

DUXBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Minutes
Wednesday, October 7, 2026
6:00 pm – Alden School, Room 104, 75 Alden Street

- I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 6:00 pm
Present: Danielle Klingaman, Erin Wieseahn, Tony Keady, Lisa Freeley, B.J. McNamara,
Matthew Gambino, Laurel Deacon, Kathryn Marshall, Aun Holland, Jenna Wechsler
Student Representative: Gerard Vazquez Baez, Anna Wang

- II. Public Comment: There is no public comment

- III. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Gambino 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: 09/23/2026
- B. Request to approve accounts payable warrants (FY27-13 and FY27-14)
- C. Request to approve payroll warrant (FY27-14)
- D. Addition to DHS Handbook 2026-2027
- E. Policy Second Reading
 - a. JLCD-Administering Medicines to Students
 - b. JLCD-Self Administration and Self-Carry of Medications (New Policy)
 - c. IJNDE-Artificial Intelligence (New Policy)

Mr. Gambino asks to pull the approval of Policy IJNDE out of the consent agenda for discussion during “New Business.”

Motion to adopt the consent agenda as a whole:

Motion: Mrs. Holland

Second: Mrs. Wechsler

Motion passes 4-0 (Mrs. Marshall is not present for vote)

- IV. New Business:

- A. Policy IJNDE

- Mr. Gambino observes that there were revisions made to Policy IJNDE.
- Dr. Klingaman reports that that there were revisions requested at the September 23, 2026 School Committee meeting and that Aimee McAlpine, Director of Instructional Technology incorporated those revisions. Mrs. McAlpine reports that the changes were made to definitions and language, no material changes.

Motion to adopt Policy IJNDE: Artificial Intelligence:

Motion: Mrs. Deacon

Second: Mrs. Holland

Motion passes 4-0 (Mrs. Marshall is not present for vote)

B. Duxbury Youth Soccer – Ray Coppens Field CPA Proposal

- Mr. Ken LaRose and Mr. James Chandler present Duxbury Youth Soccer's Community Preservation Funding Request
- Mr. LaRose reports that DYSA participation has expanded from fewer than 500 players annually to nearly 900 today, an increase of more than 75%, while the field inventory has not grown.
- Because of the significant usage of the fields, it is a challenge to maintain them and keep them safe for play.
- The proposed restoration includes stripping existing turf, removing the stripped material, laser grading the fields, making irrigation-head adjustments as necessary, and installing approximately 177,000 square feet of new sod.
- The funding request is \$372,000, comprising the quoted project cost and a contingency allowance of \$34,070

Motion to support DYSA Community Preservation Funding Request:

Motion: Mrs. Marshall

Second: Mrs. Wechsler

Motion passes 5-0

C. Student Representative Reports – Chandler/Alden/DMS/DHS Activities/Events Update
Gerard Vazquez Baez and Anna Wang

- Chandler School has many community collaborations planned for October including the annual Kindergarten trip to the Duxbury Fire Station and Police Station and the First Grade Fire Safety Talks with the Duxbury Fire Department.
- This Friday, Professional Development Day, much of the teaching staff will focus on exploring new elements from the enVision math curriculum resource update. Teachers have been meeting with the interventionist team to review early academic data collected to determine the best support for each child. Individual data reports will be shared for each child at parent teacher conferences in October.
- Chandler Parent/Teacher Conferences will be the evening of October 15th and the afternoons of October 21 and 22, 2026.
- Last week Alden students participated in their first Dragon Den meetings of the year, focused on responsibility. Dragon Dens bring together third, fourth, and fifth graders on each floor led by Alden staff members to build connections across our Alden community.
- The first Alden Student Council meeting was last week. Two fifth grade students are nominated per classroom to join the council and engage in a variety of activities throughout the year.
- After school enrichment club meetings have begun, including Garden Club, Memory Book Club and Kids Care Club.
- DHS students joined the Alden staff meeting to share their perspectives and connections to Portrait of a Graduate. Their reflections will help inform the work around developing a Portrait of a Learner for upper elementary students.
- DMS co-curricular clubs have started and Student Council students have taken over DMS announcements this year and have added a number of community highlights to our morning.
- iReady Family reports are in Aspen and parents have been sent information on how to help understand the data.
- DHS is getting ready for Spirit Week and Homecoming. For the first time, they will also host a full two-day Homecoming Festival on Friday 10/16 and Saturday 10/17.

- Thank you to DHS National Honor Society and football team for organizing a week of service.

D. School Committee Liaison Reports

- Mrs. Wechsler reports that she had an opportunity to meet the staff and students, and tour the Plymouth Pilgrim Academy, part of the Plymouth Area Collaborative (PAC).
- Mrs. Wechsler reports that PAC Director, Dr. Thomas, is leaving the post and there will be a search for a new director.
- Mrs. Marshall attended the Chandler School Council inaugural meeting. There were parents and staff in attendance and they will have a representative from The Center also joining
- Mrs. Deacon was not able to attend Athletic Advisory and advises that the meeting schedule will make her attendance challenging.

E. School Improvement Plans

- Mrs. MacNeil, Dr. Long, Ms. McGuire and Ms. Cotton Herman are in attendance to present the School Improvement Plans.
- Ms. McGuire reports that they are organizing the presentation differently this year to align with the Strategic Plan. Each school has a specific goal to align with the four focus areas: Operationalize PK-12 Portrait of a Graduate, Focus on Student Learning and Growth, Empower Faculty and Staff, Maximize Organizational Partnerships and Collaboration.
- Ms. McGuire reviews Focus Area 1: Operationalize PK-12 Portrait of a Graduate (POG). Chandler School will draft a Portrait of a Learner (POL) that aligns with the DPS Portrait of a Graduate, but focuses on skills targeted to graduating 2nd Graders. Alden School will gather input from stakeholders to identify shared themes and priorities for POL at 5th grade level. DMS will develop a POL that mirrors POG at an 8th grade level. DHS will build out POG aligned curriculum.
- Ms. Cotton Herman reviews Focus Area 2: Focus on Student Learning and Growth. All schools will have a deliberate focus on data. Chandler, Alden, and DMS will use data-driven multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS). At all schools there will be a focus on building data literacy among administrators and teachers.
- Mrs. MacNeil reviews Focus Area 3: Empower Faculty and Staff. Chandler will establish a culture of collaborative professional learning with 100% participation. Alden will strengthen a collaborative staff culture through peer observation and feedback, shared leadership, and staff voice. DMS teachers are working on a pilot of standards based grading and instructional practices. Student and parent surveys will solicit feedback on these strategies. DHS will encourage staff to model deep learning through relevant teacher-driven professional development.
- Dr. Long reviews Focus Area 4: Maximize Organizational Partnerships and Collaboration. Chandler will increase and diversify the range of financial and support resources. Alden will engage in the MSBA Feasibility Study process. DMS will develop and refine resources in student life, technology use, social situations, supports, curriculum and technology platforms. DHS will build an equitable fee structure with recommendations made by the end of the year.
- Mr. Gambino asks a follow up question on Focus Area 3, Empower Faculty and Staff. Given that there has been an erosion of administrative staff and the loss of two professional development days, and the focus on peer-to-peer coaching, he inquires if there has been any reluctance of faculty willing to do invest the time to do the work. Mrs. MacNeil comments that she shared that concern, but there has been enthusiasm surrounding this goal.
- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the discussion in its entirety.

F. Cell Phone Policy Check-In

- Ms. Cotton Herman presents an update on the Cell Phone Policy compliance at DHS.
- While she does not have specific data, Ms. Cotton Herman reports that, anecdotally, she has observed students putting their phones in the caddy. A change to the structure and timing of ASP has helped with that policy.
- An examination of conduct referrals shows that two years ago (year 1 of the policy) there were 86 Main Office referrals over the course of the year. Last year, there were 61 referrals. This year, to date, there has been only one.

G. FY28 Capital Budget Presentation

- Mrs. Freeley provides an overview of the FY'28 Capital Budget process explaining allowable expenses and guidelines and gives a status update on FY'27 capital projects for the committee.
- Mrs. Freeley presents the schools prioritized Capital Budget requests for FY'28. The total prioritized request is for \$2,125,000 to be allocated as follows:
 - \$1,020,000 Facilities HVAC and Building Infrastructure
 - \$1,000,000 Technology Infrastructure and Operational Technology
 - \$105,000 Equipment and Furnishings
- Mr. Michael Woodford, Chief Technology Officer, and Ms. Katie St. Clair, Facilities Director, provide breakdown, justification and details of each request under their purview.
- Mrs. Freeley informs the committee that this year's prioritized capital needs represent only 20.3% of the school department's actual requests from Department Heads.
- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the discussion in its entirety.

H. FY28 Operating Budget Update

- Mrs. Freeley provides a high-level review of the FY28 presentation made at the October 2, 2026 Budget Workshop.
- Mrs. Freeley provides a timeline of the budget development, including meetings, request parameters, and preliminary rollover.
- Mrs. Freeley presents budget calendar and upcoming dates for committee meetings and presentations.
- Mrs. Freeley reviews Budget Goals and presents budget materials, which are also available on the district website.

I. Strategic Plan Action Plan Year 1

- Dr. Klingaman briefly reviews the Strategic Plan Action Plan and states that there have been no changes since the plan was presented and presented at the last meeting, prior to the committee vote.
- Motion to approve the Strategic Plan Action Plan Year 1:

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

J. 2026 – 2027 Superintendent Goals

- Dr. Klingaman states that these goals were presented at the last School Committee meeting but

- changes were made based on feedback from Mrs. Marshall regarding Goal 4.
- Goal 4 now has additional language to clarify the role that the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent will play in the committee work.
- Motion to approve the 2026-2027 Superintendent Goals:

Motion: Mrs. Holland
Second: Mrs. Wechsler
Motion passes: 5-0

V. Adjournment: 7:44 pm

Motion: Mrs. Deacon
Second: Mrs. Wechsler

Next meeting: October 21, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,
Cristin Mitchell
Duxbury Business Office