

DUXBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Minutes
Wednesday, April 8, 2026
6:00 pm – Alden School, Room 104

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:01 pm

Present: Danielle Klingaman, Lisa Freeley, Tony Keady, B.J. McNamara, Matthew Gambino, Laurel Deacon, Kathryn Marshall, Jen Weedon, Aun Holland
Student Representative: Gerard Vazquez Baez

II. School Committee Reorganization:

At this meeting the Committee must organize for the next school year which includes determining who will assume the roles of Chairman, Vice Chair, and Secretary.

Mr. Gambino calls for nominations according to School Committee policy.

a) School Committee Chair:

Mrs. Marshall nominates Mr. Gambino for the position of School Committee Chair.

Roll call vote: Mrs. Deacon; yes, Mrs. Marshall; yes, Mrs. Weedon; yes, Mrs. Holland; yes, Mr. Gambino; yes

Matthew Gambino will serve as School Committee Chair.

b) School Committee Vice Chair:

Mrs. Deacon nominates Mrs. Weedon for the position of School Committee Vice Chair.

Roll call vote: Mrs. Deacon; yes, Mrs. Marshall; yes, Mrs. Weedon; yes, Mrs. Holland; yes, Mr. Gambino; yes

Jen Weedon will serve as School Committee Vice Chair.

c) School Committee Recording Secretary:

Mrs. Marshall nominates Suzanne Hughes for the position of School Committee Recording Secretary.

Roll call vote: Mrs. Deacon; yes, Mrs. Marshall; yes, Mrs. Weedon; yes, Mrs. Holland; yes, Mr. Gambino; yes

Suzanne Hughes will serve as School Committee Recording Secretary.

III. Public Comment: No Public Comment

IV. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Gambino asks committee members if there are any items on the consent agenda below that should be removed for discussion prior to approval:

- A. Approval of Meeting Minutes – 03/25/2026
- B. Request to Approve Accounts Payable Warrants (39)

- Motion to adopt the consent agenda as a whole:

Motion: Mrs. Deacon
Second: Mrs. Marshall
Motion passes 5-0

V. New Business:

A. Student Representative Reports – School Activities/Events Update:

- Chandler School has begun preparations for the 2026-2027 school year sending parents a feedback form in order for them to provide insight into their child's learning style as one step to help create balanced classes for students.
- Chandler School will be holding kindergarten screening appointments during the week of April 27 for the graduating Class of 2039.
- In honor of National Assistant Principals Week, Chandler staff and students are celebrating Assistant Principal Sue MacNeil for her dedication and hard work.
- Chandler's "Kids Care Club" assembled 50 Jared Boxes for the Jared Box Project, an organization that provides toys and activities to children during hospital stays. The boxes will be donated locally to South Shore Hospital and Beth Israel Deaconess.
- In honor of National Assistant Principals Week, Alden staff and students are celebrating Assistant Principal Jen Fiorentino for her dedication and hard work.
- DMS grades close on Friday for term 3 and report cards will post on Aspen after the April break.
- DMS will be holding term 3 grade level assemblies this week to review the term and set goals for the final stretch of the school year.
- DMS will wrap up ELA MCAS testing this week with 8th grade students. Math testing will begin after the break.
- In honor of National Assistant Principals Week, DMS staff and students are celebrating Assistant Principals, Mr. Henry and Mrs. Coyne, for their dedication and hard work.

B. Student Travel Experience Follow-up:

- DHS teacher Sara Donovan and student Benjamin Laeng provide a detailed account of a recent student trip to Japan, including challenges faced and cultural experiences gained. The trip included visits to cultural sites, participation in traditional activities, and educational experiences at various museums while teaching students about Japanese history, culture, and language.

C. International Student Travel 2026-2027:

- Dr. Klingaman states that due to heightened security risks and travel advisories, she and DHS principal Jen Cotton-Herman are recommending a temporary pause on approval of all new tour-based international student trips. Dr. Klingaman states this would not affect the Spain exchange trip as that is more curriculum based. This would not impact domestic or curriculum based travel.

D. Spain Exchange with Colegio Arturo Soria, Madrid, Spain 2026-2027:

- Dr. Klingaman reviews the surrounding logistics, funding, and benefits of the proposed Spanish exchange trip to Madrid, Spain. This trip is open to up to 14 students and will take place over April 2027 school vacation.
- Vote to approve the Duxbury High School Spain cultural exchange for the 2026-2027 school year as proposed

Motion: Mrs. Weedon

Second: Mrs. Deacon

Motion passes 5-0

E. Liaison/Subcommittee Update:

- Athletic Task Force - Mrs. Marshall states that there is an Athletic Task Force meeting tomorrow at 1:00 pm that she is unable to attend and asks if any other member is available to go in her place. Mrs. Deacon will attend. Mrs. Marshall states that the task force will be discussing the budget gap at the meeting and will be presenting recommendations to the committee in May.
- Pilgrim Area Collaborative - Mrs. Deacon states that the PAC has finished their 2027 budget which will be approved in May. The PAC have set a 3% tuition increase for the 2026-2027 school year. Mrs. Deacon states that the PAC is working on policy review and just celebrated the collaborative's 50th anniversary.
- DEI Committee – Mrs. Weedon states that the DEI Committee met yesterday with discussion focusing on the newly created Family Tool Kit.
- SEPAC – Mrs. Weedon states that she was not able to attend the recent SEPAC meeting. B.J. McNamara updates the committee stating that focus was on related services. The next SEPAC meeting will be held on April 27, 6:00 – 8:00 pm.
- Superintendent Evaluation Committee – Mrs. Marshall provides a brief overview of the evaluation process in preparation for the upcoming superintendent's evaluation. Mr. Gambino states that he will send out an email to the committee containing the established timeline and deadlines.

F. Member Professional Positions and Ethics Policies:

- Mr. Gambino states that both he and Mrs. Holland's professional positions are in the education industry and publicly reaffirms their adherence to the district's governance policies. This is to maintain absolute transparency with the community and colleagues,
- Specifically, Mr. Gambino and Mrs. Holland, highlight their commitment to:
 - Policy BCA - School Committee Member Code of Ethics: Reaffirming our mandate to avoid being placed in a position of conflict of interest.
 - Policy BEDC / BEDD / BEDF - Quorum/Rules of Order/Voting Method: Reaffirming the rule that a member may not vote on a matter which constitutes a conflict of interest.

G. Consent Agenda Content:

- The committee discuss and review the content of the consent agenda agreeing to continue with the following items eligible for inclusion:
 - Meeting Minutes
 - Warrants
 - Policy Second Reads
 - Memos of Note
 - Grant Awards/Gifts to School Donations

- Budget Transfers
- The committee review the process of pulling and item off the agenda for discussion versus asking clarifying questions.

H. DHS Graduation Speech/Diplomas:

- The committee members discuss who will give a speech and hand out diplomas at the upcoming DHS graduation on June 6. The decision was made to have former member Kellie Bresnehan give the speech and hand out diplomas as she had expressed interest in doing so prior to her departure from the committee. Dr. Klingaman states that committee members usually participate in the march and that graduation robes are available for them.

I. Equitable Fee Analysis Presentation:

- Caitlan Sheehan presents results from the Student & Family Expense Audit conducted to better understand whether all students can access school experiences, regardless of family income. Ms. Sheehan explains that the audit reviewed fees, fundraising, supplies, activities, and participation patterns across the district.
- The committee discusses potential solutions, including policy changes, waiver support mechanisms, and alternative funding sources. Committee members decide to fold the analysis into the ongoing Strategic Planning process highlighting the importance of defining core services and aligning them with the strategic plan.
- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the presentation in its entirety.

J. Policy First Reading:

- Policy BDF: Advisory Committees
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC version of policy BDF with no changes other than elimination of the bold note at the bottom.
- Policy BDF-R: Community, Staff, Student Involvement in Decision-Making Administrative Procedures for Advisory Committees
 - Mr. Gambino states that policy BDF-R was tabled until the next policy subcommittee meeting feeling that it required further study along with policy JIB as the intertwine.
- Policy BDFA: School Councils
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy BDFA with the addition of “whenever possible” to the beginning of paragraph five.
- Policy BDFA-E: Conduct of School Council Business
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy BDFA-E with no changes.
- Policy BDG: School Attorney
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy BDG with the addition of language stating “Individual members should coordinate requests to seek legal advice through the Committee Chair” after the first sentence of Paragraph 2.

VI. Adjourn: 7:35 pm

Motion: Mrs. Deacon
 Second: Mrs. Marshall
 Motion passes 5-0

Next meeting: March 25, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Hughes
Duxbury Business Office