DUXBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Minutes
Wednesday, December 10, 2025
6:00 pm – Alden School, Room 104

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:03 pm
Present: Danielle Klingaman, Elizabeth Wilcox, Lisa Freeley, Tony Keady, B.J. McNamara, Kellie Bresnehan, Laurel Deacon, Matthew Gambino, Kathryn Marshall, Jen Weedon
Student Representative: Gerard Vazquez Baez

II. Budget Hearing:
Pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 71, Section 38n, the School Committee will hold a Public Hearing on the topic of the budget for the School Year 2026-2027

- Dr. Klingaman states that the FY'27 recommended budget is a strategic needs-based plan to maintain class sizes, ensure equitable access, and invest in high-quality instructional materials. The proposed budget is conservative, considering the town's financial resources, and aims to address past reductions and safeguard educational services.
- Mrs. Freeley goes over the budget materials from the meeting packet which is a streamlined version of the comprehensive budget information that was shared in November.
- Mr. Gambino requests further data surrounding special education being that the program consists of up to 20% of the operating budget. B.J. McNamara agrees and states that a presentation is being worked on for the January meeting.
- Mrs. Weedon states that she does not support the recommended budget as she feels it lacks alignment with the strategic plan and is not easily explainable as she feels it should be in light of the budget situation. Mrs. Weedon cites lack of correct available data regarding special education as a factor in her decision making.
- The committee discuss full-day kindergarten included in the recommended budget. Mrs. Marshall states that said she cannot support full-day kindergarten this year feeling it would be fiscally irresponsible to prioritize over the district's capital needs and the Alden school feasibility study. Mrs. Deacon states that she believes full-day kindergarten is essential for academic success and charging for it is inequitable.
    - Community member, Jay Zysk, spoke in support of full-day kindergarten.
- Mrs. Bresnehan states that the School Committee refuses to vote a number that short changes Duxbury school children and that she will be voting in support of the 4.83% budget to cover salaries, special education, facilities, transportation, and curriculum and instruction. Mrs. Bresnehan urges all community members to vote at both town meeting and town election.
- Betsy Sullivan requests a breakdown of the changes in the "other special revenue" account from FY'25 to FY'26. Mrs. Freeley will provide the breakdown to Mrs. Sullivan.

- Motion to approve cost center 1000 in the amount of $1,411,318

  Motion: Mr. Gambino
  Second: Mrs. Deacon
  Motion passes 4-1
  Roll call vote: Mr. Gambino; yes, Mrs. Weedon; no, Mrs. Marshall; yes, Mrs. Deacon; yes, Mrs. Bresnehan; yes

- Motion to approve cost center 2000 in the amount of $35,906,155

Motion: Mr. Gambino
Second: Mrs. Deacon
Motion passes 3-2
Roll call vote: Mr. Gambino; yes, Mrs. Weedon; no, Mrs. Marshall; no, Mrs. Deacon; yes, Mrs. Bresnehan; yes

- Motion to approve cost center 3000 in the amount of $4,159,491

  Motion: Mr. Gambino
  Second: Mrs. Deacon
  Motion passes 4-1
  Roll call vote: Mr. Gambino; yes, Mrs. Weedon; no, Mrs. Marshall; yes, Mrs. Deacon; yes, Mrs. Bresnehan; yes

- Motion to approve cost center 4000 in the amount of $3,802,086

  Motion: Mrs. Deacon
  Second: Mr. Gambino
  Motion passes 5-0
  Roll call vote: Mr. Gambino; yes, Mrs. Weedon; yes, Mrs. Marshall; yes, Mrs. Deacon; yes, Mrs. Bresnehan; yes

- Motion to approve cost center 5000 in the amount of $58,000

  Motion: Mrs. Deacon
  Second: Mrs. Gambino
  Motion passes 5-0
  Roll call vote: Mr. Gambino; yes, Mrs. Weedon; yes, Mrs. Marshall; yes, Mrs. Deacon; yes, Mrs. Bresnehan; yes

- Motion to approve cost center 9000 in the amount of $1,137,452

  Motion: Mrs. Deacon
  Second: Mrs. Gambino
  Motion passes 5-0
  Roll call vote: Mr. Gambino; yes, Mrs. Weedon; yes, Mrs. Marshall; yes, Mrs. Deacon; yes, Mrs. Bresnehan; yes

- Motion to approve the FY'27 operating budget in the amount of $46,474,501

  Motion: Mrs. Deacon
  Second: Mr. Gambino
  Motion passes 3-2
  Roll call vote: Mr. Gambino; yes, Mrs. Weedon; no, Mrs. Marshall; no, Mrs. Deacon; yes, Mrs. Bresnehan; yes

III. Public Comment: No Public Comment

IV. Consent Agenda:

Mrs. Bresnehan 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 – 11/19/2025
B. Request to Approve Accounts Payable Warrants (21,23)
C. Request to Approve Payroll Warrants (20,22)
D. Policy Second Reading: JLCB – Immunization of Students

- Motion to adopt the consent agenda as a whole:

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

V. New Business:

A. Student Representative Reports – School Activities/Events Update

- Chandler held their first Family Learning Night of the school year last week. Second grade classrooms invited families in on Tuesday night to share what they had learned about Greek Gods, Goddesses, and Magical Creatures.
- Report cards for term one for Alden students will be posted this Friday, 12/12.
- The i-Ready assessment window for Alden is now open and results will be available prior to the winter break. Alden staff will hold data meetings to review student progress and refine student interventions after the winter break.
- The Alden Winter Concert will be held Thursday evening at 7:00 p.m. in the PAC.
- Reminder to all Middle and High School parents that students are to be picked up and dropped off at the DMS entrance only and not the Percy Walker pool lot, the visitor lot, or the Steele student lots. These areas have been designated for student and staff only. To ensure the safety of all students, please ensure you follow all town regulations on drop-off and pickup. Parents may receive a warning or a fine from the Duxbury Police Department.
- DHS hosted the 10th annual Credit for Life Fair on Tuesday where students learned meaningful lessons on financial literacy. Students collaborated with Duxbury citizens through informative workshops and a budget simulation fair.
- Reminder to all students and families that midterm exams will take place following the MLK holiday weekend from Tuesday, January 20, through Friday, January 23. Midterm exams count as 10% of a student's final course grade and is an important cumulative assessment of a student's mastery of the course material.
- On Thursday, December 4, the DHS Math Team hosted the surrounding towns for a Math Meet in which Duxbury earned third place. Congratulations to Teddy McMahon and Lake DiCostanzo for being named DHS's Most Valuable Calculators of the meet as high scorers.

B. Superintendent Update- Cheerleading Team Official Qualification for Nationals

- Dr. Klingaman informs the committee that the DHS Cheerleading team has qualified for the national cheer competition reminding the committee that they had previously approved the overnight trip to Orlando for the competition pending qualification.

C. DHS Overnight Trip: DECA Conference

- DHS teacher, Margaret Cameron-Hickey, reviews the surrounding logistics, funding, and benefits

of the proposed overnight trip to the Quincy Marriott for students to attend the DECA competition/conference to be held January 8, 2026 – January 9, 2026

- Vote to approve the DHS overnight trip to the Quincy Marriott in January, 2026

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

D. Policy First Readings

- Policy IHBHE: Remote Learning
  - Mr. Gambino explains 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 such as cross reference updates.
  - Recommendation: Adopt revised policy IHBHE with corrections to cross references IJNDB and IJNDD.
- Policy IJNDB: Use of Technology in Instruction
  - Recommendation: Adopt revised policy IJNDB including the renaming of the "Empowered Digital User Agreement" to the "Comprehensive Digital User Agreement."
- Policy IJNDC: Acceptable Use of Digital Resources
  - Recommendation: Adopt revised policy IJNDC including the renaming of the "Empowered Digital User Agreement" to the "Comprehensive Digital User Agreement."
- Policy IJNDG: Student Data Privacy
  - Dr. Klingaman explains that policy IJNDG ensures that the district has safeguards in place to ensure that students' personal information remains private and secure, both inside the school and when working with trusted partners.
  - Dr. Klingaman states that this is a new district policy with no MASC policy for comparison.
  - Recommendation: Adopt policy IJNDG including the renaming of the "Empowered Digital User Agreement" to the "Comprehensive Digital User Agreement."
- Policy IJNDD: DPS Social Media Policy
  - Recommendation: Adopt revised policy IJNDD including the renaming of the "Empowered Digital User Agreement" to the "Comprehensive Digital User Agreement."
- Policy GBEE: Personnel Use of Technology
  - Recommendation: Adopt revised policy GBEE including the renaming of the "Empowered Digital User Agreement" to the "Comprehensive Digital User Agreement."
- Policy JICJ: Student Use of Technology in Schools
  - Recommendation: Adopt revised policy JICJ including the renaming of the "Empowered Digital User Agreement" to the "Comprehensive Digital User Agreement."
- Policy JLCC: Communicable Diseases
  - Mr. Gambino explains that the MASC version of policy JLCC regarding communicable diseases is more in line with recent legislation updates.
  - Recommendation: Adopt the MASC version of policy JLCC.
- Policy JLCD: Administering Medication to Students
  - Dr. Klingaman explains that this policy was reviewed due to recent 105 CMR regulation updates regarding self-administration and self-carry of medications by students. The Policy Subcommittee feel that the 2021 MASC version of policy JLCD is inclusive of the necessary updates and internal procedures should be developed for self-administration and self-carry of medications.
  - Recommendation: Adopt 2021 MASC version of policy JLCD.

- Policy JF: School Admissions (Changed from JFAA)
  - Dr. Klingaman explains that the policy code will be changed from JFAA to JF in order to be aligned with MASC and the following cross references will be added:
    - JFABD: Homeless Students: Enrollment Rights and Services
    - JFABE: Educational Opportunities for Military Children
    - JFABF: Educational Opportunities for Children in Foster Care
  - Mr. Gambino states that additional verbiage has been added regarding annual rental property review.
  - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy JF with the discussed changes.
- Policy JLCA: Physical Examination of Students
  - Updates to policy JLCA consist of the addition of a note regarding vision, hearing, SBIRT, and BMI screenings added to the end of the policy and the cross reference JFAA will be updated to JF.
  - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy JLCA with the discussed changes.

VI. Adjourn: 8:26 pm

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

Next meeting: January 7, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Hughes
Duxbury Business Office