

Town of Lyme
Budget Committee
December 17th, 2025
In person and Zoom
Public Meeting

Present for all or part of the meeting:

Budget Committee Members: Richard Jones, Select Board rep. Judy Brotman, School rep. Kristin Roth, Phil Kinsler, Bill Malcolm, Jennifer Boylston, Brian Spence, Vince Berk, Jennifer Boylston, Stacey Summerfield, Kate Stokes

School: Superintendent Mary Beth Banios

Administrator: Dina Cutting

Town Staff: Jordan Gray

School Board members: Leigh Prince, Elizabeth Glanshaw, Tobin Summerfield and Jim Komarmi

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Jones.

1. Ms. Boylston moved to approve the minutes of the public meeting on November 12th, 2025. Seconded by Mrs. Brotman. The motion was voted in favor.

2. Superintendent Mary Beth Banios presented the Lyme School FY27 proposed budget.

The presentation has been posted on the Town of Lyme website under the tab '*2026 Town and School Budget Information/Documents*' labeled: School: ***Initial FY27 Budget Proposal Presentation***

- Superintendent Mary Beth Banios briefly reviewed the approved 2025-2030 Strategic Plan. The food services revenue assumptions were optimistic and not met this year, and costs have increased over the year significantly. There is a legislative risk with open enrollment. This has been a state wide conversation, and the school is following legislation carefully to discuss any potential next moves if this should pass. Superintendent Mary Beth Banios presented the importance of the Academic Director position.
- Revenue Key Points: The district no longer qualifies for Title 1 funding. State funding is projected to decrease by \$10,000.00. Unlike in previous years the school anticipates that no money will be put in the unassigned fund balance to offset the FY27 tax rate.
- This proposed bottom-line budget reflects a 6.72% increase. Discussion about sustainable and unsustainable increases was had.

The other documents produced by the school can be found on the Town of Lyme website on the main page with a heading of '2026 Town and School Budget Information/Budget'. Documents under that heading are as follows:

School: Proposed Budget FY 2027

School: Building and Grounds Budget Report and Assessment Budget Report

School: Curriculum, Instruction

School: Special Education and Students Services Budget Report

School: Technology Budget Report

3. Thoughtful concerns were expressed about being able to find a balance of having the educational needs met and not driving the tax rate up to an unaffordable increase. The Budget Committee has asked the school to come back and present a budget that reflects a 3%, 4% and 5% bottom line increase. The budget committee would like to see what this looks like.

5. The next meeting is scheduled for January 7th, 2026 at 7:00PM at the Town Office conference room.

4. At 8:29 PM Mr. Kinsler moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Berk. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Jordan Gray