



Joint Meeting of Randolph Town Council & Randolph School Committee

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Monday, February 2, 2026, at 6:06 p.m.

Stetson Hall-Second Floor- 6 S. Main Street, Randolph, MA 02368

This is an in person meeting only. The Public is invited to attend this meeting in person.

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

Roll Call – Council Members Present: Richard Brewer, James F. Burgess Jr., Ryan Egan, Jesse Gordon, Kevin O’Connell, Brandon Thompson. Natacha Clerger and Katrina Huff-Larmond arrived after roll call.

School Committee Members Present: Beverly Coles-Roby, Ida Gordon, Abdi Ibrahim, Lisa Millwood, Natalie Oliveras. Kirby Christian arrived after roll call.

Introduction: President and Chair

1. President Egan welcomed all to the meeting and went over his intentions for the meeting which was to bring both boards together and build the relationships. President Egan requested that members raise their hands to ensure a structure is maintained throughout the meeting.

Katrina Huff-Larmond arrived at 6:09 PM

2. Chairwoman Millwood thanked both boards for being present tonight and hopes this meeting is the first of many. The goal being to create productive communication.

Kirby Christian arrived at 6:10 PM

Communication:

1. President Egan announced that there will be leadership meetings periodically with the Town Council President and Vice President, Chair and Vice Chair of the School Committee. Superintendent and Town Manager. The purpose of these meetings is to help with shared goals.
2. Chairwoman Millwood would like to refrain from comments that criticize or undermine others, instead handle them with professionalism. Chairwoman Millwood would like all to be committed to communicate concerns with each other first instead of going to a public outlet. Issues can be given to the Chairs and Presidents for further assistance if needed.
3. Councilor O’Connell is requesting mutual communication. Councilor O’Connell then mentioned that he feels stuck in between a rock and a hard place with executive sessions. Chairwoman Millwood requested that if Councilor O’Connell has something he can not share due to executive session that he states that and they will accept the reasoning.

4. Councilor Gordon believes a growth in communication is needed. He then asked for clarification on what he can and cannot share between the School Committee and Town Council during these sessions to Town Attorney Christine Griffin. Town Attorney Griffin said that there could be a vote for Councilor O'Connell to share information to either Town Council or School Committee in an Executive Session.
5. Coles-Roby asked about the Open Meeting Law and when minutes are supposed to be available to the public. Town Attorney Griffin stated that it depends on the subject of the executive session; some never need to be released.

2026 Joint Meeting Overview & Discussion:

1. There was a joint meeting calendar shared among all members. With the next joint meeting being February 23rd, this is a single topic meeting on finance. This meeting will take place in the Council Chambers. An additional meeting was recommended in May. The joint meetings in May, August, and December will be held at Tower Hill as of now. These meetings will be recorded as well as have a public input opportunity.
2. Councilor O'Connell asked that when there are proposals that are school related that a full estimate is provided. Coles-Roby asked what information in particular he is looking for. Chairwoman Millwood mentioned that a procurement process is being implemented. Ms. Oliveras encouraged Councilor O'Connell to attend a Facility Subcommittee meeting for more information. Ms. Oliveras stated that she would be happy to relay information or quotes to him at his request.
3. Vice President Brewer states that the Council is just looking for a clear scope.
4. Chairwoman Millwood stated that they will create a plan and learn the expectations of the council.
5. Councilor Burgess mentioned that Councilor O'Connell is the representative to the School Committee but all requests should be fully explained.
6. Councilor Thompson stated that school walk throughs are important.

Audits:

1. President Egan stated the request to review the audits is mutually agreed upon with the intent to create an Ad-Hoc Committee. Chairwoman Millwood states the Ad-Hoc Committee would get down to the nitty gritty within the audits. The Ad-hoc committee would then draft a corrective action plan and follow up often to ensure compliance with the plan. The Ad-Hoc committee would consist of Superintendent, Town Manager, and some town council and school committee members.
2. Councilor Burgess believes that the Town Council should take the charge on this committee. Councilor Burgess would also like to review these with Town Attorney Griffin, Town Manager Howard and Finance Director Janine Smith. President Egan stated that we could still review them with the above parties and have this Ad-Hoc Committee simultaneously.
3. Chairwoman Millwood stated that the Ad-Hoc Committee would operate similarly to the Master Plan Implementation Committee. Councilor Burgess then asked when the last time a formal report was submitted to the Town Council from the Master Plan Implementation Committee. Councilor Burgess reiterated that the Town Council should take the charge on this.

Councilor Burgess left the meeting at 7:03 PM

4. Councilor Gordon asked how many audits there have been? He then asked if these audits are public record? They are a public record and the Council Clerk will work on creating a link on the Town Council page to the audits.
5. Councilor Huff-Larmond would like to hold off on a vote tonight but is in agreement with the creation of a committee.
6. Councilor O'Connell asked what the goal would be? Chairwoman Millwood replied with accountability.

7. Councilor Huff-Larmond then questioned how this impacts the Town Council and how to implement it?
8. Ms. Oliveras is happy to see the collaboration and wants to make sure that reports are being handled in a timely manner. Stating that money was spent to have the reports done.

Councilor Thompson left at 7:22 PM

9. President Egan agrees with the other councilors that the council should meet to discuss further.

Motion: Chairwoman Millwood motioned to create an Ad-Hoc Committee which will draft a corrective action plan to address all recommendations outlined in the financial audits of the Town and School Finance Departments; consisting of Town Council President, School Committee Chair, two Town Council Members, two School Committee Members, Town Manager, School Superintendent, Town Finance Director and School Finance Director. This motion was seconded by Oliveras.

Roll Call Vote: 12-0-0 (Yays: Brewer, Clerger, Egan, J. Gordon, Huff-Larmond, O'Connell; Millwood, Christian, Coles-Roby, I. Gordon, Ibrahim, Oliveras; Absent at vote: Burgess, Thompson)

Motion passes.

Town & School FY26 and FY27 Budget Discussion:

1. Chairwoman Millwood informed everyone that the Town Council will be invited to the upcoming budget presentations for the schools. February 23rd joint meeting will be to discuss finances.
2. President Egan added that the School Committee has agreed to follow the budget schedule that was presented at the last Town Council meeting.
3. Town Manager Howard spoke on the prior year school budget which had an 11.5% increase. Town Manager Howard expressed that what happened last year to fill the budget gaps will not be able to happen again this year. We need to hold on to as much as we can with the funds we have. Town Manager Howard agrees that following this budget timeline will be useful in the event an override is needed. This would allow ample time for discussions. Chairwoman Millwood expressed that they are trying to keep the cost down.

Study for Consolidation of Services Discussion:

1. President Egan would like to use Free Cash for a Consolidation Study. The most common ones are finance, facilities, human resources, procurement and information technology. The first step is to perform a feasibility study. If we choose to move forward with consolidation it would require a vote by the Town Council.
 - a. Town Manager Howard says this is a long process and the vote should take place during an open budget process. He also mentions that the MOU needs to create a clear and detailed understanding. Town Manager Howard would like to hear feedback from other communities who have consolidated services.
 - b. Councilor O'Connell mentions that the town has done many studies and no action has been taken following them. He stated he would like to see facilities consolidated.
 - c. Chairwoman Millwood is hesitant to vote on consolidation of services tonight, saying this meeting was the first step to repair trust and communication between both the Town Council and School Committee. President Egan understands and says this is a long process and wants to start the conversation.
 - d. Councilor Gordon also understands that trust needs to be rebuilt. He recommends speaking with the other towns such as Franklin, Fall River and Braintree.
 - e. Councilor Huff-Larmond believes this is a big change for the town and wants to do research.

- f. Chairwoman Millwood stated that maybe the outcome of this study could be to redraw lines and scope of work each department should handle.
- 2. While on the topic of facilities, Town Attorney Griffin and Town Manager Howard asked the Town Council, Superintendent and School Committee members how they would like to proceed with a grant that Monica Lamboy, prior Assistant Town Manager was working on. This is an HVAC grant for the high school.
 - a. Oliveras asked if we could apply for this grant next year? Town Attorney Griffin stated that there are concerns that these funds may not be available next year.
 - b. Chairwoman Millwood says that high school is in active discussion and she does not believe a decision could be made before the mid February deadline for the grant application.
 - c. Superintendent Stovell mentions that even if the town voted to build a new school it would still be 10-12 years away and would not like to see us miss out on a 3 million dollar grant.
 - d. Oliveras asked for the grant information to be forwarded to Superintendent Stovell as soon as possible.
 - e. Vice Chairwomen Kirby asked if there was any MSBA money available? Superintendent Stovells added that MSBA would expect the building to stay in service for 20-30 years or we would have to pay those funds back.
 - f. Councilor Gordon would like to discuss more on the MSBA possibilities and would like that on the next agenda.
 - g. School Finance Director Michael Mason stated that we wouldn't have time to change gears to a different project or school building.
 - h. Chairwoman Millwood expressed frustration that she is just hearing about this tonight when the deadline is in two weeks.

Councilor Huff-Larmond left at 8:32 PM

- i. Vice President Brewer stated that the timing for a new school isn't right and we need the HVAC done.
- j. Councilor O'Connell requested to see an air quality report for the high school.

Ida Gordon left at 8:33 PM

- k. President Egan would like the School Committee to consider the Town Councils stance on building a new school and urges them to take action.
- l. Oliveras asked if this could be added to the School Committee's upcoming Finance Subcommittee meeting which is meeting Thursday.
- m. Coles -Roby asked what would happen if we applied for the grant and then denied it?

Motion: Councilor Gordon motioned to submit the grant application after Superintendent Stovell has reviewed it. This motion was seconded by Councilor O'Connell.

Roll Call Vote: 10-0-0 (Yays: Brewer, Clerger, Egan, J. Gordon, O'Connell; Millwood, Christian, Coles-Roby, Ibrahim, Oliveras; Absent at vote: Burgess, Huff-Larmond, Thompson, I. Gordon)

Motion passes.

Adjournment:

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

Roll Call Vote: 10-0-0 (Yays: Brewer, Clerger, Egan, J. Gordon, O'Connell; Millwood, Christian, Coles-Roby, Ibrahim, Oliveras; Absent at vote: Burgess, Huff-Larmond, Thompson, I. Gordon)

The meeting adjourned.

Randolph Town Council and Randolph School Committee joint meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM

Tentative Upcoming Joint Meeting Dates

February 23

May 11

August 10

December 7