



SPECIAL MEETING OF THE NORTHAMPTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 2, 2026 ~ 5:30 pm - 6:25 pm
By Videoconference



MINUTES

Attending: Mayor Sciarra, Member Bartoli, Member Weisenfreund, Member Montgomery-Tamakloe, Member Stein (5:33 pm), Member Martyn, Member Mahoney, Member Reiss, Member Jewell, Member Saner Sullivan

Also Attending: Superintendent Bonner

Documents Reviewed

None

- I. Announcement that Meeting is Being Videorecorded - [Recording](#)
- II. Roll Call - Mayor Sciarra called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm and the roll was called. This meeting took place by videoconference and the roll and all votes taken were done so remotely.

Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra	Present
W1 Alena Bartoli	Present
W2 Anat Weisenfreund	Present
W3 Renika Montgomery-Tamakloe	Present
W4 Michael Stein	Present (5:33 pm)
W5 Amy Martyn	Present
W6 Cindy Mahoney	Present
W7 Valerie Reiss	Present
AL Tiffany Jewell	Present
AL Robbie Saner Sullivan	Present
QUORUM	Present

- III. Open Meeting Law & Conflict of Interest - Mayor Sciarra asked for related questions in lieu of Atty. Taylor’s presentation. Members had no questions.
- IV. Discussion of Facilitator and Retreat Planning Timeline - Member Reiss described efforts to retain a facilitator, Tracy Novick, for the planned retreat. Having a facilitator is considered a MASC best practice and MASC provides facilitators at no cost as a member benefit. A poll of member availability was unsuccessfully launched. Member Stein asked why a facilitator is needed when the work of the retreat will be akin to routine work and said that Tracy Novick will bring a MASC bias to the meeting. He said he

Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra	Member Tiffany Jewell	Member Robbie Saner Sullivan	Member Alenda Bartoli
Member Anat Weisenfreund	Member Renika Montgomery-Tamakloe	Member Michael Stein	Member Amy Martyn
	Member Cindy Mahoney	Member Valerie Reiss	

would not participate in the retreat if she is facilitating. Member Weisenfreund concurred with Member Stein and asked for more respectful communication in the future. Member Montgomery-Tamakloe said that schedule changes are inconvenient and that MASC’s best practices are not rules. Member Martyn expressed support for a facilitator and for Tracy Novick. Member Mahoney spoke in favor of retaining a facilitator and said that the conversation is indicative of a need for a facilitator. Member Saner Sullivan expressed agreement with Members Mahoney and Martyn. Member Stein said that the opinions of MASS and MASC diverge from those of the School Committee. He recommended using Roberts’ Rules of Order as a meeting foundation. Member Bartoli apologized for unwieldy communications, that planning retreats are in the purview of the Vice-Chair, and that she would continue to pursue retaining the MASC facilitator. Member Weisenfreund said the Committee is steamrolling over its senior members and is not acting collaboratively. Member Saner Sullivan said that she finds it disconcerting that the two most senior members are not taking into consideration the thoughts of all the new members. Member Bartoli made a motion, seconded by Member Mahoney, to hold a retreat on March 30 facilitated by Tracy Novick. Member Stein said that the Committee should not be concerned with the expense of a facilitator. Member Reiss responded that the cost of a facilitator is \$1800. The roll call vote follows.

Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra	Aye
W1 Alena Bartoli	Aye
W2 Anat Weisenfreund	Nay
W3 Renika Montgomery-Tamakloe	Aye
W4 Michael Stein	Present
W5 Amy Martyn	Nay
W6 Cindy Mahoney	Aye
W7 Valerie Reiss	Aye
AL Tiffany Jewell	Aye
AL Robbie Saner Sullivan	Aye
VOTE	7 Aye 2 Nay 1 Present

- V. VOTE to Enter Executive Session - Member Montgomery-Tamakloe made a motion, seconded by Member Bartoli, to enter Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21 (a)(3), “To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.” The roll call vote follows.

Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra	Aye
W1 Alena Bartoli	Aye
W2 Anat Weisenfreund	Aye
W3 Renika Montgomery-Tamakloe	Aye
W4 Michael Stein	Aye
W5 Amy Martyn	Aye
W6 Cindy Mahoney	Aye
W7 Valerie Reiss	Aye

AL Tiffany Jewell	Aye
AL Robbie Saner Sullivan	Aye
QUORUM	Aye

The public portion of the meeting concluded at 6:02 pm.