



# TOWN OF TYNGSBOROUGH

Office of the Select Board

Town Offices | 25 Bryant Lane

Tyngsborough, MA 01879

Tel: (978) 649-2300 Ext. 100 | Fax: (978) 649-2320

## Select Board Meeting Minutes **approved**

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**Monday, February 2, 2026**

**6:00 PM**

**Flex Performance Space - Tyngsborough Middle School**

**50 Norris Road**

**Tyngsborough, MA 01879**

The listing of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chairperson 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.

**1. 6:00 PM Open Meeting/Pledge of Allegiance/Board Introduction/Read Agenda**

**Members present:** Ronald Schneider, Jackie Geilfuss, Eric Eldridge, Ronald Keohane, Adele Coughlin

**School Committee:** Ryan McMahon, Rebecca Stanton, Danielle Athanas, Anthony Tinnirella, Robert Mullin, Burt Buchman, Stacey Guido,

**Finance Committee:** Lawrence Clawson, Ralph Catalano, Carolyn Scafidi, Philip Caragan

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Colin Loiselle, Assistant Town Manager Sean Walsh, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Michael Flanagan, Assistant Superintendent Michael Woodlock, School Business Administrator Joseph Messina, Assistant School Business Administrator Daniel Hogan, Director of Student Services Sarah Lewenczuk

Ryan McMahon calls the tri-board meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**2. Tri-Board Meeting (School Committee, Select Board, Finance Committee) re: FY27 Budget**

Dr. Flanagan gives a presentation for a FY27 level-service budget to the tri-board meeting. He touches on the budget not only including the school, but transportation costs for those not necessarily attending Tyngsborough Public Schools or extracurricular activities beyond school. The presentation summarizes cost increases to utilities, out-of-district tuitions, transportation, and salaries.

Dr. Flanagan continues to provide a 5-year lookback to the school budget, touching on the four aforementioned budget drivers. In addition, state aid is not keeping pace with inflation and cost increases. Assuming 2.7% growth in budget, level service is over \$400,000 short. Adding in over





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\$500,000 of a 60/40 school/town split in additional deficit that needs to be made up, the total deficit of a level-funded service level reaches almost \$1,000,000.

He is confident that collectively we will get to a balanced budget, but further discussion of impacts will be necessary.

Town Manager Loiselle recommends that the school committee and Select Board appoint two representatives and the finance committee appoint one representative to a working group to address funding challenges for FY27, but also reminds the boards that budget issues are not going away in future fiscal years.

Dr. Flanagan affirms support for the representative working group to solve financial challenges.

Mr. McMahan asks if the board should appoint their members tonight.

Mr. Loiselle notes that it does not need to be this week, but this week would be beneficial.

Selectperson Eldridge thanks Dr. Flanagan for his presentation and notes the information is very good for residents, though challenges won't be solved this evening. He continues that he is not only worried about this year, but next year and moving forward, noting modest increases in state aid palling in comparison to cost increases.

School Committee member Stacey Guido notes that while she has seen the information, she appreciates the venue and format of presentation with the tri-board, and stresses the importance of getting the information out to the public and the impact this will have on students in Tyngsborough. She continues the schools' purpose is not to make a profit, but to educate students.

School Committee member Danielle Athanas notes Sarah Lewenczuk and her team put together a great presentation with a deep dive on services provided for TPS students that will answer questions some may have.

Selectperson Coughlin thanks Dr. Flanagan for the presentation, and notes that concerned taxpayers are looking to this group of people to figure out these issues. She asks what resources the subgroup would have to work toward solving these issues.

Selectperson Keohane notes his support of the schools in his Select Board tenure. He mentions the history of working together with the schools to solve issues historically. He points to healthcare cost increases not going away, and skyrocketing costs in general being a challenge, along with residents





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not wanting to expand beyond 2.5% increases. He notes that closing the deficit will hurt in whatever solution is agreed to.

School Committee member Tinnirella mentions that the enrollment number means less than the needs of students being met being the most important.

Mr. Catalano asks if there are any cost savings from having a new building vs increased costs of a new building.

Mr. Messina talks about building envelope efficiencies, HVAC systems, and electricity heat vs natural gas as points of data for potential savings, along with the installation of solar panels on the roof. He notes that they are waiting for the right time to lock in electricity rates for a longer duration. After a year in the building with solar panels, they will have better data to evaluate potential savings.

Mr. Messina at the suggestion of Dr. Flanagan provides an overview of solar projects and capacity over a period of 25 year pricing agreements.

Mr. Clawson asks about the ownership of the solar panels.

Mr. Messina notes Solar Energy owns the panels and Tyngsborough pays for the electricity coming from the panels, and excess can be sold back to the grid.

Dr. Flanagan notes the instructional efficiencies of the new school benefitting students and staff, including an increase in attendance by both school and staff, which are harder to quantify than dollars saved.

Mr. Loiselle asks for appointments from the Select Board to the subgroup.

Selectperson Eldridge, Selectperson Keohane, and Selectperson Coughlin volunteered to serve.

**Selectperson Geilfuss moves that Eric Eldridge and Ron Keohane represent the Select Board on the subgroup. Selectperson Coughlin seconds. Motion carries 5-0-0.**

### 3. Adjournment

**Selectperson Eldridge moves to adjourn at 6:41. Selectperson Geilfuss seconds. Motion carries 5-0-0.**





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### **Future Meetings**

February 9, 2026

February 23, 2026

*If any member of the public wishing to attend this meeting seeks special accommodations in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, please contact Sean Walsh at 978-743-5339 or email [swalsh@tyngsboroughma.gov](mailto:swalsh@tyngsboroughma.gov). While every attempt will be made to provide reasonable accommodations, requests should be made with as much advance notice as possible. Please note some requests, specifically for communication access support, may require 2 week notice beyond the control of the Town.*

