



Special Randolph Town Council & Randolph School Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, March 2, 2025, at 6:08 p.m.

This is a hybrid meeting. The Public is invited to attend this meeting in person or remotely, by telephone or computer access.

Call to Order: Council President Egan called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: Christos Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James F. Burgess Jr., (In-Person), Natacha Clerger (In-Person), Ryan Egan (In-Person), Jesse Gordon (In-Person), Katrina Huff-Larmond (In-Person), Kevin O’Connell (In-Person), Brandon Thompson (Via Zoom).

Pledge of Allegiance: Pledge of Allegiance led by Burgess.

Moment of Silent Prayer: Moment of Silent Prayer held for 6 soldiers who were killed in the line of duty and Sheila Swanwick who was an involved member of our community.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

1. Reapproval of Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2022
 - a. A public records request revealed an error in a motion under the section where two contracts were voted and approved.
2. Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2026
3. Meeting Minutes of February 9, 2026
4. Meeting Minutes of February 23, 2026

Motion: Motion to reapprove the meeting minutes June 6, 2022 made by Councilor Alexopoulos, seconded by Vice President Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 8-0-1 (Abstention: O’Connell)

Motion passes.

Motion: Motion to take collective action and approve the meeting minutes of February 2, February 9 and February 23, 2026 made by Councilor Alexopoulos, seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Motion: Collective action: Motion to approve the meeting minutes February 2, February 9 and February 23, 2026 made by Councilor Alexopolous , seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Motion passes.

Announcements from the President: None

Town Council Meeting Recessed at 6:14 pm to enter into the Joint meeting with the School Committee.

Councilor Thompson arrived in person at 6:47 pm.

(Presentation: School Department Presentation and Budget Review of FY26 and FY27 took place during a joint meeting with the School Committee. Those minutes are being maintained separately.)

Town Council Meeting recess concluded and Town Council Meeting reconvened at 7:36 pm

Public Hearings: None

Public Comments:

1. Felicia Valentine-Perry, 18 Buris Way: had questions on the public hearing that was postponed due to weather on February 23rd. She was wondering if any additional notice was going to be given to the abutters with the new public hearing date. She also stated that she was concerned with the street width and increased traffic in the area. President Egan asked Town Attorney Griffin to provide her with more information.
2. Sandy Cohen, 16 Bittersweet Lane: asked for more information on the upcoming public hearing on March 9th. Questioned the status of the Community Programs Director and the status of the electric program the prior Assistant Town Manager was working on.
3. Guerlince Semerzier, 60 Mill St: gave thanks to the Town Manager and DPW for their work during the storms. He asked if the DPW could be mindful when slowing some streets and residents' driveways.

Proclamations: None

Appointments: None

Motions, Orders, Resolutions: None

Old/Unfinished Business:

1. Council Order 2026-003: Proposed Amendment To Town Council Rules Pertaining to Committees and Suspension of the Rules

Motion: Motion to approve Council Order 2026-003A as amended made by Councilor Alexopoulos and seconded by Vice President Brewer.

Roll Call Vote: 5-2-1 ((Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Clerger, Egan, Thompson; Nays: Gordon, O'Connell, Abstention: Burgess; Absent at Vote: Huff-Larmond)

Motion passes.

2. Discussion/Decision on the Night Before the Fourth Parade
 - a. President Egan began to give a brief update on this topic.
 - b. Councilor O'Connell asked for clarification if the motion included the resolution that was in the packets. Councilor Burgess stated that it was not included in his motion and that the resolution has no teeth.

- c. Councilor O’Connell mentioned the possibility of creating a PRA to plan this event. Councilor Burgess does not believe this is necessary since there is no permit involved.
- d. President Egan explained that the resolution is to provide guidelines to the staff involved in planning the event as well as how they should proceed.
- e. Councilor Huff-Larmond is in favor of the festival given the public safety concerns.
- f. Councilor Burgess is concerned that the resolution will create a false hope for residents.
- g. Councilor O’Connell would like to have changes made to the language of the resolution.
- h. Councilor Clerger has concerns about the resolution creating a president on how the festival will be and look.

Motion: Motion to adopt option C (Festival with no fireworks) for year 2026 and allow the Town Manager and staff to coordinate the event made by Councilor Burgess, seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Motion: Motion to amend the main motion to include and adopt the resolution 2026-001 as presented made by Councilor Gordon, seconded by Councilor Egan.

Roll Call Vote: 6-2-1 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Egan, Gordon, Huff-Larmond, Thompson; Nays: Burgess and O’Connell; Abstentions: Clerger)

Motion passes.

Motion: Motion to adopt option C (Festival with no fireworks) for year 2026 and allow the Town Manager and staff to coordinate the event made by Councilor Burgess, seconded by Councilor Gordon.

Roll Call Vote: 6-2-1 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Egan, Gordon, Huff-Larmond, Thompson; Nays: Burgess and O’Connell; Abstentions: Clerger)

Motion passes.

New Business:

- 1. Council Order 2026-015: Acceptance of Gift of Historical Materials
 - a. Councilor Burgess requested to hold on this agenda item due to the list of materials not being complete. There was no objection by the council to hold on this order.

Town Manager’s Report

- 1. Appointment of Joseph Pitti to Community Programs Director.
 - a. President Egan would like to hold any appointments since this was a special meeting due to weather.
 - b. Town Manager Howard stated that his report is fluid and that he would like to see this appointment be voted on by the council tonight.
 - c. Councilor O’Connell stated that the Towns Manager Report does not have a set topic just like Council Comments and Committee Reports.

Motion: Councilor Gordon made a motion to overrule the ruling of the Chair and to hear the appointment request. This motion was seconded by Councilor O’Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 7-2-0 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Clerger, Gordon, O’Connell, Thompson; Nays: Egan and Huff-Larmond)

Motion passes.

- d. Town Manager Howard gave a brief overview of the applicant highlighting his lengthy relevant experience in the role.
- e. Councilor Clerger asked if we were going to be able to meet him?

- f. Councilor Alexopoulos commended the Town Manager and his search committee for their efforts in finding this candidate.
- g. Councilor Huff-Larmond does not believe the search was equitable. Councilor Huff-Larmond is concerned over the candidate not having as much experience in dealing with a community like Randolph.
- h. Town Manager Howard responded with opposition to Councilor Huff-Larmond's statements.
- i. Councilor Clerger says if the search committee was given all 47 applicants then we need to trust the choice.

Motion: Motion to appoint Joseph Pitti as the Community Programs Director as recommended by the Town Manager by Councilor Burgess. This motion was seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 6-1-2 (Alexopolous, Brewer, Burgess, Clerger, Egan, O'Connell; Nays: Huff-Larmond; Abstentions: Gordon and Thompson)

Motion passes.

Correspondence:

- 1. Flyer for Community Block Advisory Group
 - a. This will be held via ZOOM. Flyers can be found on the Town Hall bulletin board

Subcommittee Reports:

- 1. Councilor O'Connell gave a brief report as the School Committee Representative. March 5th at 5:30 PM there is a walk through at Randolph Community Middle School.

Council Comments:

- 1. Councilor Thompson: Hope everyone made it through the storm ok. Randolph roads looked great following the storm. He would like to have a discussion on cleaning off hydrants after snowstorms.
- 2. Councilor Alexopoulos: gave thanks to all involved in the Food is Love event over this past weekend. Multiple councilors attended and the event was wonderful. Councilor Alexopoulos gave thanks to the DPW for their hard work during the snowstorm. Reminded residents to get their cars off the roads during a parking ban.
- 3. Councilor Brewer: Congratulations to the Food Pantry for their event. Good Luck to Chief Cassford on his retirement.
- 4. Councilor Burgess: Asked if there are any more votes needed for a topic that was discussed in Executive. Town Attorney Griffin stated no further action is needed at this time. Councilor Burgess stated that the pole petition will be in front of us at the next meeting and gave some concerns over the location.
- 5. Councilor O'Connell: Thanked the DPW for their hard work and saying Randolph did an amazing job. Sheila was an amazing woman and she will be missed. RICC is hosting kids basketball through End Zone Sports, football and soccer programs will be coming up as well. Was unable to go to the football banquet but heard that it was a successful night.
- 6. Councilor Gordon: would like to have his amendments to the council rules and a resolution on the agenda for the next meeting. Councilor Gordon stated that Councilor Huff-Larmond had differences in this meeting but was respectful and that respect should be encouraged. March 7th at 10 a.m. in Town Hall is the democratic caucus. The Randolph Foundation for Education is meeting Wednesday at 6:30 p.m., here in Town Hall. Randolph Women's Committee is meeting March 8th at the Generations Banquet Hall at 7 p.m.

7. Councilor Clerger: Gave thanks to Chief Cassford. Hats off the DPW for clearing the roads. The fundraiser was successful enough to buy the uniforms for the marching band. Sunday April 19th there will be another fundraiser for the marching band. Please pray for our soldiers and their families.
8. Councilor Huff-Larmond: gave thanks to the DPW as well. Sickle Cell event on April 28th. Thank you to Chief Cassford. March 8th there will be a Women's Committee meeting at Generations Banquet Hall.
9. President Egan: Gave credit to the DPW, both chiefs, Town Manager for their preparation and public safety efforts. Thanked Chief Cassford for his service. Thanked the Council and School Committee for the respectful joint meeting this evening.

Adjournment:

Motion: Motion to adjourn made by Councilor Clerger, and seconded by Councilor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 9-0-0

Meeting adjourned.

The Randolph Town Council Meeting adjourned at 8:53PM.

Notice of Upcoming Meeting Dates:

March 9

April 13 and 27

May 4, 11, and 18- May 11 is Joint with the School Committee

June 8 and 22

July 13 and 27

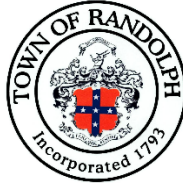
August 10 and 24- August 10 is Regular and Joint Meeting with the School Committee

September 14 and 28

October 5 and 19

November 2 and 23

December 7- Regular and Joint Meeting with the School Committee



Joint Meeting of Randolph Town Council & Randolph School Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, March 2, 2025, at 6:14 p.m.

This is a hybrid meeting. The Public is invited to attend this meeting in person or remotely, by telephone or computer access.

Call to Order: Council President Ryan Egan called the meeting to order.

Roll Call – Council Members Present: Christos Alexopoulos (In-Person), Richard Brewer (In-Person), James F. Burgess Jr., (In-Person), Natacha Clerger (In-Person), Ryan Egan (In-Person), Jesse Gordon (In-Person), Katrina Huff-Larmond (In-Person), Kevin O’Connell (In-Person), Brandon Thompson (Via Zoom).

School Committee Members Present: Kirby Christian, Lisa Millwood, Natalie Oliveras. Ida Gordon arrived after roll call at 6:16 pm.

Presentation:

1. School Department Presentation and Budget Review of FY26 and FY27: This presentation was led by School Finance Director Michael Mason and Superintendent Thea Stovell.
 - a. This presentation started with discussion on the Barr Foundation and SEL Kennels Grant.
 - b. School Finance Director Mason spoke on the budget drivers which are out of district tuition, special education cost, maintenance, active negotiations, and transportation.
 - c. Enrollment numbers overall have increased, especially in the preschool.
 - d. Multilanguage Learners have increased from 2024 to 2025.
 - e. The current budget for Special Education is showing signs of stress.
 - f. Transportation is also showing signs of stress. The School Finance Director shared the McKinney Vento data (homeless students within the district) as part of the presentation which has increased about 16%. The town may have to bus these students to and from school depending on their placements.
 - g. School Finance Director Mason stated that he believes this will be a balanced budget. However, he stated that the school administration will have recommendations for the FY27 budget.
 - h. President Egan thanked the Superintendent, School Finance Director and School Committee for being present and opened up the joint meeting for the School Committee to comment.
 - i. Superintendent Stovell spoke on how the staff is working together to ensure students are not being unnecessarily labeled. Councilor Huff-Larmond asked if the homeless students number has increased significantly over the past year. Superintendent Stovel stated that there has been an increase.

- j. Councilor Huff-Larmond asked about students who are in the district who should not be. Superintendent Stovel stated that this is still happening but there is a new system in place that is helping to combat this issue.
- k. Councilor Huff-Larmond then asked about the collective bargaining in terms of unknown costs. School Finance Director Mason states this is due to being in active negotiations with these unions.
- l. Councilor Clerger asked if there are many students moving in after the October 1st enrollment numbers as well as if we have lost students due to the current situation with immigration. Superintendent Stovell stated that they have lost some students due to immigration. Superintendent Stovell then went on to say that yes students come and go after the October 1st enrollment.
- m. Superintendent Stovell stated that the MCAS scores were not as good as they should have been due to students and parents no longer taking the test seriously since it is no longer required for graduation. Superintendent Stovell stated that the district needs this test to be completed to the students best abilities.
- n. Councilor O'Connell asked about the hours of the preschool. Superintendent Stovell stated that some are part time and some are full time depending on if the student has an IEP.
- o. Councilor O'Connell asked if we are able to claim for both Multilingual Learners and Special Education, School Finance Director Mason stated that is correct.
- p. Councilor Alexopoulos asked about the increases for negotiations for paraprofessionals which showed a 4.5 % increase. Councilor Alexopoulos mentions on the towns side they are no higher than 3% and mostly 2% percent increases. Councilor Alexopoulos is asking the School Committee to keep this in mind and be as fiscally responsible when negotiating the contracts. Chair Millwood stated that the paraprofessionals have not had an increase in quite some time and we needed to retain our good paraprofessionals.
- q. Councilor Thompson asked about the transportation fleet and the amount of vehicles that are driving those high maintenance costs. School Finance Director Mason stated that some vehicles are as old as 14 years old. Mason also states that he is seeing high towing costs for these vehicles as well due to maintenance issues. Councilor Thompson asked if these vehicles have been completely depreciated, to which the answer was yes. School Finance Director Mason believes that the cost of transportation would be much higher if we did not have our own fleet.
- r. Councilor Thompson then asked if the maintenance for the fleet is reported under the maintenance line or the transportation line, the answer was transportation.
- s. Vice President Brewer suggested that we create a maintenance schedule for all these vehicles to stay up to date on maintenance and prevent down time on the vehicles.
- t. President Egan asked what the cycle is for the contracts. Then asked about the kids who enter the system in Pre-K who need language services, if there is a literacy program in Pre-K. Superintendent Stovell stated that there is a literacy program and the younger students learn very well.
- u. President Egan asked about the increases in subcategories yet the enrollment numbers do not show the same spike. Asking about the estimated 250 spike in multilingual learners from 2025.
- v. President Egan would like to see a better understanding of comparing the previous years including circuit breaker funding.
- w. Chair Millwood will send an email to the councilors and invite them to the schools budget hearing.
- x. Councilor Burgess asked if the fleet vehicles are allowed to be used for personal errands. However, Superintendent Stovell says if they are in between pickups then they can sit and have a

coffee so you could see the van sitting in a parking lot. Also stating these buses are moving all day for pick up and drop offs.

- y. Councilor Burgess asked about building maintenance and groundskeeping which create the first impression. Councilor Burgess suggests that the complete needs of the school be submitted even if they do not believe they would get funded this year, it helps with the total picture.
- z. Councilor O'Connell asked about the GPS that is used in the fleet vehicles and if it will send maintenance reminders. School Finance Director Mason says the GPS software does not do maintenance notifications but he believes that the transportation department keeps records of that.
- aa. Councilor Huff-Larmond asked if we are looking for resources from the state. Chair Millwood stated that the superintendent has her hand in all pilot programs available. Superintendent Stovell stated that the literacy program is being piloted with the state is the program Randolph currently uses. Superintendent Stovell expresses the need to learn phonics and develop strong reading skills.

Adjournment:

Motion: Motion to adjourn the joint meeting by President Egan and seconded by Councilor Clerger.

Roll Call Vote: 12-1-0 (Yays: Alexopoulos, Brewer, Burgess, Clerger, J. Gordon, Huff-Larmond, O'Connell Thmpson; Millwood, Christian, I.Gordon, Oliveras; Nays: Egan)

The joint meeting adjourned.

Randolph Town Council and Randolph School Committee joint meeting adjourned at 7:34 PM

Tentative Upcoming Joint Meeting Dates

May 11

August 10

December 7