

DUXBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Minutes
Wednesday, February 4, 2026
5:00 pm – Alden School, Room 104

I. Call to Order: 5:07 pm

II. Adjourn to Executive Session:

Mrs. Bresnehan convened the meeting at 5:10 pm

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) the School Committee enter into executive session for the purpose of discussing strategy as it relates to negotiations with Unit A, the Duxbury Teachers Association, and the Administrative Assistants' Association.

Motion to adjourn into Executive Session

Motion: Mr. Gambino

Second: Mrs. Deacon

Roll call vote: Mrs. Bresnehan, yes; Mr. Gambino, yes; Mrs. Deacon, yes;

Mrs. Marshall, yes; Mrs. Weedon, yes

III. Return to Open Session:

Mrs. Bresnehan reconvened the meeting in open session at 6:11 pm

Present: Danielle Klingaman, Elizabeth Wilcox, Lisa Freeley, Tony Keady, B.J. McNamara, Kellie Bresnehan, Matthew Gambino, Laurel Deacon, Kathryn Marshall, Jen Weedon

Student Representative: Gerard Vazquez Baez

IV. Public Comment: No Public Comment

V. Consent Agenda:

Mrs. Bresnehan asks committee members if there are any items on the consent agenda that should be removed for discussion prior to approval.

A. Approval of meeting minutes: 08/29/2025, 09/26/2025, 10/17/2025, 1/7/26,1/16/2026, 1/20/26

B. Request to approve accounts payable warrants (29,31)

C. Request to approve payroll warrants (28,30)

D. Gift to Schools Approval- Bluefish River Tavern and Carney Disposal

E. Memo Summarizing Statewide Graduation Council Competency Determination Recommendations

Motion to adopt the consent agenda as a whole:

Motion: Mrs. Deacon

Second: Mrs. Marshall

Motion passes 5-0

VI. New Business:

A. Chandler/Alden/DMS/DHS Activities/Events Update:

Gerard Vazquez Baez

- Chandler first term report cards were posted on the Aspen Family Portal last Friday.
- The first grade is hosting their Family Learning Night this Thursday in all classrooms with students showcasing their learning about planets and space.
- This Friday marks the 100th day of school! Chandler students, especially kindergarten, are looking forward to this fun tradition to celebrate being in school for 100 days.
- Alden is bringing back their grade-level Learning Nights this year where each grade highlights a curriculum focus and celebrates student learning. The fourth grade Learning Night will be held on February 11th from 6:00–7:00 PM.
- Alden will be holding their Respect assembly this Friday with the focus on effort. Alden Student Council will be presenting a school wide Kindness Challenge as well.
- DMS second semester began last week and students began some new electives.
- DMS wrapped up winter diagnostics for iReady and will be sending those reports out to families shortly.
- DMS posted term two grades in Aspen yesterday morning.
- DMS has been holding term 2 grade level assemblies this week with each grade reviewing goals for next term while highlighting achievements.
- DMS will be celebrating their term two accolade winners this Friday morning with a breakfast.
- DMS will be holding information sessions during the week after break in preparation for the course selection process in March. Current grade sixth and seventh parents and guardians are invited on Tuesday, February 24. Current fifth grade parents and guardians are invited on Thursday, February 26. Students will have information sessions that week as well.
- Term three at DHS has begun.
- DHS students should prepare for course selection and are encouraged to view the DHS program of studies when making these decisions.
- Congratulations to the entire cast, crew, and pit of this past weekend's production of Grease.
- Term two report cards were published in the Aspen portal. They can be located by logging in and looking for "2025-2026 T2 Report Cards" in the document side tab.
- Student Councils' Polar Plunge has been pushed from February 4th to March 3rd. All participants who raise \$100 will receive a long-sleeve shirt or crewneck, as well as bragging rights for braving the cold.

B. Athletic Department 2025-2026 Update:

- Mrs. Freeley and Mr. Maidment provide a cost analysis for the Athletics program including information on athletic participation, financial analysis, overview of costs, individual athletic program breakdown, revenue, and athletic program support.
- Mr. Maidment notes a significant increase in overall costs to run the athletic program and a decrease in revenue from user fees and gate receipts highlighting the need for additional revenue sources, such as advertising and community sponsorships.
- Members discuss potentially forming a working group to investigate revenue sources for the athletic program and review of athletic fee schedules.
- Motion for the school committee to assign Dr. Klingaman to form a working group for the purpose of investigating revenue sources for the athletic program, and that group should, at minimum, include Jeff Maidment, Lisa Freeley, and a member of the school committee to come back with a set of proposals by sometime in the fall of 2026:

Motion: Mr. Gambino

Second: Mrs. Deacon

Motion passes: 5-0

- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the presentation in its entirety.

C. Student Achievement Mid-Year Update:

- Dr. Wilcox along with curriculum supervisors, Sara Milner, Allyson McHugh, and Michael Murray present the mid-year reading and math data for the 2025-2026 school year. Presentation shares the assessment tools used for both literacy and math while providing data regarding growth and intervention in both subjects for students in kindergarten through eighth grade. Curriculum data shows significant growth in literacy and math, with specific interventions and support systems in place to enhance student performance. Dr. Wilcox emphasizes the importance of maintaining evidence-based programs and supporting teacher professional development in order to ensure student success.
- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the presentation in its entirety.

D. School Committee Budget Endorsement:

- This discussion referred to the school committee workshop held on the January 16, where questions arose about the school committee's authority to endorse an override and what role members are allowed to play. Mr. Gambino was tasked with obtaining updated guidance from legal counsel outlining what the committee can and cannot do. Mr. Gambino states the he has already disseminated the information to the committee members.

E. FY'27 Budget and Alden Building Project Communication and Advocacy:

- Dr. Klingaman shares that the Alden School Building committee have been meeting regularly and they are hoping be able to offer building tours to the public before the school committee advocacy session on February 23. Dr. Klingaman states that they will be sharing out additional opportunities for community members who may want to have a tour of Alden school or have questions about "the why" behind the cost of the feasibility study.

F. 2026-2027 School Calendar Draft:

- Dr. Klingaman presents the 2026-2027 school calendar draft with September 2, 2026 being the first day for students and June 17, 2027 being the last day of school providing that there are no snow days. The return date for staff will be August 31, 2026.
- Dr. Klingaman notes that Unit A is still in active contract negotiations so there is a chance that professional development days may be adjusted upon completion of negotiations.
- Dr. Klingaman notes that due to how the December break falls, students and staff do not have to return to work on January 4, 2027.
- Dr. Klingaman specifies that the calendar is a first reading and will be voted on during the February 10 meeting, with any proposed changes to be brought back for further discussion.

G. Policy First Reading:

- Mr. Gambino explains the process of comparing the existing Duxbury policy with the MASC versions and that many of the policies being reviewed are interrelated and changes to policy often set off a domino effect that requires slight housekeeping changes to other policies.
- Policy IJL: Library Materials Selection and Adoption
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy IJL with addition of a hyperlink connecting to the School Library Bill of Rights.

- Policy KE: Public Complaints (Currently Citizen Complaints/Concerns)
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy KE inclusive of name change to “Public Complaints”.
- Policy AA: School District Legal Status
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy AA with “Duxbury” inserted where applicable and elimination of the bold note at the bottom.
- Policy ACA: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy ACA with elimination of the bold note at the bottom and striking “Policy” from the cross reference referring to policy AC.
- Policy ACE: Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability (Currently Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Handicap)
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy ACE with elimination of the bold note at the bottom and replacing the word “handicap” with the word “disability” where applicable. The policy name will also be changed to “Nondiscrimination of the Basis of Disability”.
- Policy ADC: Tobacco Products on School Premises Prohibited (Currently Tobacco-Free Schools)
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy ADC with name change to “Tobacco Products on School Premises Prohibited”.
 - The committee discuss and decide to include verbiage surrounding nicotine products to the policy. Please see the language change below:
 - Current verbiage: Use of any tobacco products, including, but not limited to:
 - Proposed verbiage: Use of any tobacco or nicotine products, including, but not limited to:
- Policy AE: Commitment to Accomplishment
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy AE with no changes.

VII. Adjourn: 8:06 pm

Motion: Mr. Gambino
 Second: Mrs. Deacon
 Motion passes 5-0

Next meeting: February 10, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,
 Suzanne Hughes
 Duxbury Business Office