

Governance Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, September 10, 2026
Agenda

Welcome and Agenda Overview (1 min)

- Read call of the meeting
- Objectives
 - Review current status of proposed changes to 2026-2027 School Committee Rules.
- Public Comment
 - People will have three minutes to present their comments, after which time they will be muted by the Executive Secretary.
 - If people wish to speak again, they will need the Chair to call on them and be unmuted.

Introductions (5 min)

- Introduce Subcommittee Members, Administration Liaison, any CEA members, and others present.

Review Items for Discussion (5 min)

- Proposed changes to rules from 2025 and Executive Secretary feedback.
 - Go through Rules not in practice
 - Rules we need to discuss further
- CR26-022 ([Educator Voice in School Committee Deliberations](#))
 - Discuss meetings with Arlington School Committee members.
- CR26-017 ([Public Comment - Amending Rule 4.2](#)).
- Superintendent Murphy Memo on Preliminary Comments on School Committee Orders C26-017 and C26-022.

Public Comment – 3-minute limit per question/comment (<30 min)

Discussion of Items (>40 min)

Next Steps/Closing Reflections (5 min)

ONE-ON-ONE PHONE CALLS WITH ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABOUT THEIR DESIGNATED AGENDA SPOT FOR EDUCATOR ASSOCIATION

Chair Laura Gitelson, Vice Chair Liz Exton, Jeff Thielman

Arlington's experience has been largely positive.

They do not have a formal School Committee rule designating a member of their Educator Association to be a part of every regular agenda. Instead, the practice has developed informally, in which a representative shares updates, provide feedback, and raise issues from educators. The representative does not typically stay for the entire meeting, and collective bargaining matters remain separate.

POSITIVE PERSPECTIVES

- Direct Educator Association perspective at the table.
- Provides decision-making input on budget, calendar, curriculum, policy, etc.
- Builds Union-School Committee relationship through direct communication.

POTENTIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Requires entire committee buy-in, and extremely relationship-dependent.
- Potential for tension around topics.
- Needs clear boundaries for collective bargaining.
- Could be seen as prioritizing one group of stakeholders over others.

Alternatives from Memo on C26-017 and C26-022 (Superintendent Murphy)

1. PARTNERSHIPS

- Identify organizations or constituencies that represent underrepresented or significant community interests.
- **Include them as partners to an existing subcommittee or subcommittees of the school committee.**
- Adopt a rule affording those specific constituent groups the opportunity to present at a meeting of the subcommittee.
- This follows the statutory language around the Special Education Advisory Committee as well as the Career and Technical Education Advisory Boards.

2. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- **Schedule general public hearings specific to any topic.**
- Adopt a rule requiring representatives from the Administration to be present along with a quorum of the governing body.
- The public hearings could be scheduled either immediately preceding the school committee meeting or on weeks when the school committee is otherwise not meeting.
- Allows for broader latitude with respect to the topics on which members of the public could comment.

3. DESIGNATED AGENDA SPACE DURING SPECIFIC MEETINGS

- **Identify specific meetings in which designated agenda space is afforded to the bargaining units representing staff.**
- A rule could be adopted such as requiring four designated meetings, two of which would invite the CEA to present on specific topics and two would defer to the CEA with respect to the content.
- Allows the items to be properly noticed under the Open Meeting Law while providing space for more diverse voices.