

DUXBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Minutes
Friday, January 16, 2026
11:15 am – Alden School, Room 104

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 11:20 am

Present: Kellie Bresnehan, Matthew Gambino, Laurel Deacon, Kathryn Marshall, Jen Weedon

II. FY'27 Budget Communication Planning:

- Committee members meet to collaborate on creating effective strategies to communicate the district's budget needs to the community during upcoming advocacy sessions.
- Erin Wieseahn speaks to the committee highlighting the challenge of communicating budget impacts to younger families especially those with preschoolers or with children not yet in the school system who largely feel unaware of what's happening.
- Members discuss drafting a one-page voter/advocacy information sheet (where/how to vote, early voting info, key dates and next steps). Mrs. Marshall will gather logistical information surrounding voting.
- Members discuss the committee's role in advocating for the school budget, emphasizing the legal distinction between providing information and advocacy versus directing or telling individuals how to vote. Mr. Gambino will request legal guidance from the district attorney to share with the committee regarding endorsement of the budget for the February 4 meeting.
- Members discuss the misrepresentation of the 4.83% budget figure, suggesting it should be framed as a 1.83% increase over the level service budget and highlighting potential negative impacts of a failed budget vote.
- Members agree that Mr. Gambino will begin the advocacy session the starting with a narrative about the foundational learning, secondary supports, and core enabling infrastructure. Members will facilitate a brief Q&A and invite attendees to join outreach efforts.
- Further discussion includes the importance of making the presentation accessible and engaging for the audience while using visuals to help people connect the dots and understand the importance of the budget.

III. Adjournment: 1:09 pm

Motion: Mr. Gambino

Second: Mrs. Deacon

Next meeting: TBD

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Hughes
Duxbury Business Office