

EASTFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION
Fiscal Committee Minutes
January 22, 2026

Present: Lauren Barlow, Michael Bilica, Stephen Bowen, Terry Cote,
Robert Ellsworth, Adam Minor, Nancy Neff

Also Present: Dr. Donna Leake, Superintendent; Carole McCombe, Principal;
Charles Kernan, Pupil Services Director

I. Call to Order

Chair Bowen called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

II. Review and consider adjustments to the Superintendent's 2026-2027 budget in preparation for sending to the Board of Selectmen

The Board reviewed the Superintendent's 2026-2027 budget for \$5,023,857, representing a 4.86% increase over the 2025-2026 budget.

The Board walked through the Superintendent's proposed budget, making comments and asking questions of administration. The Board requested some reductions be made, specifically to the Purchased Services, Building Repair, Media Equipment, and Field Trip lines.

Superintendent Leake noted that there may be reductions in the percentage increase on insurance coverages, but that information has not yet been confirmed. She said she would advise the Board should any updated information be received.

It was also noted that one of the educational programs may not need to be renewed until 2027-2028, so the Board asked for that cost to be reviewed.

The Board requested that the total budget increase be brought below 4%. The budget will be voted on at the February 12 meeting of the Board.

III. Adjournment

Mr. Bowen adjourned the meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kymerli A. Gaylor, Clerk