

DUXBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Minutes
Tuesday, February 10, 2026
6:00 pm – Alden School, Room 104

- I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:05 pm
Present: Danielle Klingaman, Elizabeth Wilcox, Lisa Freeley, B.J. McNamara, Kellie Bresnehan, Laurel Deacon, Matthew Gambino, Jen Weedon
Student Representative: Gerard Vazquez-Baez, Adeline Slimbaugh
Absent: Kathryn Marshall

- II. Public Comment: No Public Comment

- III. 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 – 2/4/2026
- B. Request to Approve Accounts Payable Warrants 32)
- C. Request to Approve Payroll Warrants (24,26)
- D. FY'26 Budget Transfer
- E. Policy Second Readings:
 - IJL- Library Materials Selection and Adoption
 - KE- Public Complaints
 - AA- School District Legal Status
 - ACA- Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
 - ACE- Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
 - ADC- Tobacco Products of School Premises Prohibited
 - AE- Commitment to Accomplishment

- Motion to adopt the consent agenda as a whole:

Motion: Mrs. Deacon
Second: Mr. Gambino
Motion passes 4-0

- IV. New Business:

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

- Alden third graders will begin their team rotations to Plimoth Patuxet this week where they will explore the daily lives of Pilgrim and Wampanoag children and learn to think like historians.
- Alden teachers will continue their work with CKLA including lesson internalization professional development delivered by a trainer and supported by reading specialist.
- DMS winter iReady diagnostic reports were posted to Aspen. A letter was sent along with these posted reports with information about how to read and interpret student information in the areas of Math and Reading.
- The DHS Course Selection Portal will open in Aspen for the 2026-2027 school year at the end

of this week.

- The school year is halfway through and DHS students and families are encouraged to check their attendance thus far.
- Boys and Girls basketball have a big double-header game tonight.
- DHS administration would like to remind all parents that the pool and student lots are for students and teachers only, and parents should be dropping their children off in the designated drop-off zone.
- i. Student Peace Pledge
 - Gerard and Adeline read a letter on behalf of the students from Duxbury Public Schools expressing support for the Duxbury Rotary Peace Pledge and to affirm the principles outlined in the peace pledge.
 - Mrs. Bresnehan asks for a motion from the committee to show their endorsement of the peace pledge.
- Motion for the Duxbury School Committee to support the Duxbury Rotary Peace Pledge
Motion: Mr. Gambino
Second: Mrs. Deacon
Motion passes 4-0

B. DHS Overnight Trip: DECA

- Committee members briefly review the surrounding logistics, funding, and benefits of the proposed overnight trip to the Seaport Hotel in Boston for students to compete in the DECA State Conference to be held March 12, 2026 – March 14, 2026.
- Vote to approve the overnight trip to Boston for the DECA State Conference

Motion: Mr. Gambino
Second: Mrs. Deacon
Motion passes 4-0

C. Quarter 2 Financial Report:

- Mrs. Freeley presented the Financial Status Report for the second quarter of FY'26. The report contains year to date information on the operating budget expenditures and encumbrances, including salary expenditures, by location and major category as of 12/31/25. Mrs. Freeley reports the following expenditures as of 12/31/2025:
 - Salary expenses \$13,538,271
 - General expenses \$2,478,875
 - Encumbered expenses \$3,975,264
- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the presentation in its entirety.

D. Superintendent Mid-Year Goals Update:

- Dr. Klingaman presented the committee with a mid-year update of the Superintendent's Goals for 2025-2026 highlighting evidence of action surrounding the following goals:
 - Student Learning Goal:
 - Reduce the achievement gap for At-Risk Students as measured by At-risk students reaching individual growth targets on iReady end-of-year benchmarks for literacy - ongoing.
 - Professional Practice Goal:

- By June of 2026, the Duxbury Public Schools will have a Strategic Plan outlining District goals from 2026-2029 – ongoing.
- District Improvement Goal: Alden Building Project
 - By June 2026, the Duxbury School District will have completed all Alden School Building Project MSBA Eligibility Period deliverables and will have secured necessary funding for the next Phase, Feasibility Study – ongoing.
- District Improvement Goal: Budget
 - Develop a level service budget and a real-needs budget for FY'27 for Duxbury Public Schools. Both budget scenarios will include any resource or personnel cost-saving measures and their subsequent impact on students – complete.

E. School Committee Mid-Year Goals Update:

- Committee members provide a mid-year update of the School Committee Goals for 2025-2026 highlighting evidence of action surrounding the following goals:
 - Goal 1: Ensure Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability Through Strategic Budgeting
 - Prior to the December 10 budget hearing and vote, the Committee will host at least two public engagement sessions designed to gather community feedback on budget priorities - complete
 - Between the December 10 budget vote and the Annual Town Meeting, the Committee will conduct a public information campaign, including at least two public forums, to explain the voted budget and its alignment with district strategic priorities – complete.
 - Between the December 10 budget vote and the Annual Town Meeting, the Committee will conduct a public information campaign, including at least two public forums, to explain the voted budget and its alignment with district strategic priorities – ongoing.
 - Goal 2: Promote the Development of a Data-Driven District Strategic Plan
 - Between the December 10 budget vote and the Annual Town Meeting, the Committee will conduct a public information campaign, including at least two public forums, to explain the voted budget and its alignment with district strategic priorities - complete
 - Between January and May 2026, the Committee will promote community participation in the strategic planning process by actively promoting the district's official feedback sessions and holding a dedicated public forum to discuss the plan's emerging themes – ongoing.
 - The final Strategic Plan, approved by June 2026, will include specific, measurable, and time-bound metrics for each of its core objectives – ongoing.
 - The Committee will appoint two members to participate in the Strategic Planning Committee – complete.
 - Goal 3: Align Committee Operations to Support Systemic Improvement
 - By January 2026, the Committee will develop and adopt a comprehensive "Governing Norms & Onboarding Guide" to serve as a foundational resource for both new and current members.
 - By June 2026, 100% of Committee members will have completed at least one professional development session (e.g., MASC training) focused on effective governance or school finance – ongoing.
 - The Superintendent Evaluation Subcommittee will formalize and present a multi-year evaluation process, instrument, and timeline for full Committee adoption by February 2026. The Committee will then complete the Superintendent's annual evaluation using the newly adopted framework by June 30, 2026 – ongoing. Timeline and indicators to be discussed at the March 11 meeting.
 - By June 2026, the Committee will establish a prioritized policy review schedule – complete.

F. Strategic Plan Update:

- Committee members to agree to include liaison updates into this discussion.
- Pilgrim Area Collaborative:
 - Mrs. Deacon reports that DESE accepted the PAC annual audit and the state has confirmed that the package has met all requirements. DESE awarded the PAC with a \$50,000 grant intended to support implementation of updated regulations regarding time-out practices. Facility improvements are ongoing at the PAC standalone building including a new playground, new flooring, and security system upgrades.
- DEI:
 - Mrs. Weedon reports the DEI committee met and were given a presentation by Caitlin Sheehan on an audit of school fees and costs that families incur across different schools. The analysis highlighted potential equity and access concerns for some families and identified areas where improvements could be made. The findings will help inform future discussions about school fees.
- Alden School Council:
 - Mr. Gambino reports that Alden School is currently reviewing how report cards are presented, partnering with Chandler School to collaborate on the process. The schools are evaluating whether to make substantive changes to how report cards are structured and communicated.
- Strategic Plan:
 - Committee members discuss concerns about the strategic planning process suggesting inviting TLA to the March 11 meeting to review progress, clarify expectations, and discuss next steps. Concerns include feelings that work so far feels generic and not specific enough to the district, and that large amounts of raw data were shared without enough analysis or guidance making it difficult to identify key themes. It was clarified that TLA's role has mainly been to facilitate the process and organize data rather than analyze it.

G. February 23, 2026 Budget Forum

- Committee members collaborate on creating effective strategies to communicate the district's budget needs to the community during the upcoming budget forum.
- Members review and discuss updates to the presentation content to include:
 - Updated language to clarify that 45.6M was the original select board placeholder and 46.4M is the school committee recommended budget.
 - Revised budget content slides to clearly itemize reinstated positions and enrollment-driven staffing.
 - Finalized detailed handout including dates and QR code for distribution.
- Committee members decide to broadcast the recording of the meeting via Zoom with the recording posted to the district website.
- Committee members discuss whether early voting and mail-in ballot options will be available for the town election. Members will confirm and provide guidance to the community on those options.

H. Governing Norms & Onboarding Guidelines:

- Mr. Gambino reminds the committee of their commitment to develop and adopt a comprehensive "Governing Norms & Onboarding Guide" to serve as a foundational resource for both new and current members. Mr. Gambino proposes using a current draft as a starting point to develop a new, updated guide.
- The committee decide to use the current draft as a first reading. Members agree to review and provide feedback for discussion and adoption for the March 11 meeting.
- Mr. Gambino will provide the guide to all members in Google Doc format for editing

purposes.

I. Policy First Reading:

- Policy JICH: Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use by Students Prohibited
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC version of policy JICH with no changes.
- Policy GBED: Tobacco Use on School Property by Staff Members Prohibited
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy GBED with the name change.
- Policy AH: Freedom of Expression and Educational Climate
 - Recommendation: Repeal policy AH as the language is covered in M.G.L. Chapter 71 sections 82-85 thus deeming the policy unnecessary.
- Policy AH-R: Freedom of Expression and Educational Climate
 - Recommendation: Repeal policy AH-R as the language is covered in M.G.L. Chapter 71 sections 82-85 thus deeming the policy unnecessary.
- Policy BA: School Committee Operating Goals
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy BA with elimination of the bold note at the bottom and replacing the “simple goals” with “smart goals” where applicable.
- Policy BAA: School Committee Operational Procedures
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy BAA with no changes.
- Policy BB: School Committee Legal Status/Elections
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy BB with elimination of the bold note at the bottom and addition of the Town Charter to the legal references.
- Policy BBA: School Committee Powers and Duties
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy BBA with elimination of the bold note at the bottom and elimination of Supervisor of Attendance as a school committee appointment.
- Policy BBAA: School Committee Member Authority
 - Recommendation: Adopt MASC policy BBAA with elimination of the bold note at the bottom.

V. Adjourn: 7:46 pm

Motion: Mrs. Deacon
Second: Mr. Gambino
Motion passes 4-0

Next meeting: March 11, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Hughes
Duxbury Business Office