



City of Malden

Malden City Hall
215 Pleasant Street
Malden, MA 02148

Meeting Minutes - Final Finance Committee

Councillor McDonald, Chair
Councillor Colon-Hayes, Vice-Chair
Councillor Condon
Councillor Crowe
Councillor Spadafora
Councillor Winslow

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

5:30 PM

215 Pleasant Street, Room 105

Malden, MA 02148

Watch the meeting with Teams: <https://tinyurl.com/bdf27hxa>

Roll Call

Present: 6 - Councillor Carey McDonald, Councillor Karen Colon Hayes, Paul Condon, Peg Crowe, Craig Spadafora and Stephen Winslow

Also Present: Councillors Simonelli, Taylor
Council President was present on Teams/in person 6:15 PM.
Alicia McNeil-City Solicitor
Dan Grover-Treasurer
Maria Luise-Chief of Staff-Mayor's Office
Jen Spadafora-School Committee Budget Chair
Dr. Tim Sippel-Superintendent
Toni Mertz-Finance Director/Business Manager

Councillor McDonald called the meeting to order at 5:35 PM.
This meeting will have video and audio via Teams.

Minutes to be Approved

[268-25](#) Minutes of May 27, 2025 to be approved.

A motion was made by Councillor Winslow, seconded by Councillor Condon, that the Committee Minutes of May 27, 2025 to be approved. The motion carried by a unanimous vote.

Business

[236-25](#) Order: The Mayor will submit the Fiscal Year 2026 Annual Appropriation Orders for the General Fund, Water Sewer Enterprise Fund, Community Preservation Fund, and Cable Access Fund.

Sponsors: Carey McDonald

Attachments: [Fiscal Year 2026 Appropriation Orders](#)
[Budget Book](#)
[FY26 City Budget Public Hearing Post](#)
[CFO Controller Presentation FY26 Budget 52725](#)
[Final Paper: 236-25](#)

The Finance Committee will meet with Dr. Timothy Sippel, Superintendent Malden Public Schools, Toni Mertz, Finance Director/Business Manager Malden Public Schools and Jennifer Spadafora, School Committee Chair of Budget Committee to discuss the FY26 School Budget.

Dr. Timothy Sippel provided an overview of the budget, emphasizing the importance of ensuring a teacher in front of every student and addressing the needs of the district through collaborative efforts with principals and the Central office team. He highlighted the budget priorities, including funding for multilingual learners, students with disabilities, and ensuring equitable access to quality programs for all students. Funding for multilingual learners was prioritized to ensure they receive adequate support and resources. This includes hiring additional ESL teachers to integrate students into regular classes. Dr. Sickle emphasized the importance of addressing the needs of students with disabilities by allocating resources and making programmatic shifts to support their education. The budget aims to ensure equitable access to quality programs for all students, regardless of the school they attend, by adapting instruction to meet diverse needs and partnering with families effectively. Adjustments were made to ensure classroom sizes range between 18 and 25 students per class. This involved reallocating resources and making staffing changes to balance class sizes across the district. Additional ESL teachers were hired to support multilingual learners and integrate them into regular classes, ensuring they receive the necessary support and opportunities to succeed.

He explained the class of 2026 will be the first to meet the increased graduation requirements, which include two years of world language and a full year of Fine Arts. These requirements align with the State University and UMass admissions standards. Additional staffing was added to the high school to ensure students have access to the required classes and can meet the new graduation requirements without difficulty. The program for three-year-olds was shifted to a half-day model to better accommodate their needs, particularly for students in the intensive learning program who struggled with full-day schedules. Adjustments were made to special education staffing to ensure students with disabilities receive adequate support. This included reallocating positions and adding new staff where necessary.

Toni Mertz, Finance Director/Business Manager MHS, reported the district started recruiting teachers as early as March, resulting in better staffing for the upcoming school year. This proactive approach helped secure qualified candidates ahead of time. She also explained efforts are being made to grow their own pipeline of educators by encouraging and supporting current staff to pursue teaching credentials and advance within the district. She emphasized the challenges of managing budget priorities, including the impact of state-approved rate increases for out-of-district placements and related services. The district relies heavily on federal grants, such as Title I and IDEA, to fund various positions and programs. The potential loss of these funds could significantly impact the budget and staffing levels. She talked about concerns regarding the unpredictability of state funding and its impact on the district's ability to plan and allocate resources effectively. and emphasized the need for stable and predictable funding

sources.

Councillor McDonald thanked Dr. Sippel, Toni Mertz and Jenn Spadafora for coming before the Finance committee to present some highlights of the School FY26 Budget. The committee emphasized the need for stable and predictable funding sources.

Councillor McDonald gave the committee a brief breakdown of the City Council Budget timeline. If no other department heads come forward to meet with the Finance Committee the plan would be to discuss the FY26 Proposed Budget next week and any potential questions that may come up. If the committee agrees a vote would be taken to vote the FY26 Budget out of the Finance Committee favorably to the Full Council. The paper would then be placed on the Tuesday, June 17th City Council Docket for review and final vote by the Full Council.

Other Business

Adjournment

A motion was made by Councillor Crowe, seconded by Councillor Colon Hayes, that this meeting be adjourned at 6:36 PM. The motion carried unanimously.

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