



Meeting Notice

Board/Committee Name: Orange Elementary School Committee

Day/Date: March 19, 2026

Time of Meeting: 4:00pm

Location: Virtual Meeting: meet.google.com/qkp-hvty-xgc

MINUTES

1. Call To Order - Mallory called the meeting to order with a roll call vote at 4:10pm.
Members present: Crystal Clarke, Abigail B., Josefa Scherer, Maria Bull.
Others present: Dr. Zielinski, Michele Tontodonato, Phil Saisa, Alyson Herk.
Minutes taken by Christine Rodriguez.
2. Public Comment - none
3. Matters for Action or Vote
 - a. FY27 Budget - Dr. Liz explained that the School Committee held its initial budget meeting on February 9. At that time, the Committee requested that the administration work to reduce the proposed budget to approximately a 2% increase.
In response, the administration revised the budget, and at the March 9th Public Hearing, presented a proposed budget reflecting a 2.16% increase over the prior fiscal year.
The budget was subsequently presented to the Town of Orange Finance Committee on March 16. The presentation was received with limited comment from the Finance Committee.
As Orange Elementary School operates as a department of the Town, any adjustments made by the Town may require the School Committee to revisit and revote the budget at a future meeting (anticipated in April or June).

On a motion made by Josefa Scherer and seconded by Crystal Clarke, the committee voted to approve the FY27 Orange Elementary School budget to be set at \$8,883,071.00.

No discussion. Roll call vote - unanimous.
4. Next Meeting - April 13, 2026
5. Items for Future Consideration - Descriptions of subcommittees for next meeting.

6. **Adjournment - *On a motion made by Crystal Clarke and seconded by Maria Bull, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn at 4:18pm. Roll call taken by Mallory Ellis.***

Approved: 4/13/26 Signature of Secretary _____

The agenda reflects topics that the Chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed.

Public Comment Protocols

The School Committee welcomes public comment on items that are within the scope of the School Committee's responsibilities. The Public Comment agenda item is reserved for this purpose. Members of the public wishing to address the Committee should be aware of the following guidelines:

- The Chair will recognize those wishing to speak and give them the floor. Only persons recognized by the Chair may speak. For purposes of the minutes, speakers should identify themselves at the beginning of their remarks.
- The purpose of Public Comment is to receive input from the community, not to engage in prolonged conversation with the Committee. The Chair will ensure that any comment or question that requires a response from the committee or the School Department will be addressed in a timely manner.
- All comments should be addressed through the Chair, not any individual committee member or to others in attendance.
- Speakers are expected to respect confidentiality. This includes the confidentiality of the speaker's own child/ren as well as that of school staff and personnel.