

# South Hadley Public Schools

## School Committee Meeting Minutes

---

March 11, 2026

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

**I. Call to Order:** At 7:00pm noticing a quorum, Chair Eric Friesner called to order the hybrid South Hadley School Committee meeting, in-person at the South Hadley Council on Aging and a Zoom Meeting accessible via SHCTV15 and SHCTV.com

**In Attendance:** Eric Friesner, Chairperson; Danielle Cooke, Vice Chairperson; Jack Witkowski, Member; Charles Miles, Member; Tracie Kennedy, Member; Jennifer Voyik, Superintendent for South Hadley Public Schools; & Lyn Jacques, Assistant Superintendent for South Hadley Public Schools.

### II. Budget Hearing

**A. Budget Presentation:** Superintendent Voyik read the mission statement, provided a summary of the public dialogue about the FY27 budget, a Chapter 70 summary including a history of aid, Town Appropriation history, budget drivers, new staff positions needed, the cost of staff positions moving from grants to the local budget, special education increases, proposed FY27 budget, expenses by function, budget variances with a \$11 million by budget line items, differences between a \$9 million override & \$11 million, position reductions in all three budget options, a breakdown of a deficit budget, and the impacts of a deficit budget. The PowerPoint presentation has been posted on the SHPS website and filed with the original minutes. Chair Friesner expressed appreciation for the line variances that were reviewed because from year to year in the schools there can be a lot of fluctuations. The floor was opened to the School Committee members for discussion. A pilot program in Easthampton with Clark School for the Deaf, support staff professional development, para-support classrooms, a suggested discussion to be had with SHEL, ideas about sports & electives, a vocational director, offering school choice strategically, and DESE recommendations for class sizes.

### B. Budget Public Comment:

1. Parkview Dr Resident, Mosier School Building Project concerns about chosen option.
2. Lisa Cauley, Parkview Dr, Mosier School Building Project concerns about chosen option.
3. Gina Hargrove-Modio, Parkview Dr, Mosier School Building Project concerns about chosen option.
4. Christine Phillips, Boynton Ave, AP courses, regular education students, & a survey to SHHS families.
5. Tricia Caneman, Meadowood Dr, special education costs
6. Rebecca Chaveri, Boynton Ave, \$11 million override & sports fees.
7. Megan Leary, Bardwell St, initiatives on the state level.

**C. Discussion:** Took place prior to public comment.

**III. Information Only:** None.

**IV. Unfinished Business:** None.

**V. New Business:** None.

# South Hadley Public Schools School Committee Meeting Minutes

---

March 11, 2026

Video Conference Meeting Accessible via SHCTV1 or SHCTV1.com

**(VOTE)** Chair Friesner entertained a motion to adjourn.

Vice Chair Cooke so moved.

Charles Miles seconded.

Cooke – Aye; Witkowski – Aye; Miles – Aye; Kennedy – Aye; & Friesner – Aye.

This motion passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kiesha Keitt, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent.

Reviewed and approved by the School Committee on March 25, 2026.