Randolph Public Schools
"Building Tomorrow, Today"
Equity Excellence Innovation

Dr. Thea Stovell-Herndon, Superintendent of Schools
Michael Mason, Jr., Director of Finance and Operations

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TO: Randolph Public Schools Staff, Families, and Community Members

FROM: Dr. Thea Stovell Herndon, Superintendent of Schools
Michael Mason, Jr., Director of Finance and Operations

DATE: November 6, 2026

SUBJECT: Important Community Update: FY 2028 Budget Planning & Upcoming Public Forums

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Dear Randolph Public Schools Community,

The Town Council has approved placing a Proposition $2\frac{1}{2}$ Operating Override on the December 8th ballot. If approved, the override will authorize a $9.5 million increase in the town's tax levy phased over three years, providing the critical revenue needed to maintain our current level of municipal and educational services. Like households across our region, Randolph Public Schools is navigating the direct impacts of rising operational costs, and contractual obligations. Throughout this budget process, our primary commitment remains steadfast: ensuring every child in Randolph receives the high-quality education, care, and support they deserve.

Understanding the Projected Financial Landscape

While we do not currently know what our exact FY 2028 allocation will be, the Town estimates that the district may face a **multimillion-dollar budget shortfall** if the override vote fails.

A shortfall of this magnitude would have deep, lasting impacts across our entire school district and force painful structural choices. Potential impacts include:

- **Decrease in Educational Programming:** Scaled-back core academic interventions, curriculum support, and specialized instructional offerings.
- **Adjustments in Operational Services:** Reductions in daily facilities maintenance, custodial schedules, technology support, and routine operational upkeep.
- **Decreased Staffing Levels:** Personnel reductions across both direct classroom instruction and essential non-instructional support roles.
- **Loss of Courtesy Transportation for Grades 7 through 12:** Elimination of non-mandated busing for secondary students, re-imposing travel and attendance logistical challenges on families.

Non-Discrimination Policy
The Randolph Public Schools (RPS) do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, ethnic identity, sex, gender identity, disability, handicap, age, religion, sexual orientation or homelessness in admission to or participation in its program
s and activities. RPS does not tolerate any form of discrimination, intimidation, threat, bullying, coercion and/or harassment that insults the dignity of others by interfering with their ability or freedom to learn and work.

- **Increased Class Sizes:** A significant surge in student-to-teacher ratios, driving class averages well above target guidelines and industry standards.
- **Reductions to Extracurricular Activities and Electives:** Severe scale-backs or full eliminations of middle and high school athletics, clubs, performing arts, and elective course offerings.
- **Potential Closure of a School:** Consolidation of district facilities and the permanent closure of an elementary school building to capture necessary utility, maintenance, and administrative savings.

Upcoming Community Information Forums

To help our community better understand the financial landscape and discuss what a passed or failed override will mean for the future of our school district, the Town invites all residents, staff, and families to attend the upcoming public forums:

- **Town Hall Forum (Chapin Hall):** Tuesday, November 10 at 7:00 PM
- **Stetson Hall Forum:** Saturday, November 14 at 2:00 PM

Information and context regarding the override will be presented at these meetings, to engage in discussion and answer your questions.

Our schools are the heart of Randolph, and your voice matters in shaping their future. We encourage everyone to attend, ask questions, and participate in these important conversations.

Thank you for your continued partnership, care, and dedication to the students of Randolph.

Sincerely,

Dr. Thea Stovell-Herndon, Superintendent of Schools

Michael Mason, Jr., Director of Finance and Operations

Cc.: School Committee

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