
**Finance & Capital Subcommittee of the
Brookline School Committee**
Quick-Read
Meeting of 10/7/2026



From the desk of Jesse Hefter, chairperson



Driscoll Playground Shading Project

We received a report about the current status of the shading project for the 2nd floor outdoor playground at the Driscoll School. The current designs include two fully-suspended canopy approaches with a motorized, retractable system priced at \$331,900 and a fixed

awning system priced at either \$241,600 (includes General Contractor for setup and takedown for the winter) or \$182,000 (setup and takedown by Town staff). The annual cost for cleaning and storing the shade sails for the latter two options is about \$5,000.

The School Finance Deputy Director pointed out that none of these options are within the FY27 budget and that the earliest slot to consider funding this shade structure project would be FY29.

One technical question that was asked is what the temperature reduction will be once the shade structure is implemented. The subcommittee also requested learning more about the shade plan for the lower grade playground at the new Pierce school to ensure we don't find ourselves in a similar high-temperature situation after the building and its outdoor playground is completed.

FY 2027 Mini-CIP School Projects Update

Aaron Osborne (Deputy Superintendent for Administration and Finance) presented an updated view of progress on Summer 2026 projects. Nearly all projects are now stasured as Complete. Two projects at the Hayes School (library recarpeting and rehabilitation of the auditorium) were moved to summer 2027. Four projects at the Baker School still need to be scheduled.



Grants and Gifts

Thanks to our Senator Creem's advocacy, the District was awarded a State Fair Share Earmarks grant totaling \$230,500. We also received a PRISM grant of \$153,000 for supporting implementation of a high-quality early literacy program for our youngest learners.

Our subcommittee approved the submission of grant to support the "My Career and Academic Plan" (MyCAP) program that supports high-schoolers in choosing various post-high school careers.

The District is grateful to be the recipient of three new gifts totalling \$13,000, \$10,000 of which will be used for general support to families in need and \$2,500 of which is targeted to enable young students from low-income families to attend BEEP.

FY28 Budget Guidelines

Superintendent Wong and her three Deputy Superintendents delivered a one-page draft of the guidelines. The subcommittee unanimously recommended that the document be shared with the full School Committee at an upcoming meeting.



New Business

- 1) The Subcommittee requests a future presentation about projected and actual **operating expenses** for our newer buildings (including Ridley and Driscoll) including a projection for the new Pierce School building that is under construction.
- 2) That the School Committee appoint a liaison to the Town of Brookline **Building Commission** to ensure that we are in alignment with school building planning.

All documents related to this meeting (including the recording) are [available online](#).

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