

DUXBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Minutes
Wednesday, October 22, 2025
6:00 pm – Alden School, Room 104, 75 Alden Street

- I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 6:01 pm
Present: Danielle Klingaman, Beth Wilcox, Tony Keady, Lisa Freeley, Kellie Bresnehan,
Matthew Gambino, Laurel Deacon, Jen Weedon
Student Representative: Gerard Vazquez Baez
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 that should be removed for discussion prior to approval.

- A. Approval of meeting minutes: 10/8/2025
- B. Request to approve accounts payable warrants (FY'26: 15,16)
- C. FY'24 End-Of-Year Audit Report

Motion to adopt the consent agenda as a whole:

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

- IV. New Business:

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

- Chandler classroom teachers, reading and math specialists, and Curriculum Supervisor have finished our beginning of year data meetings looking at baseline data for reading and math for formation of intervention groups.
- Parent teacher conferences at Chandler are taking place today and tomorrow during the early release days. early release days today and tomorrow. While parents are in the building, please remember to visit the PTA Bookfair in the Canty Wing.
- The PTA Bookfair is open to parents and families in the Canty Wing of Chandler during conference times.
- Alden students have had a variety of field trips lately with third graders visiting the Alden House, fourth graders visiting Manomet Conservation, and fifth graders visited Camp Bournedale.
- DMS is holding the annual sixth grade Spooktacular this Friday after school.
- DMS term 1 assembly and accolades breakfast are approaching. The assembly will focus on the DMS theme for the year “Rise with the Tide, Soar with the Dragon”. The accolades breakfast will celebrate students who have been recognized by teachers for positive contributions to the school community.
- DHS students are looking forward to a full week of fun during Spirit Week culminating with a positive and inclusive Pep Rally on Friday afternoon.

- DHS Students are now in the final two weeks of term one with grades closing on October 31.

B. School Improvement Plans

- Mrs. Wieseahn, and Mrs. Cotton-Herman present the Chandler, and DHS School Improvement Plans respectively. Improvement plans are aligned with the strategic plan, equity audit, portrait of a graduate, and superintendent goals.
- Mrs. Wieseahn highlights Chandler Initiative 3 and associated action steps needed to be successful. Improvement plans are aligned with the Strategic Plan, Equity Audit, Portrait of a Graduate. This aligns with Strategic Initiative 3.2 and 3.5

Chandler Initiative 3: During the 2025–2026 school year, all classrooms will fully implement the Core Knowledge Language Arts (CKLA) program with integrity to strengthen early literacy instruction. Implementation will be monitored through curriculum usage data, classroom walkthroughs, and teacher feedback. By June 2026, as an indicator of successful implementation, at least 85% of K–2 students will be reading at or above grade level, as measured by the end-of-year mCLASS Benchmark. Progress will be reviewed throughout the year to anticipate and support the expected implementation dip associated with a new program.

- Mrs. Cotton-Herman highlights DHS Initiative 1 and associated action steps needed to be successful. Improvement plans are aligned with the Strategic Plan, Equity Audit, Portrait of a Graduate, and NEASC Report. This aligns with strategic initiative 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.5, 3.3, 3.4

DHS Initiative 1: By June 2026, all DHS students will benefit from instruction that clearly connects classroom learning to real-world contexts, as measured by 100% of student respondents agreeing or strongly agreeing with the statement “my teachers show me how our lessons relate to life outside of school” on the 2026 K12 Insight survey.

- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the presentation in its entirety.

C. Impact of FY’26 Budget Reductions

- Dr. Klingaman and Dr. Wilcox present an update on the impact to the district of the FY’26 school year deficit in the amount of \$2,599,415 due to the failed override and budgetary constraints in the town.
- The FY26 budget reductions have had significant operational and instructional impacts across the district. The elimination of 18.4 full-time positions, encompassing both school-based and district-level roles, has resulted in larger class sizes, more restrictive scheduling options for students, and increased workloads for remaining staff. These changes have placed additional strain on instructional quality, staff morale, and the district’s ability to maintain the scope of programs and services previously offered.
- Committee members discuss the loss of administrative positions which has diminished the level of instructional oversight and support available to teachers.
- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the discussion in its entirety.

D. DEI Update Fall 2025

- Ms. Sheehan provides the committee with a DEI update focusing on the following key areas of equity work in the district:
 - Federal and state DEI updates
 - Healey and Campbell joint Guidance
 - Collaborative equity audit action steps
 - Rollout plan to address hate and bias
 - Hate Crime Prevention grant
 - Use of qualitative data
 - Parent and community conversation series
- Ms. Sheehan reaffirms the importance of inclusive curriculum, culturally responsive teaching, and ongoing professional development opportunities.
- Ms. Sheehan reports that across all four buildings, there have been 19 instances of hate since September which is down from 28 instances at this time last year. Ms. Sheehan emphasizes the importance of addressing these issues with a mindset of learning and proactive solutions.
- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for this presentation in its entirety.

E. Beginning of Year Student Data Update

- Dr. Wilcox presents the beginning of year iReady reading and math data for the 2025-2026 school year. Dr. Wilcox shares the assessment tools used for both literacy and math while providing data regarding growth and intervention in both subjects for students in first through eighth grade. Dr. Wilcox emphasizes the importance of maintaining evidence-based programs and supporting teacher professional development in order to ensure student success.
- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the presentation in its entirety.

F. District Enrollment and Class Size

- Dr. Klingaman reports the data relating to enrollment and class sizes for the district stating that the total enrollment for the district as of October 1, 2025 is 2,710. This is inclusive of homeschooled students.
- Dr. Klingaman reports that there are 17 homeschool students enrolled which is up from 13 students last year.
- Also included in this report are the elementary enrollment and class size data chart, DMS class size data, and DHS course enrollment and sections data.
- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the discussion in its entirety.

G. Liaison and Subcommittee Appointments

- Mrs. Bresnehan states that the committee needs to vote in order to have “Liaison and Subcommittee Updates” added to the meeting agenda as a standing item as agreed upon by the committee during the September meeting.
- “Liaison and Subcommittee Updates” will be placed under “New Business” as a discussion item.
- Motion to add “Liaison and Subcommittee Updates” as a standing agenda item

Motion: Mrs. Weedon

Second: Mrs. Deacon
Motion passes 4-0

H. School Committee Budget Forum

- Committee members discuss the logistics surrounding the two upcoming budget listening forums to be held as part of the committee's 2025-2026 goals.
- The committee decide to hold schedule the forums for November 13 and December 3 from 7:00 – 8:00 pm. Mrs. Weedon agrees to book the Merry Room at the Duxbury Free Library for a venue with the DHS/DMS library as a back-up.
- The committee request time on the November 5 meeting agenda to discuss and finalize plans for the December 10 Budget Hearing.
- The committee request time on the November 5 meeting agenda to discuss budget FAQ's prior to the November 13 listening forum.
- Motion to approve the school committee holding two budget listening forums to be held on November 13, 2025 and December 3, 2025

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

I. Policy First Reading

- i. IKF: Graduation Requirements
 - Mr. Gambino explains that the policy subcommittee has been meeting with Mrs. Cotton Herman over the past year to determine the specific courses to be listed with the goal being to ensure rigor and consistency in graduation requirements while addressing state mandates.
 - Mrs. Cotton Herman outlines the new graduation requirements for the committee established due to the elimination of the MCAS requirement:
 - 20 credits of English Language Arts
 - 20 credits of Mathematics*, including 5 credits of Algebra II.
 - 15 credits of lab-based Science
 - 15 credits of History, including 10 credits of US History, 5 credits of World History, and completion of a student-led civics project
 - 10 credits of World Language (in a single language)
 - 10 credits of Physical Education & Health, including 2.5 credits of PE and Health I and 2.5 credits of PE and Health II
 - 10 credits of Fine, Performing, or Practical Arts (beginning with the Class of 2028, 5 of these credits must be from the Fine or Performing Arts)
- ii. IKFE: Competency Determination
 - Mr. Gambino explains that the policy subcommittee has been meeting with Mrs. Cotton Herman over the past year to establish competency determinations established due to the elimination of the MCAS requirement:
 - Mrs. Cotton Herman outlines the competency determination process, including the need for students to achieve a passing grade and show mastery in core subjects.
 - Mrs. Cotton Herman explains the appeals process for students who do not meet the competency requirements, emphasizing the importance of clear communication and documentation.

V. Adjournment: 8:40 pm

Motion: Mr. Gambino

Second: Mrs. Deacon

Next meeting: November 5, 2025

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Hughes
Duxbury Business Office