

MASC Learning Lunch

2026 Delegate Assembly
And
Resolutions for Consideration

Delegate Assembly

- Danvers, MA on Friday, November 6, 2026
- Over 125 Delegates from Member Districts Expected to Attend
- Think of the Delegate Assembly as a 125-member school committee meeting.

How Resolutions Are Brought Forth

- Resolutions are submitted to the MASC Resolutions Committee prior to June 1.
- Resolutions Committee meets and moves resolutions forward to the MASC Board of Directors.
- Resolutions endorsed by five school committees representing at least two different MASC Divisions automatically go to the Delegate Assembly.
- Board of Directors delegates Association Secretary-Treasurer to share all approved resolutions to the full MASC membership.

Business of the Delegate Assembly

- Certify the election of new officers for the next year.
- Vote on new Life Members of the Association.
- Receipt of the Annual Audited Financial Report
- Deliberation on resolutions.

Procedural Rules

- Resolutions may be amended if a written amendment is presented at the meeting. Forms are available in Delegate Manual and on site.
- Sponsor(s) of the resolutions may speak first.
- Only delegates may speak unless if they are recognized by the chair. The chair may recognize others as may be needed.
- Tellers are designated to count votes if necessary.

Parliamentary Rules

(Robert's Rules of Order)

- Amendments presented in writing are considered from the floor.
 - Certain amendments may be approved immediately if there is no objection (i.e., spelling, grammar, etc.).
- Frequently, resolutions with multiple parts are divided into individual parts for discussion and vote. (See Resolutions Submitted for Re-Authorization.)
- Voting is by voice vote, or, if in dispute, by a show of hands counted by the tellers.
- Other rules of order apply (i.e., table, postpone, previous question, inquiry, recess, adjourn.)

In Order to Expedite Business

- The chair will ask delegates to affirm that they wish to “hold” to question or debate certain resolutions.
- Non-controversial resolutions without “holds” may be grouped together and approved.

Resolutions

- Resolutions often have lengthy explanations (“Whereas, etc.) prior to the action steps (“Therefore be it resolved...”)
- Full resolutions are reprinted in the Delegate Manual. Extra manuals are available at the Delegate Secretary’s Desk.
- Only the action steps appear before the delegates (and in this presentation).

Resolution 1

SAFE ZONES

(Submitted by the New Bedford School Committee)

- **Now, therefore be it resolved,** that MASC recommends to school districts to adopt a model policy that includes the following: The District shall interact with ICE, state or local law enforcement agencies acting on behalf of ICE, and any agents or officers of federal, state, or local agencies seeking to enforce federal immigration laws, strictly in accordance with the MA Attorney General's Guidance for MA Public Schools on Protecting Immigrant Students, to ensure that the District fulfills its legal and moral obligation to provide all students, regardless of immigration status, access to a free public K-12 education.
- **Be it further resolved** that the Committee declares the District to be a Safe Zone for its students, meaning that the District is a place for students to learn, to thrive, and to seek assistance, information, & support related to any immigration law enforcement that interferes with their learning experience.
- **Be it further resolved** that the District shall, within 30 days of the date of this Resolution, create a Rapid Response Team to prepare in the event a minor child attending school in the District is deprived of adult care, supervision, or guardianship outside of school due to a federal law enforcement action, such as detention by ICE or a cooperating law enforcement agency.

Resolution 1 (continued)

SAFE ZONES

- **Be it further resolved** that any request by ICE or other agencies to visit a school site should be presented to the Superintendent's Office for review as to whether access to the site is permitted by law, a judicial warrant is required, or any other legal considerations apply; this review should be made expeditiously, but before any immigration law enforcement agent or officer appears at a school site.
- **Be it further resolved** in its continued commitment to the protection of student privacy, the District shall review its record-keeping policies and practices to ensure that no data is being collected with respect to students' immigration status or place of birth; and cease any such collection as it is irrelevant to the educational enterprise and potentially discriminatory.
- **Be it further resolved** should ICE or other immigration law enforcement agents request any student information, the request should be referred to the Superintendent's Office to ensure compliance with Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), student constitutional privacy, standards for a judicial warrant, and any other limitation on disclosure; this review should be conducted expeditiously, but before any production of information is made.
- **Be it further resolved** the District shall post this Resolution in the main office of every school and at all school sites, distribute it to District staff, students, and parents using the District's usual means of communication, and ensure that it is translated into all languages spoken in students' homes.

Resolution 1 (continued)

SAFE ZONES

- **Be it further resolved** the District shall make re-sources—such as Red Cards, mock warrants, and mock subpoenas—available in the main offices, guidance offices, wraparound centers, and administrative buildings, and shall ensure that these resources are regularly restocked and shall include links to these resources in its published versions of the policy.
- **Be it further resolved** the District shall offer “Know Your Rights” trainings and family preparedness sessions in collaboration with immigrant advocacy organizations and with links to these resources.
- **Be it further resolved** the District shall offer a Q&A session for all District employees on the Attorney General’s Guidelines.
- **Be it further resolved** that the Committee directs the Superintendent to review District policies and practices regarding bullying, harassment, and discrimination and report back to the Committee at its next meeting and communicate to staff, students, and parents the importance of maintaining a bullying/harassment/discrimination-free environment for all students.
- **Be it further resolved** the District shall work with department heads on integrating immigration-related content across disciplines.

Resolution 1 (continued)

SAFE ZONES

- **Be it further resolved** the District shall minimize the presence of unfamiliar individuals—such as non-educators, police, security personnel, and other outsiders—on school sites.
- **Be it further resolved** the Committee affirms that licensed educators in the District have the academic freedom to discuss this Resolution during class time provided it is age-appropriate; and students are to be made aware that District counselors are available to discuss the subjects contained in this Resolution.
- **Be it further resolved** that after-school providers and other vendors and service providers who contracted with the District shall be notified of this Resolution within 30 days and be required to abide by it; and
- **Be it further resolved** that the Superintendent shall report back on compliance with this Resolution to the Committee at its next meeting.

Rationale – Resolution 1

- **Protects access to education:** Ensures all students can safely attend/participate in school regardless of immigration status.
- **Creates clear district protocols:** Establishes procedures for responding to ICE requests, warrants, student information, and potential family emergencies.
- **Protects student privacy and well-being:** Reinforces confidentiality & provides resources & support for students & families.
- **Provides staff and families with guidance:** Calls for training, Know Your Rights resources, and clear communication across the district.
- **Update:** The **PROTECT Act**, signed into law in August 2026, now prohibits civil immigration arrests on school grounds without a judicial warrant or order and requires school districts to maintain emergency response plans.

Resolution 2

VOC. TECH. REPRESENTATION ON THE MA BESE

(Submitted by the Nashoba Valley Technical School Committee)

- **Now, therefore it be resolved,** that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to add a seat to the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education board specifically for a representative with vocational/technical experience.

Rationale – Resolution 2

- **Specialized needs:** Chapter 74 programs face unique technical, safety, and regulatory requirements.
- **Relevant expertise:** Vocational/technical experience is important when developing policies that affect these programs.
- **Better representation:** Adds a dedicated vocational/technical perspective to statewide education policymaking.
- **Informed decision-making:** Ensures BESE has direct expertise when considering regulations affecting career technical education.

Resolution 3

VOC. TECH. REPRESENTATION ON THE MSBA

(Submitted by the Nashoba Valley Technical School Committee)

- **Now, therefore it be resolved,** that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to add a seat to the MSBA board specifically for a representative with vocational/technical experience.

Rationale – Resolution 3

- **Growing demand:** Chapter 74 programs are seeing demand that exceeds existing building capacity.
- **Unique facilities:** Vocational programs require specialized spaces, equipment, and safety features that differ from comprehensive schools.
- **Relevant expertise:** MSBA decisions would benefit from direct vocational/technical experience.
- **Better representation:** A dedicated seat would ensure Chapter 74 needs are considered in school building and renovation decisions.

Resolution 4

CLARIFICATION OF SECLUSION STANDARDS WITHIN EMERGENCY BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE PROCEDURES (603 CMR 46.00)

(Submitted by the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee)

- **Now, therefore it be resolved,** that the MASC urges DESE to provide additional clear guidance reinforcing the nuanced differences between time-out and emergency seclusion and in the Department's viewpoint types of situations/scenarios that would warrant both; and
- **Be it further resolved** that MASC supports DESE in further clarifying the distinction between time-out, and emergency seclusion, including the use of practical, real-life examples and decision-making tools for school personnel; and
- **Be it further resolved** that MASC encourage ongoing in-person statewide training and professional development to ensure staff are equipped to implement preventive strategies effectively and to respond appropriately when those strategies are not sufficient to prevent escalation; and

Resolution 4 (continued)

CLARIFICATION OF SECLUSION STANDARDS WITHIN EMERGENCY BEHAVIORAL RESPONSE PROCEDURES (603 CMR 46.00)

(Submitted by the Hampden-Wilbraham Regional School Committee)

- **Be it further resolved** that the Department make available entitlement grants for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that provide financial support to provide ongoing professional development to faculty, staff, and families in preventative behavior regulation strategies that include de-escalation, trauma informed practices, as well as appropriate reactive strategies for when students engage in activities that present an imminent risk of serious physical harm to self or others; and
- **Be it finally resolved** that MASC reaffirm its commitment to student dignity, safety, and access to education, and support policies that ensure emergency interventions are rare, clearly defined, consistently applied, and always secondary to preventive and supportive behavioral practices.

Rationale – Resolution 4

- **Complexity:** Distinguishing between time-out, emergency seclusion, and other interventions can be difficult during behavioral crises.
- **Consistency:** Clear standards help districts respond consistently while protecting student safety and dignity.
- **Staff training:** Educators need practical guidance on de-escalation and when restrictive interventions are appropriate.
- **Prevention:** Stronger training in trauma-informed and behavioral supports can reduce the need for emergency interventions.
- **Update:** DESE has since updated the regulations and issued additional guidance, FAQs, training resources, and implementation tools.

Resolution 5

ALLOWING REGIONAL SCHOOL COMMITTEES TO ACCESS SPECIAL EDUCATION RESERVE FUNDS BY A MAJORITY VOTE OF THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

(Submitted by the Nashoba Valley Technical School Committee)

- **Now, therefore it be resolved,** that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to approve the proposed budgetary amendment allowing districts to seek approval from the school committee only.

Rationale – Resolution 5

- **Rising costs:** Extraordinary special education expenses can create significant, unexpected budget pressures.
- **Timing mismatch:** Circuit Breaker reimbursements often do not align with district budget timelines.
- **Regional complexity:** Regional districts may need approval from multiple municipalities, delaying access to funds.
- **Local control:** Allows the elected school committee to make timely decisions about using funds already established for special education costs.
- **Streamlines the process:** A school committee majority vote would reduce administrative burdens while maintaining local oversight.

Resolutions for Reauthorization

The 2023 Delegate Assembly approved an amendment to the By-Laws that resolutions will expire at the conclusion of the Delegate Assembly three years after their adoption. Expiring resolutions may be reconsidered and readopted by the delegates at the annual meeting at which the resolutions would expire.

- **Reauthorization 1:** Regarding Investigations and Recommendations for Transportation Bidding Procedures
- **Reauthorization 2:** Full, Stable Funding for METCO
- **Reauthorization 3:** Massachusetts School Building Authority Assistance Programs

Reauthorization 1

Regarding Investigations and Recommendations for Transportation Bidding Procedures

- **Now, therefore it be resolved,** that the MA Association of School Committees prevail upon the Office of the State Auditor to investigate the bidding practices of school transportation providers, and to present such findings and recommendations as may be necessary to contain costs and make more efficient transportation services available for public schools.

Status Update: Reauthorization 1

Regarding Investigations and Recommendations for Transportation Bidding Procedures

- Via the FY25 Supplemental Budget, the Office of the Inspector General was directed to produce a Special Education Transportation Study. The findings of that study were published in February 2026 – the study found significant structural issues with system, including the administrative/financial burden of the reimbursement model, lack of detailed vendor billing, and lack of centralized info on transportation bids and contracts.
- The report made recommendations to address these issues and others. It also makes note that school transportation costs have been studied at least four times in the last 20 years with varying levels of success on follow-through of those studies' recommendations.
- The FY27 budget took several steps to address the issues identified in the study. Requiring districts to provide detailed cost info related to out-of-district special education transportation contracts, directing DESE to create a centralized database of out-of-district transportation providers, and requiring further study of the special education transportation marketplace.

Reauthorization 2

Full, Stable Funding for METCO

- **Now, therefore it be resolved,** that the Massachusetts Association of School Committees calls upon the Governor and the Legislature to create a stable funding structure to support METCO and its partner districts that fully funds the support provided by METCO, and the cost of providing services delivered by METCO's partner districts.

Status Update: Reauthorization 2

Full, Stable Funding for METCO

- MASC has repeatedly made it known to the Governor and Legislature that METCO deserves a stable funding structure. Similarly, we have supported METCO's advocacy efforts for funding in the annual budget via line item 7010-0012. This includes urging the passage of amendments to the budget each year that would fully fund METCO's financial needs.

Reauthorization 3

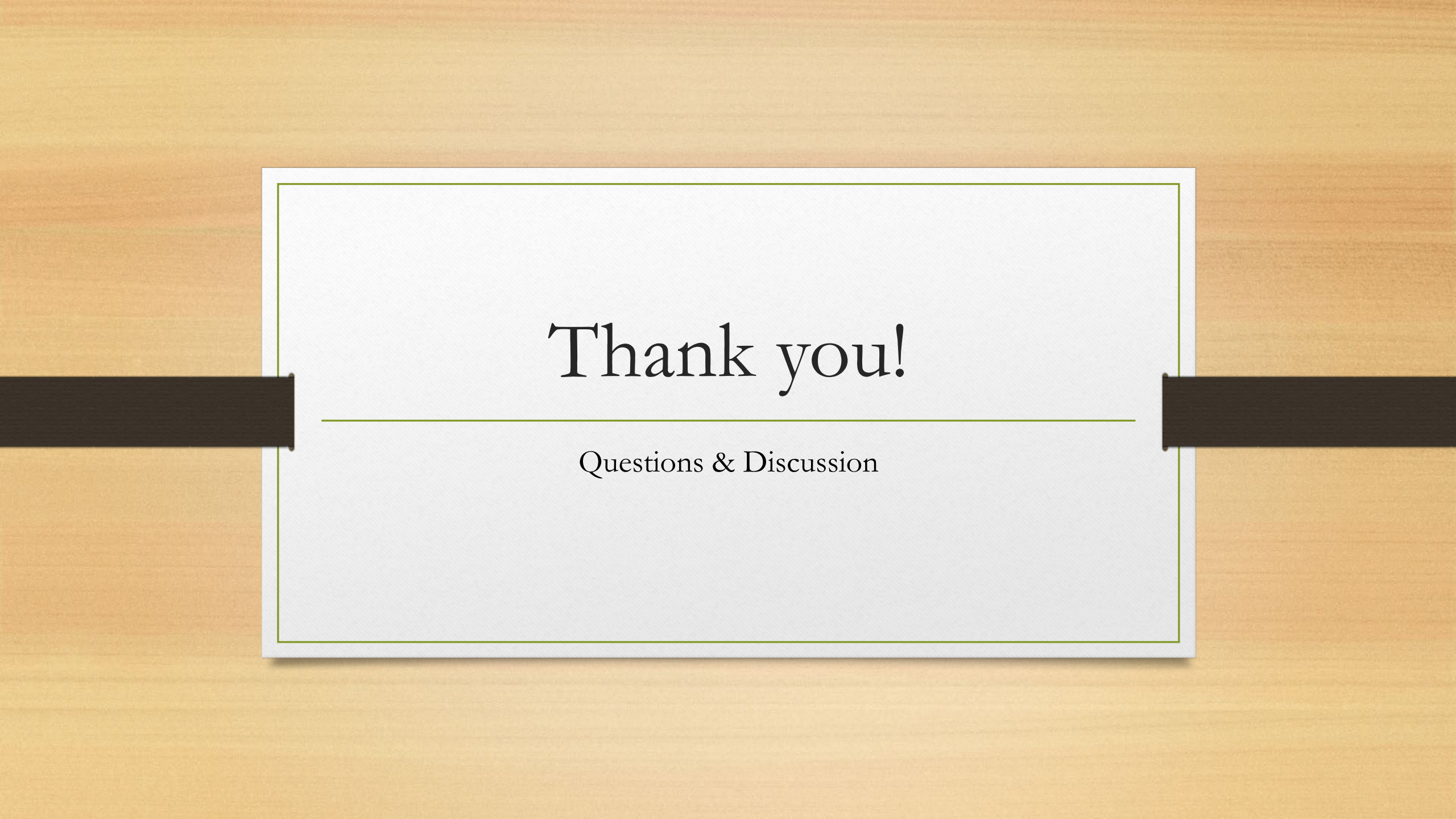
Massachusetts School Building Authority Assistance Programs

- **Now, therefore it be resolved,** that the MASC calls upon the MA Legislature to amend MGL ch.70B, section 7 by removing the \$1,2B cap; and
- **Be it further resolved** that MASC calls upon the MSBA to reinstate the Accelerated Repair program for 2024 applications; and
- **Be it further resolved** that the MASC calls upon the MA Legislature to allow public preschools to be included in the Accelerated Repair Program and Core Program.

Status Update: Reauthorization 3

Massachusetts School Building Authority Assistance Programs

- The MSBA reinstated the Accelerated Repair Program and maintains a two-year cycle for Statements of Interest.
- Public Preschools may participate in the Accelerated Repair and Core Programs if the building does not exclusively serve preschool.
- The FY24 budget increased the MSBA annual funding cap from \$800 million to \$1.2 billion, excluded Accelerated Repair funding from the cap, and allows the cap to increase annually by the lower of dedicated sales tax revenue growth or 6.5%, up from the previous 4.5% limit.



Thank you!

Questions & Discussion