

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER & JOHN FITZGERALD



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' FY27 OPERATING BUDGET

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools' Fiscal Year 2026 operating budget totalled more than \$1.5 billion; *and*

WHEREAS, Section 6 of Chapter 70 of the Massachusetts General Laws states that each municipality in the Commonwealth shall annually appropriate for the support of public schools in the municipality an amount equal to not less than the sum of the minimum required local contribution; *and*

WHEREAS, Section 2 of Chapter 224 of the Acts of 1936 further states that the City Council shall vote on the total amount of the appropriations requested by the Mayor; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper will present the FY27 budget to the School Committee on the first Wednesday of February; *and*

WHEREAS, For Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026, the City Council worked collaboratively with Boston Public Schools starting in January to allow more advocacy from the Council before the School Committee approved the budget in March; *and*

WHEREAS, Similar to Fiscal Years 25 and 26, Boston Public Schools is committed to creating a physical budget book for Fiscal Year 2027, which will be similar to BPS budget books from last decade and will allow for more public transparency earlier in the budget process; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools began actively working on the Fiscal Year 2027 budget starting in the fall of 2026, and the City Council engaged with Boston Public Schools starting in November 2025 to better advocate for priorities of the students in FY27; *and*

WHEREAS, In previous iterations of the Council rules, the Committee on Ways and Means has had general oversight with respect to City revenues and expenditures and all other component units that comprise the government entity, as defined by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, and have referred to it all matters concerning appropriations, the City budget, expenditures and loans; *and*

WHEREAS, Traditionally, the Committee introduces a hearing order similar to this one during the last week of January to officially begin deliberations on the Council about the next fiscal year's operating budget, which is the intent of this order; *and*

WHEREAS, Facing declining enrollment and the potential loss of federal funding, Boston Public Schools are facing harsh realities that require the need for closures, mergers, and reconfigurations and ultimately a long-term facilities plan in order to ensure that our students, teachers and staff at BPS can be well equipped to receive and provide excellent educational services for all enrolled in Boston Public Schools; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a policy briefing in February, a working session in early March, multiple hearings in April, and that representatives of Boston Public Schools and other interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 28, 2026