

Lunenburg Finance Committee Public Hearing
Lunenburg High/Middle School - Collaborative Room
August 27, 2026

Present Members: Vice Chair Peter Beardmore, Clerk Tom Gray, Committee Member Tanya Dall, Committee Member Jay Simeone, Committee Member Ana Lockwood, Committee Member Mike Rupp

Absent Member: Chair Chris Menard

1. Call to Order

The meeting opened at 7:00 PM.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Announcements

Peter Beardmore briefly discussed his concern with Article 3 and the possible funding source. There will likely be an additional meeting prior to Special Town Meeting to nail down specifics.

4. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

5. Town Manager & Finance Director Reports

There were no reports from the Town Manager or the Finance Director.

6. Public Hearing

There was a motion to enter into public hearing for the Special Town Meeting by Tom Gray, seconded by Tanya Dall. All in favor.

a. Additional Special Town Meeting Articles (State Aid, School Athletics)

Peter Beardmore confirmed that the School Committee met last night where there were further discussions and additional information was received regarding a grant.

Dr. Jodi Fortuna, Superintendent of Schools and Laura Brzozoski, Chair of the School Committee, provided the presentation.

A Grant was awarded to the primary school that provides 36 revolving seats for Ignite tutoring. The previously requested amount of \$129,458 will be reallocated.

An actual roundtrip quote was received to cover the fall and winter high school sports.

With previous earmark funds, 10 passenger vans were purchased. Drivers will need to complete certain training and obtain specific licenses. Vans are anticipated to arrive in November and be running for the spring season.

The School Committee discussed 3 different scenarios followed by a vote.

The previously suggested spending included:

Primary School- 1.0 Reading Specialist totaling \$103,722

Primary School- 52 Ignite Tuition revolving seats totaling \$129,458

THES- 1.0 Reading Specialist totaling \$103,722

LHS- increasing the .5 Assistant Principal to a 1.0 role totaling \$90,450

LHS- increasing the .6 Music Teacher to a 1.0 role totaling \$26,370

District- 1.0 Certified Occupation Therapy Assistant totaling \$ 68,000

Additions included:

LMHS Literacy Professional Development totaling \$15,736

Primary School – 2nd grade teacher totaling \$103,722

Athletic Transportation totaling \$10,000

Peter Beardmore noted that the school choice credit of \$5,541 has not been appropriated via the Omnibus or the Town Meeting budget. These funds will go directly to the school department.

Ana Lockwood inquired into the number of principals and vice principals in the High/Middles School. Dr. Jodie Fortuna states there is a .5 principal that is split between Middle/High School, 1 Assistant Principal at the High School, and 1 Assistant Principal for the Middle School.

Tanya Dall questions if there is a contingency plan if the additional staff is hired. Dr. Jodi Fortuna stated there may be cuts in extracurricular activities or cutting down the high school schedule. Dr. Jodi Fortuna reiterated that the main priority of the school is education.

7. New Business

a. Deliberation and Recommendation on Special Town Meeting Articles (potential vote)

Mandy Gilman, 186 Reservoir Road, requests to pass over Article 2 in consideration for Article 1.

Article 3 requested the Select Board transfer and establish a special purpose fund regarding WRAP funds. The School Committee presented a figure of \$45,849, representing funding for most previously offered middle school sports. If this article passes \$19,349 will be used to fund transportation and the cost of outdoor track, middle school girls' and boys' basketball.

Additionally, the high school would restore the girl's lacrosse and ski team.

There was a motion to close public hearing by Tom Gray, seconded by Tanya Dall. All in favor.

Article 1

There was a motion to recommend approval of Article 1 by Ana Lockwood, seconded by Peter Beardmore. Article 1 will be moved as written in the warrant with the amount requested being \$418,056. The motion passed unanimously.

Article 2

There was a motion to defer this article to Town Meeting by Tom Gray, seconded by Peter Beardmore. Article 2 was unanimously deferred.

Article 3

There was a motion to defer this article to Town Meeting by Ana Lockwood, seconded by Tanya Dall. Article 3 was unanimously deferred.

8. Old Business

a. Financial Related Policies

Town Manager inquired with the Department of Revenue about the WRAP funds. A subject matter expert will come and speak to the town about specifics.

b. Funds Balances

This topic was deferred.

c. Operating Protocols

This topic was deferred.

9. Minutes

There was a motion to approve the minutes of July 23, 2026, by Tom Gray, seconded by Tanya Dall. The minutes were approved 4-0-1.

10. Committee Reports

Tom Gray stated the Municipal Building Design Committee has had ongoing meetings to discuss the future plans for the Committee.

Tanya Dall confirmed that Parks and Recreations have been having meetings. They are promoting the Touch-A-Truck event taking place on August 28th at TCP.

11. Actions and Topics for Future Meetings

Financial Policy

Operating Protocol

12. Important Dates & Upcoming Meetings

a. Special Town Meeting – Sept 3

b. Finance Committee – Sept 10

13. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

14. Adjourn

There was a motion to adjourn by Tom Gray, seconded by Tanya Dall. All in favor.

The meeting closed at 9:02 PM.