

# GARDNER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Elm Street School  
160 Elm Street, Gardner, MA 01440  
Finance Sub-Committee Meeting  
Thursday, February 2, 2026 at 5:00pm

## Minutes

Members Present: Mr. LaFreniere, Mrs. Pelavin, Mr. Swartz

Members Absent:

Others Present: Mr. Mark Hawke, Director of Finance & Operations, Dr. Mark Pellegrino, Superintendent, Mr. Wayne Anderson, Director of Facilities, Ms. Joyce West, Director of Pupil Personnel Services

Mr. LaFreniere called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meetings was made by Mr. Swartz, seconded by Mrs. Pelavin. So Voted.

### **Expense Report Review:**

The committee reviewed the Year to Date Expense report. Mr. Hawke noted Comcast processed our e-rate discount and the Management & Information line is back to normal. The Out of District Tuition line is negative, and is about \$40k more than last month. Mrs. Pelavin noted that the GES electricity line item was negative and all the others were positive. Mr. Hawke will look into this. Mr. Swartz asked about the Acquisition of Equipment line. Mr. Hawke noted the district needs a new pickup truck as the 2012 GMC Sierra has over 100K miles and will not pass inspection. It was submitted as a Capital need on the latest Capital Improvement report and we are waiting to see if we get the funding from the City.

The Revolving accounts were reviewed and are all healthy and operating as normal.

### **Projects Update:**

N/A

### **New Business:**

Mr. Hawke presented a preliminary budget preview showing the anticipated revenues and expenses. There is currently an anticipated \$2 million deficit the team is working to resolve.

Joyce West presented information and graphs depicting the rapid increase in Students With Disabilities (SWD). The information included charts showing how Gardner stands as compared to the state as well as other similar districts with regards to SWD population, autism rates and other sectors. Gardner is higher than the state averages and comparative districts averages, especially at the elementary level. All of this is going to lead to higher than normal Out of District (OOD) costs and a re-structuring of our Pre-K program.

Motion to adjourn 5:53 pm, So Voted.