



Melrose School Committee

Regular Meeting

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 7:00 PM
562 Main Street, Melrose, MA 02176
Council Chamber, First Floor, Melrose City Hall

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Margaret Raymond Driscoll	Member	Present	
Mayor Grigoraitis	Mayor	Present	
Matt Hartman	Vice Chair	Present	
Melissa Holleran	Member	Present	
Seamus Kelley	Chair	Present	
Sheri Leo	Member	Present	
Jen Razi-Thomas	Member	Present	
Cari Berman	Interim Superintendent	Present	

Also in attendance: Interim Deputy Superintendent, Ken Kelley and Recording Secretary, Kristen O'Connor. With a roll call vote with seven (7) present, the meeting convened at 7:00 PM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Without objection, the Chair opened Public Comment.

Alex Rodriguez, a Melrose resident and parent, expressed appreciation to the Superintendent for the proposed middle school team model, noting it prioritizes student needs. Also, he requested that data from the upcoming survey regarding the middle and high school leadership models be shared with the public.

Phillip Morgan, a lifelong Melrose resident, shared his vision for a "green Melrose" and addressed environmental concerns. He highlighted issues with traffic congestion and the high volume of cars at the high school, advocating for mindfulness within the schools. Mr. Morgan suggested implementing a local tree program to better connect students with their community and the environment.

Without objection, the Chair closed Public Comment.

3. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

Superintendent Berman spoke to mid-year data, highlighting the district's goal of sharing this

information with families. She noted that Ms. Acevedo has worked hard to compile this information which will be distributed to families via email by the end of the week. The data focuses on ELA and Math performances for students in grades K–10 and noted that data for grades 11–12 can be looked at by mid-year and AP exams.

1. Report: School Registration Information 2026-2027

The Superintendent announced the upcoming Kindergarten registration process. A virtual information session for parents and caregivers is scheduled for Monday, February 23, from 7:00–8:00 PM. This year features a transition to an online registration system through Aspen. Specific registration dates will be announced during the workshop, and a recording will be posted to the district website for those unable to attend.

2. Report: Personnel

Interim Superintendent Berman presented the personnel report from the end of January and offered to answer any questions. She clarified that the positions listed were not newly created positions but rather positions that were previously vacated.

3. Report: Enrollment Updates

Superintendent Berman shared the enrollment report from the end of January and offered to answer any questions from the Committee.

4. Report: SEEM Annual Report

Superintendent Berman presented the SEEM Annual Report, providing an overview of the district's partnership with the collaborative. She highlighted SEEM's role in student programming, professional development, consulting, and transportation services. Ms. Driscoll shared with the community that collaboratives are public schools and can provide special education services to students in the least restrictive environment.

5. Report: MVMMS Structure for 2026-2027

Superintendent Berman presented a memo outlining upcoming changes to middle school (and some high school) scheduling. A highlight is the planned reintroduction of the "team model" at the middle school level. The sixth grade will return to a traditional team model to ease the transition from elementary school, seventh grade will move to a two-team structure, more details will follow, and eighth grade will mirror more of a high school structure offering electives to help prepare them for the transition to high school. The goal is to implement this model for the upcoming year, contingent on final budget approval. Discussion included what would be involved with staff movement and required licensure, and the academic opportunities for middle school students at the high school.

4. REPORT OF THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Chair Kelley introduced MHS senior Teagan Altman who provided an update on high school activities. Key highlights included: seniors completing AAPPL testing to assess language proficiency, upcoming information sessions for families to learn about the college admission

process, the success of the boys and girls track teams, upcoming senior night for the girls hockey team and mental health awareness events.

5. CONSENT AGENDA

Ms. Driscoll requested that the meeting minutes of January 30, 2026, be removed. They will be moved to the Announcements of the Chair. All other Consent Agenda items were approved as presented.

MOTION:	To approve the Consent Agenda
RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Matt Hartman
SECONDER:	Jennifer Razi-Thomas
AYES:	Jennifer Razi-Thomas, Jennifer Grigoraitis, Seamus Kelley, Margaret Raymond Driscoll, Matt Hartman, Melissa Holleran, Sheri Leo

1. Warrants

- FY26 School - [S26054](#) - \$525,042.84
- FY26 Refunds & Officials - [S26055](#) - \$7,140.15
- FY26 January High School Student Activity Wire - [S26056](#) - \$12,003.63
- FY26 February Debit Card - [S26057](#) - \$1625.00
- FY26 January Meals Tax - [S26058](#) - \$34.41
- FY26 January MVMMS Student Activity Wire - [S26059](#) - \$6,350.00

2. Regular Meeting Minutes: January 30, 2026

6. SUBCOMMITTEES (COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE)

1. Finance and Facilities - Margaret Driscoll/Melissa Holleran

A Monthly Budget Summary/Grants/Revolving Accounts

Interim Deputy Superintendent Kelley presented the budget summary and revolving accounts and offered to answer any questions the Committee had. Discussion included: how the adjustment column reflects the new supplemental funds and how as new positions are hired as a result of the override, those will be reflected in the instructional teacher category.

MOTION:	To approve the YTD Summary and Revolving Accounts
RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Seamus Kelley
SECONDER:	Matt Hartman
AYES:	Jennifer Razi-Thomas, Jennifer Grigoraitis, Seamus Kelley, Margaret Raymond Driscoll, Matt Hartman, Melissa Holleran, Sheri Leo

B Discussion: FY27 Budget Timeline

Ms. Driscoll opened the discussion by introducing the Teaching and Learning budget timeline. She emphasized to the community that because the school district shares numerous services with the city, the school department's budget does not fully reflect the total amount spent on student services.

Interim Superintendent Berman followed by thanking the administration and the Mayor's office for their collaborative hard work. She noted that the district is finalizing last year's budget, managing the current year's budget, and planning for the next.

Interim Deputy Superintendent Kelley presented the formal budget timeline included in the meeting packet. He highlighted his productive bi-weekly meetings with the City CFO, noting that the goal is to have a budget ready for consideration by mid-May. Adding to this, Ms. Berman mentioned that the district is working to streamline the process; as a result, the budget book" will look differently this year. Finally, Ms. Driscoll noted the joint meeting with the City Council is scheduled for May 11th, while Chair Kelley advised that an additional meeting may need to be added on April 7th to stay on schedule. Discussion included community sessions and the timeline for sharing budget information with the community.

2. Policy and Planning - Matt Hartman/Margaret Driscoll
3. Educational Programs and Personnel - Jen Razi-Thomas/Sheri Leo

7. ANNOUNCEMENTS OF THE CHAIR

1. Report: Rolling Agenda

Chair Kelley presented the Rolling Agenda for the first six months of the year. He proposed that the agenda continue to be included in each meeting packet to ensure visibility of upcoming items.

2. Vote: Data Presentations

Chair Kelley reviewed the list of annual data presentations and the Committee discussed whether a formal vote is required for this. A follow-up was needed to determine the proper voting procedure, with the intent to place the item on the next meeting's consent agenda if a vote is required.

3. Report: Subcommittees

Chair Kelley finalized the subcommittee leadership as follows: Finance and Facilities (Driscoll/Holleran), Policy and Planning (Hartman/Driscoll), and Educational Programs and Personnel (Razi-Thomas/Leo).

4. Report: Office Hours

Ms. Razi-Thomas and Ms. Leo offered to coordinate office hours this year.

5. Report: Outreach

Ms. Leo shared her recent meeting with Citywide PTO, where they spent some time talking about communication and the best way to reach families. Ms. Razi Thomas thanked the Superintendent for restarting the "Good News" and looks forward to seeing that monthly communication.

Meeting minutes from January 30, 2026 were removed from the Consent Agenda. A motion was made to approve by Ms. Holleran, seconded by Mr. Hartman. With four (4) in favor and three (3) abstentions, the motion passed.

MOTION:	To approve meeting minutes from January 30, 2026
RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Melissa Holleran
SECONDER:	Matt Hartman
AYES:	Jennifer Grigoraitis, Seamus Kelley, Matt Hartman, Melissa Holleran
ABSTAIN:	Margaret Raymond Driscoll, Sheri Leo, Jen Razi-Thomas

8. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Kelley stated that there would be no longer be need for an Executive Session.

1. To approve Executive Session minutes of December 16, 2025 and January 13, 2026.
2. To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with MEA Units A, B and C as an open discussion may have a detrimental effect of the negotiating position of the school committee.
3. To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel Cari Berman.

9. ADJOURN

MOTION:	To Adjourn
RESULT:	ACCEPTED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Jennifer Razi-Thomas
SECONDER:	Melissa Holleran
AYES:	Jennifer Razi-Thomas, Jennifer Grigoraitis, Seamus Kelley, Margaret Raymond Driscoll, Matt Hartman, Melissa Holleran, Sheri Leo

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.