

Board of Education Special Meeting
Dr. Alfred Tychsen Administration Building
311 Hunting Hill Ave., Conference Room B
Friday, March 27, 2026, 5:40 PM
<https://www.youtube.com/@MiddletownStream>

Board Members Present: Kelly Bee, Chris Cardella, Sheila Daniels, Rakim Grant, Deborah Kleckowski, Dean Krupa, Susan Owens, Harold Panciera, and Kim Riordan

I. Call to Order

Ms. Daniels called the meeting to order at 5:41 PM.

II. Vote to approve the BOE Meeting Minutes 3-27-26 at 5:30 PM

A motion was made to approve the BOE Meeting Minutes 3-27-26 at 5:30 PM, which was made by Mr. Cardella and seconded by Ms. Klekowski- unanimous vote.

III. Budget Discussion

Ms. Daniels introduced Dr. Addley.

Dr. Addley shared two changes to the 2026-27 budget proposal. Eversource billing: The district has paid approximately \$279,000 to Eversource for the Middletown Recreation Center since it opened. The district has not been billed for Beman Middle School. Eversource can backdate its billing to January 2025 for Beman Middle School. The amount owed for Beman Middle School electricity through June 2026 is approximately \$600,000. This represents a \$32,000 increase in monthly cost for Beman Middle School. Workers' compensation has also increased by \$62,000.

The Eversource and Workers' Compensation items represent a combined total potential increase of 0.38% above 3.99%, or 5.21%. Ms. Klekowski questioned the increase.

Mr. Snyder was asked to explain the difference in mod rates because of our previous relationship with CIRMA. There could be large savings switching to a traditional carrier. In the next year, we should see a drop, as we will lose one of our higher years that are calculated into our mod rate.

Mr. Krupa asked about measures in place to try to lower the mod rate. Mr. Snyder explained that we are working with the district safety committee and offering more light-duty assignments.

Ms. Daniels proposed a discussion of the multiple budget proposals and opened up the budget discussion. Ms. Klekowski explained that they are only voting on the allocation today; they are not voting on the budget itself. By charter, the mayor has to have the budget by April 1, 2026. She encouraged the board to show responsibility to the Common Council by demonstrating that the Board is working to do everything it can. Mr. Grant would like to vote for a number that

includes the increases and not pull from the core to cover additional needs. Less money will not increase student success.

A motion to approve the budget with a 4.37% increase was made by Ms. Klekowski, and a second was made by Ms. Bee.

5.59 % motion by Mr. Grant, who cannot support cutting anything.

Dr. Addley clarified whether the Board is approving a budget to submit to the city and come back and adjust it after approval. Ms. Daniels explained that the board's consensus was to vote on a number and then come back after we receive the actual number from the city. Mr. Cardella asked if, in Dr. Addley's experience, the board should have rearranged the budget during the workshops. Mr. Panciera stated that he feels the 5.59% is safer given all the uncertainties in the world. A more aggressive approach to increasing test scores, and the new superintendent needs to look at things thoroughly, and will need to have access to more money. Ms. Klekowski mentioned that we can still ask the city for appropriations for specific projects. Ms. Owens shared that this is to help the kids get a good education. She would like to look at the spending. Mr. Cardella cannot support 4.37% and it is not realistic. Ms. Daniels clarified a few points about sixth-grade Spanish being eliminated and not being in study halls, but rather true intervention. She shared that Dr. Addley has extensive experience, is unbiased, and formed this budget without political ties or gains.

IV. Vote to adopt the Board of Education's 2026-2027 Budget

A motion was made to approve the 4.37% increase in the 2026-2027 Budget by Ms. Klekowski, and a second by Ms. Daniels

Roll Call Vote (aye or nay) 4.37%

Ms. Kleckowski - yay

Ms. Riordan - yay

Ms. Bee - yay

Mr. Grant - nay

Mr. Panciera - nay

Mr. Krupa - nay

Ms. Owens - nay

Mr. Cardella - nay

Ms. Daniels - yay

4.37 does not pass

A motion to adopt the Board of Education budget with a 5.59% increase was made by Mr. Grant, and a second by Mr. Cardella.

Ms. Klekowski- nay

Ms. Riordan- nay

Ms. Bee- nay

Mr. Grant- yay

Mr. Panciera- yay

Mr. Krupa yay

Ms. Owens yes

Mr. Cardella yes

Ms. Daniels nay

III. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made at 6:38 PM by Ms. Daniels and a second by Ms. Klekowski - unanimous vote.