



North River Collaborative Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Friday, March 13, 2026 9AM.

Present: Julie Hamilton, Ryan Powers, Gina Williams, Matthew Ferron, Mark Bodwell, Felicia Moschella, Alan Cron, John Marcus, Lori Jodoin, Paul Tzovolos, Ellen George, and Kelli O'Brien McKinnon

Absent: Joseph Baeta

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Julie Hamilton at 9:00 AM.

II. Approval of Minutes

A. February 27, 2026

Motion: Mark Bodwell made a motion to approve the minutes of February 27, 2026. Felicia Moschella seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

III. Discussion/Action Items

A. FY27 Budget - Second Reading

1. Budget Document Updates – Ellen George reviewed the projected Revenue and Expense for the FY27 Budget. Ms. George stated the FY27 budget total of all funds will be (including grants) \$18,763,668, an increase from the FY26 budget of \$3,174,365.

2. Updated FY27 NRC Combined Rate Sheet – Paul Tzovolos reviewed the updated FY27 NRC Combined Rate Sheet which includes a discount in tuition rates for North River School by 20% for any student above two already enrolled students from any school district.

3. Budget Presentation Recap and Recommendations – Paul Tzovolos reviewed the changes to the FY27 budget following the first reading on February 27, 2026:

- Health insurance projection was reduced to a 14% increase for FY27 based on initial feedback from Mayflower Municipal Health Group.
- Treasurer salary increase based upon comparable salary information provided.
- Minor materials and supplies line alterations based upon the above adjustments.
- Update to the FY2027 NRC Tuition and Service Rate Sheet to include recommendation for the NRS tuition revenue incentive program.

Paul Tzovolos recapped the requested Board approval for the NRC FY27 Budget following February 27, 2026 First Budget Reading:

- A total operating budget of \$16,785,867 in the General Fund with an additional \$800,000 in Capital Expenditures for a FY27 total of \$17,585,867.
- The Treasurer certified the FY27 Budget following inspection and inquiry.
- A 2.5% cost of living adjustment in salaries for all staff based upon the average professional staff increases for our member districts.
- Alterations to the salary scales to include food services job role added to the custodial

scale, dissolution of the LPN Non-Degree salary scale with LPNs all moved to the LPN Degree Scale, and addition to the Facilities Manager position to the Asst. Transportation Director /Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator scale.

- The addition of the following positions: Full-time Business Office Support Staff, additional Learning Center Program Coordinator, and Facilities Manager.
- The alteration of current positions to form new positions: Foodservice worker at NRS and custodian at NRS.
- A 3% increase in all programs and services costs and the accompanying FY2027 NRC Tuition and Services Rate Sheet. The 3% increase shall be carried forward with the following exceptions-member district OT, PT, Speech, and Behavioral services will carry no increase. There will be a 17% increase for Teachers of the Visually impaired and a 14% increase in Orientation/Mobility services. Transportation will carry no overall increase with increases coming only on incidental rate calculation items (salary, insurance etc.) . The clinical intern program will carry no increase for FY27.
- A recommendation regarding tuition incentive to include both member and non-member school districts for North River School. This rate incentive will not include pre-existing students who attended prior to July 1, 2026, however, additional students attending following that date will be eligible for these rate incentives if applicable. The recommendations include discounting tuition rates by 20% for any student above two already enrolled students from any school district. The discount shall apply to the 183-day school tuition only.

	FY27 Tuition	20% Discount	Final Amount
Member	\$60,188	\$12,038	\$48,150
Non-member	\$69,216	\$13,843	\$55,373

- The procedure for billing at Independence Academy will change. All districts will receive the initial 10-day Upper Course at no cost. Further billing will be based upon the vision for continued participation in the program. Students who intend to remain at IA to participate fully in the 45-day Foundations Program and beyond will be charged beginning on day 11 of participation. Students who must continue for a short-term stay (for up to 30 additional days, totaling 40 days cumulatively) due to disciplinary action or other requirements will not incur a further charge. This practice will be implemented in both the Brockton and Cape Cod locations. All billing will be adequately communicated with the school district contact person with an effort to properly screen and recommend the return to district of students who are not appropriate for the recovery high school mode.
- The continued 15% surcharge for programs and services charged to non-member districts.
- Capital expenses (vehicle purchases) in the amount of up to \$800,000 and a \$100,000 contribution to the NRC Capital Fund.
- A \$180,000 contribution to the OPEB Retiree’s Health Insurance Trust.
- Total rent expenses of \$238,130 across the Learning Center, SAILS, and Almshouse locations.
- Approval of an attendance incentive plan for Van Drivers/Monitors that allows for additional personal day accrual for meeting attendance benchmarks.

4. Questions and Feedback

Motion: Matthew Ferron made a motion to approve the FY27 Budget. Felicia Moschella seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

B. NRC Program and Holiday Calendars for 2026-2027

- 1. Holiday Calendar**
- 2. Learning Center Calendar**
- 3. North River School Calendar**
- 4. SAILS Calendar**
- 5. Independence Academy Calendar**

Motion: Mark Bodwell made a motion to approve the Holiday Calendar, Learning Center Calendar, North River School Calendar, SAILS Calendar, and Independence Academy Calendar. Felicia Moschella seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

C. NRC Board of Director and Special Ed Advisory Calendars for 2026-2027

Motion: Mark Bodwell made a motion to approve the NRC Board of Director and Special Ed Advisory Calendars for 2026-2027. Felicia Moschella seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

D. Health Disclosure Forms: Kelli O'Brien-McKinnon and Ellen George -Paul Tzovolos explained to the Board that because both Kelli O'Brien McKinnon and Ellen George vote with Mayflower Municipal Health Group in the rate and contract process for health insurance and both take health insurance through NRC, they must disclose to the State Ethics Commission the possible conflict of interest.

Motion: Felicia Moschella made a motion to approve the Health Disclosure Forms. John Marcus seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

E. \$20,000 Transfer to Capital Reserve Fund from the FY26 Budget: Ellen George reviewed the requested transfer to the Capital Reserve from the FY26 Budget.

Motion: Matthew Ferron made a motion to approve the transfer of \$20,000 to the Capital Reserve Fund from the FY26 budget. Felicia Moschella seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

F. Job Descriptions/Postings

- 1. Part Time Foodservice Worker**
- 2. Part Time Custodian**
- 3. Facilities Manager**
- 4. Business Office Administrative Support**

Motion: Felicia Moschella made a motion to approve the job description postings for the positions of a part-time food service worker, part-time custodian, facilities manager and a business office administrative support. Mark Bodwell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

IV. Informational Items

- A. Office of the Inspector General Special Education Transportation Study**
- B. Central Office Staff NRC Budget Presentation–March 13, 2026 at 1:00PM (Virtual)**

V. Other Matters of Interest to Board Members

Motion: Mark Bodwell made a motion to adjourn. Felicia Moschella seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 AM.

Respectfully Submitted By,

Mark Bodwell
NRC Board of Directors Secretary