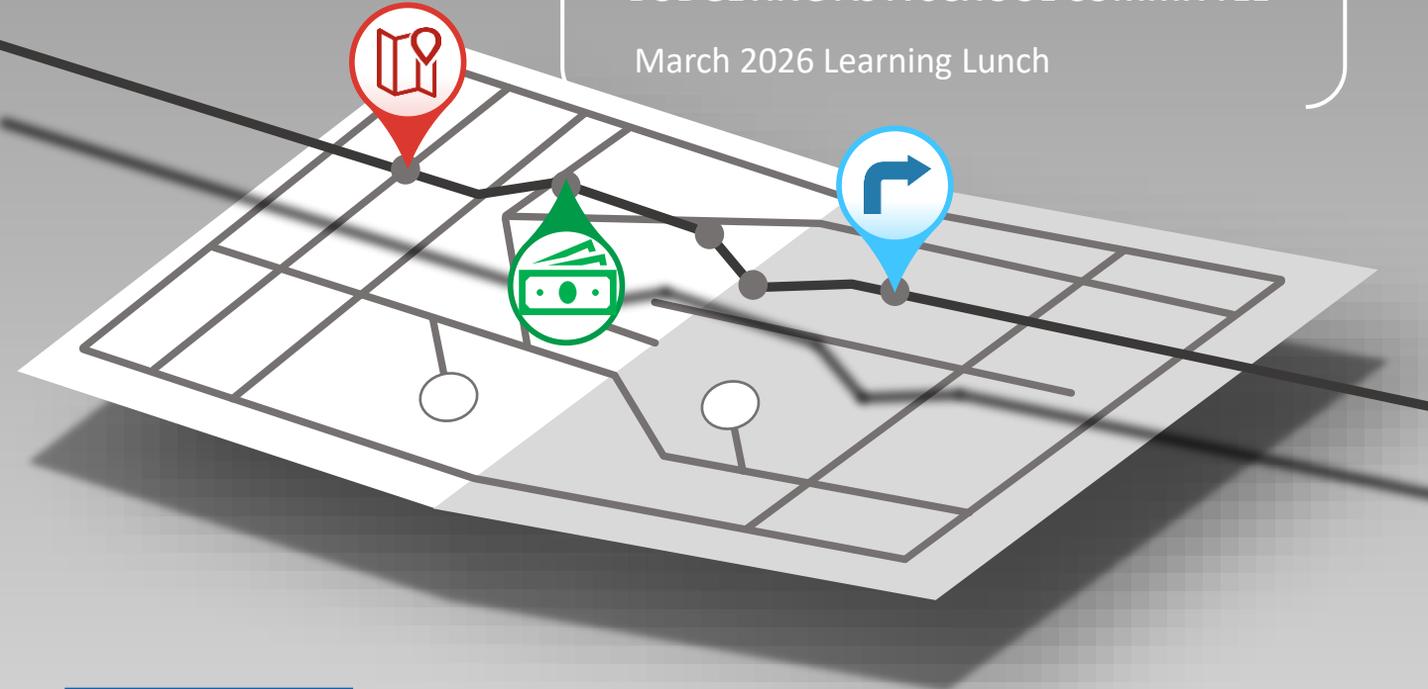


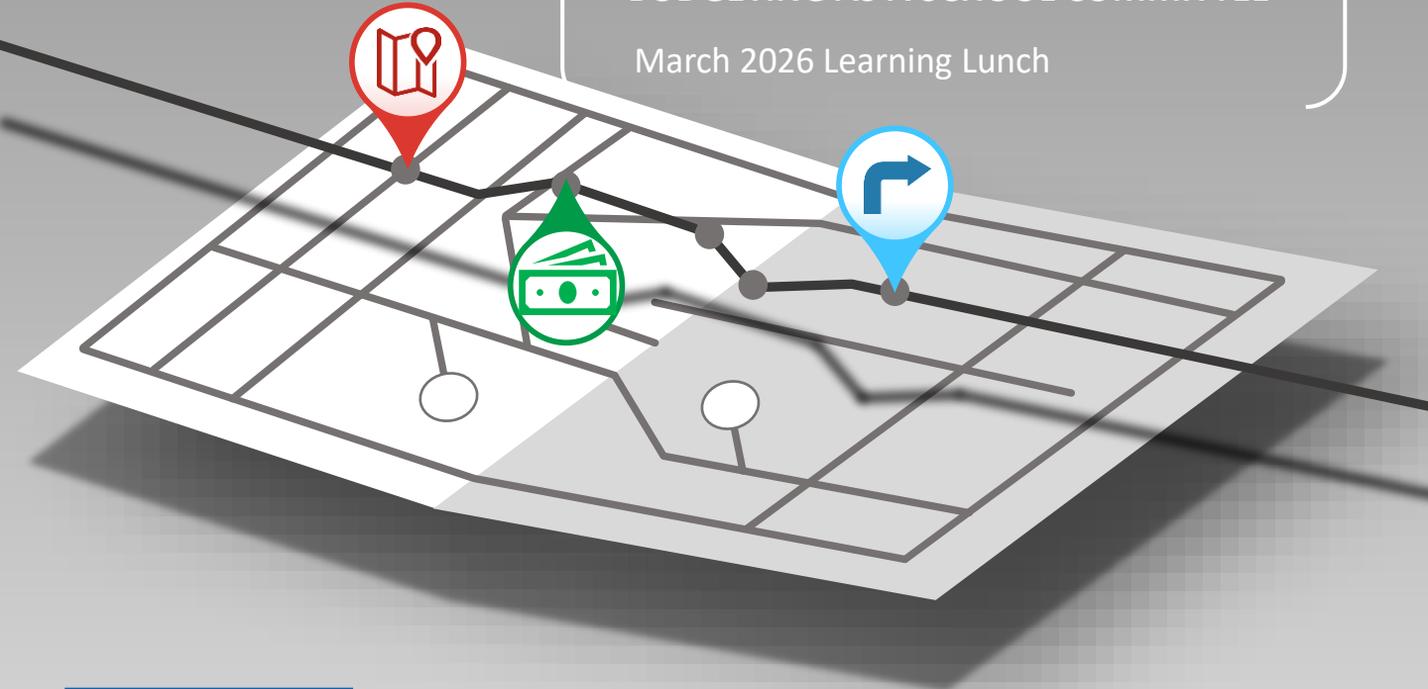
BUDGETING AS A SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 2026 Learning Lunch



BUDGETING AS A SCHOOL COMMITTEE

March 2026 Learning Lunch



What we'll cover today

The School Committee's roles in budgeting

Key decision points in the budgeting cycle

Common constraints and pitfalls in school budgeting

Fostering effective collaboration

The right questions to ask

“To review and approve budgets”

MGL Ch. 71, sec. 37



Hiring the superintendent
Approval of and contracting with SBO



Setting clear goals



Passing budget at the cost center level

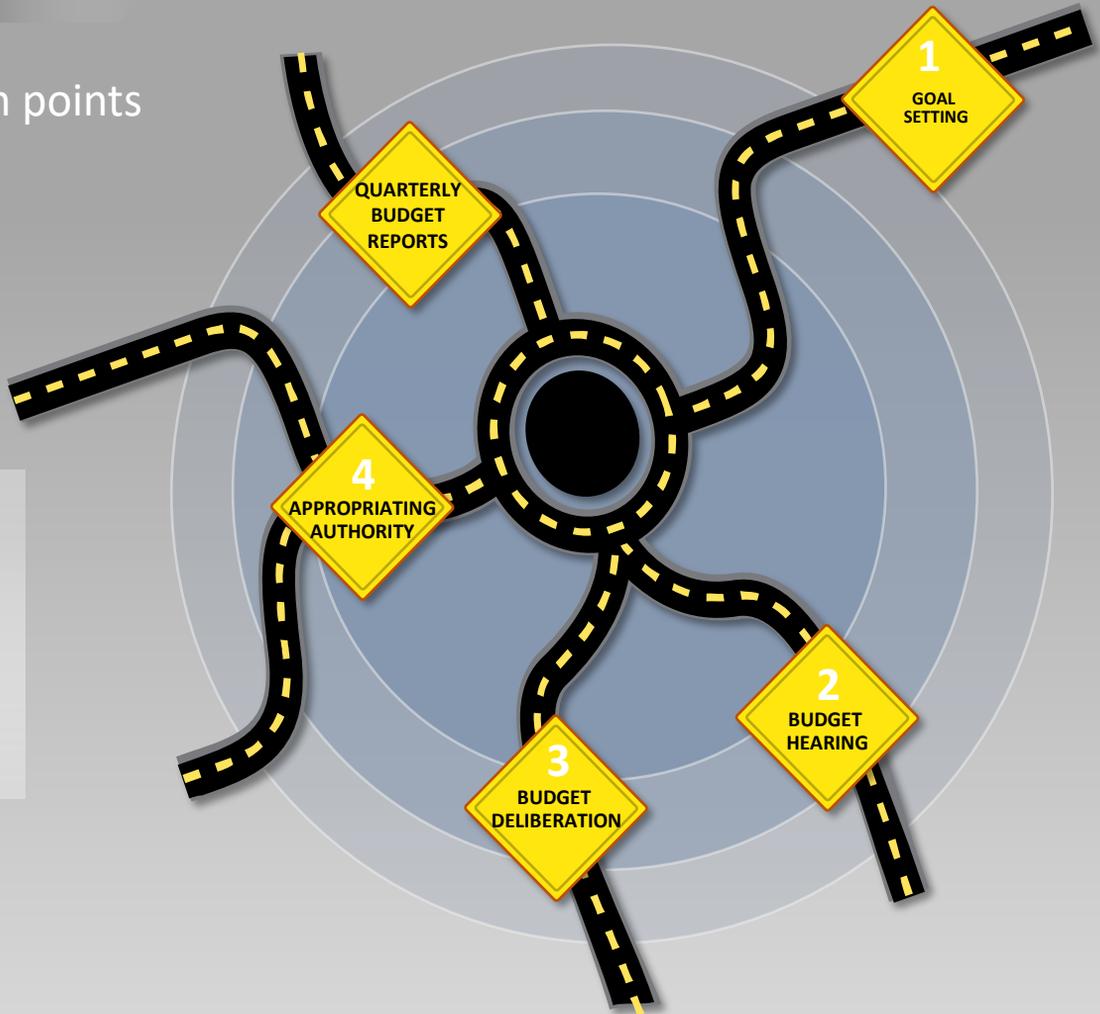


Reviewing quarterly reports and making necessary transfers



Passing clear policies on finance

Key decision points



Where the
rubber
meets the
road

Common constraints and pitfalls

1 NOT ENOUGH MONEY

..need more be said...

1

3 TALKING ONLY AT BUDGET TIME

Meet and talk with municipal partners through the year

3

5 AUTHORITY: MUNICIPAL SIDE

Know and understand authorities

5

4 ONLY THINKING BUDGET WHEN IT IS DUE

Quarterly reports help!

4

2 TIMELINES

Deadlines on filing for town meetings and the like

2

7 AUTHORITY: SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Cost centers

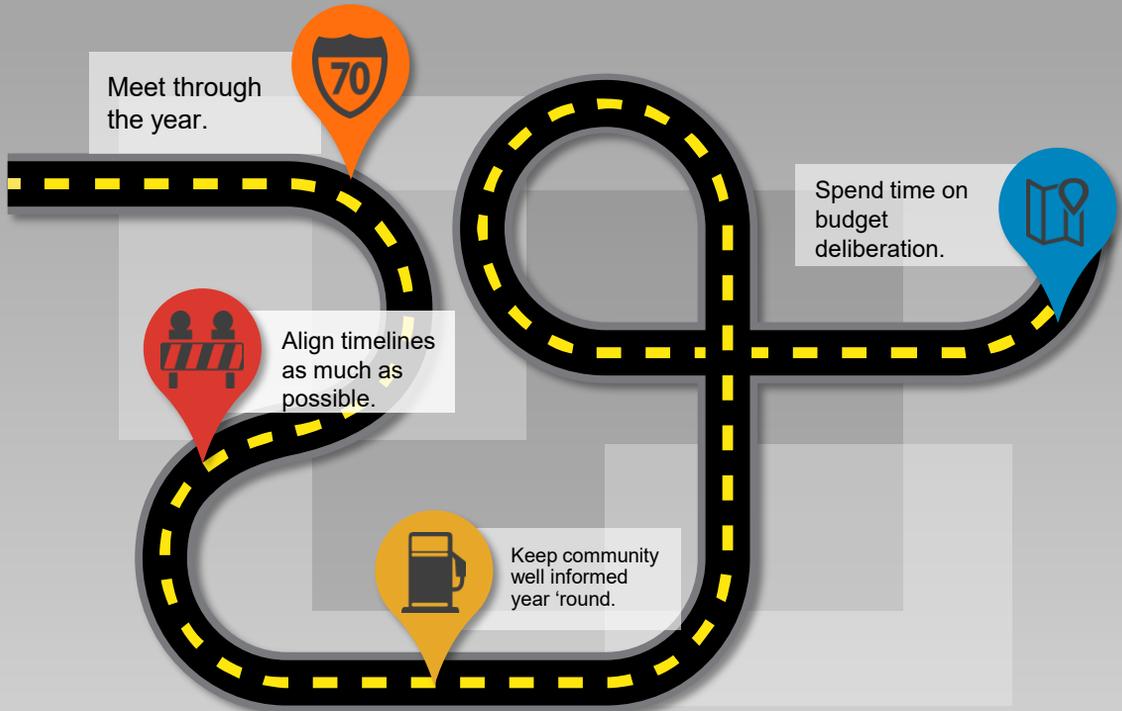
7

6 AUTHORITY: SUPERINTENDENT

Budget is under Committee purview

6

Effective collaboration



Questions to ask



CHANGES

- What in the budget is subject to change?
- Based on what?



REVENUE

- What are your district's revenue sources?
- What is the balance of what funds your district's budget?
- What are those sources impacted by?

FLEXIBILITIES

- What, within the budget, is flexible?
- What is not?



PROJECTIONS

What assumptions are behind the projections in your budget?







THE GOOD NEWS:

Due to federal advocacy and Senate action, this year's federal budget (which funds next year's grants) virtually level funded most federal entitlement grants like IDEA and Title I.



THE CAUTION:

The Massachusetts share of the federal poverty total (measured through U.S. Census numbers, as updated to 2024) dropped by 10% this year.



STOP AND LOOK:

District Title I awards (available in July) are expected to drop, in some cases significantly. DESE is recommending districts budget at 85% of the current year's award.





Day on the Hill
March 30, 2026
masc.org

