of School Committees asserts that a strong system of local governance and accountability is the foundation of excellent schools;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to restore local governance and accountability for the Lawrence, Holyoke, and Southbridge Public Schools no later than July 1, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls on the Massachusetts Legislature to enact legislation to limit any future state takeovers to a term of no more than three years.

RESOLUTION 5: PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY EDUCATION

(Sponsored by the Framingham School Committee)

WHEREAS students will need to make wise financial decisions to promote financial well-being throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS students will need to develop actionable strategies to manage their futures, including managing their budgets by developing savings plans, navigating credit and debt, and creating a blueprint for financing higher education or their careers; and

WHEREAS students will need to be informed consumers when making everyday purchases for both small and large items; and

WHEREAS with guidance and financial literacy, students have increased chances of affording and attaining a college education; and

WHEREAS without prior long-term financial planning, higher education plans do not come to fruition for many students due to extraordinary tuition rates; and

WHEREAS college tuitions and other financial choices, such as credit card debt and loans, can saddle students with a lifetime of debt due to their inability to pay back student and other type of loans;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that MASC file legislation that would have the effect of ensuring that all students have exposure to personal financial literacy curricula and, ultimately, graduate from high school with the lifelong knowledge of how to be fiscally responsible to avoid being deterred by financial woes. This legislation should ensure that the students at various levels would benefit from curriculum in Massachusetts' public schools which would include content in personal financial literacy.

RATIONALE: Because many students and their families today do not plan far enough ahead for college tuition, many students are not able to attend institutions of higher learning or need to drop out due to inadequate funds. This resolution will help to ensure that students are knowledgeable about the best options available to them in order to be fiscally responsible and receive the best advice in attaining their goals by being educated about the best options for paying tuitions, use of credit cards, securing personal loans (including car loans) etc.

RESOLUTION 6: ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL SCHOOL ASSESSMENT RESERVE FUND

(Sponsored by the Silver Lake Regional School Committee)

WHEREAS Regional School Committees of the Commonwealth are tasked with producing financially sound budgets designed to meet the needs of all their students just like all public school committees of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS municipalities of Regional Schools are presented with Regional Assessments which can fluctuate dramatically based on enrollment percentage changes and can be further exacerbated by unbalanced adjustments of the Equalized Valuation (EQV) of property, a key metric in the states formula used to calculate the minimum required local contribution; and

WHEREAS in 2016 the State of Massachusetts passed the Municipal Modernization Act which aimed to grant more local control and encouraged financial efficiencies where possible, the precedent exists in statute to support the

creation of a Regional Schools Assessment Reserve Fund which could be used to offset abnormally large increases to a municipality's regional assessment;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Massachusetts Legislature to enact or amend legislation which permits municipalities to establish a Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund.

Proposed language for legislation could include:

To amend M.G.L. Part I, Title VII, Chapter 40, by inserting Section 13F as follows:

Chapter 40, Section 13F

Regional School Assessment Reserve Fund for payments towards future Regional Assessments

Any municipality which accepts this section by a majority vote of the municipality's legislative body may establish and appropriate or transfer money to a reserve fund to be utilized in the upcoming fiscal years, to pay for the Regional Assessment in years when the Regional Assessment increases by more than 35% over the previous year's Regional Assessment. The balance in the reserve fund shall not exceed 10 percent of the annual Regional Assessment for the municipality.

Funds shall only be distributed from the reserve funds after a majority vote of the municipality's legislative body in years when the Regional Assessment is more than 3.5% in order to bring the Regional Assessment down to no less than 2.5% increase. The municipal treasurer may invest the monies in the manner authorized in section 54 of chapter 44 and any interest earned thereon shall be credited to and become part of the fund.