

DUXBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Minutes
Wednesday, May 20, 2026
6:00 pm – Alden School, Room 104

I. Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance: 6:00 pm

Present: Danielle Klingaman, Lisa Freeley, Tony Keady, B.J. McNamara, Matthew Gambino, Laurel Deacon, Kathryn Marshall, Jen Weedon, Aun Holland
Student Representative: Gerard Vazquez Baez, Adeline Slimbaugh

II. Public Comment: No Public Comment

III. Consent Agenda:

Mr. Gambino 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 – May 6, 2026
- B. Request to Approve Accounts Payable Warrant (45)
- C. Request to Approve Payroll Warrant (44)
- D. DHS New Scholarships
- E. Policy Second Reading

KHB: School-Based Advertising

BDFR: Community, Staff, Student Involvement in Decision Making, Administrative Procedures
for Advisory Committees - Repeal

JIB: Student Involvement in Decision Making

BDG: - School Committee Meetings

- Mrs. Weedon asks to pull the approval of policy KHB out of the consent agenda for discussion during “New Business”.
- Motion to adopt the consent agenda as a whole:

Motion: Mrs. Deacon

Second: Mrs. Marshall

Motion passes 5-0

IV. New Business:

A. Policy KHB:

- Mrs. Weedon asks for clarification on the of dissemination of funds raised from advertising.
- The committee briefly discuss sponsorship vs. advertising and the decision was made for the policy subcommittee to discuss as a future meeting.
- Motion to adopt policy KHB: School-Based Advertising

Motion: Mrs. Weedon

Second: Mrs. Deacon

Motion passes 5-0

B. Student Representative Reports – School Activities/Events Update:

- Chandler has many end-of-year activities planned for the final weeks of the school year including field trips, end-of-year presentations, field day, Kindergarten Letter Parade, and the second grade clap-off.
- Incoming kindergarten families have been invited to come to Chandler for the Family Scavenger Hunt on June 4th.
- Second grade students will be participating in transition activities to get ready to enter Alden School. Second grade students have been paired up with third grade pen pals who they will meet during the second grade visit to Alden in June. All second grade students are invited to Alden with their families on the evening of June 5th. Mrs. Fiorentino and Dr. Long will visit Chandler on May 27th and May 29th to speak to all second grade students about Alden.
- The Alden and Chandler Elementary Title I Math Game Event will take place on June 11th, from 4:00 - 5:00 pm in the Alden cafeteria.
- The Talent Show will be held on Thursday, May 28th where the fifth grade students will show off their many amazing talents. The show will take place at 6:30 pm in the PAC.
- The Alden fifth grade clap-off will take place on Monday, June 22 at 8:15 am. Families are welcome to join students and staff for the final Respect assembly immediately following the clap-off.
- DMS students wrapping up MCAS in the next two weeks and all grades are working on administering the spring iReady diagnostics.
- DMS performance music groups are wrapping up their spring concerts this week.
- DMS Drama Program performed Frozen Jr. last week. Thanks to the DMS Drama advisors for leading this group.
- The eighth grade semi-formal was held last Friday night in the cafeteria with the theme being Hollywood Red Carpet.
- DMS will be holding their annual schoolwide Memorial Day assembly on Friday featuring student speakers and veterans who live in the community.
- DMS staff will be welcoming fifth grade classes for tours with BRIDGE leaders over the next couple of weeks.
- DHS hosted its third annual One Mission Buzz Off for Kids with Cancer, led by DHS math teacher, Jared Chivers. Forty-five students and staff volunteered to shave their heads or donate their hair to Locks for Love raising over \$23,000.
- All tenth grade students took MCAS on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.
- The Duxbury chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 77 new members from the Class of 2027 last week. Students were recognized for their exceptional records in terms of scholarship, service, leadership, and character.
- Seniors have their last day this Friday, May 22nd with final exams the following week. Graduation for the Class of 2026 will take place on June 6.
- Adeline notes that this is her last meeting as student representative and thanks everyone for the opportunity to serve.

DHS Overnight Trip – National Student Council Conference:

- DHS teacher, Kate Bonneau, reviews the surrounding logistics, funding, and benefits of the proposed overnight trip to Manchester, NH to attend the National Student Council Conference from June 21 – 24, 2026.

- Vote to approve the overnight trip to Manchester Conference from June 21 – 24, 2026.

Motion: Mrs. Weedon

Second: Mrs. Marshall

Motion passes 5-0

C. Liaison/Subcommittee Update:

- Mrs. Weedon attended the SEPAC meeting last week with website changes and ideas to garner more involvement being discussed.
- Mrs. Marshall reports that the final Athletic Task Force meeting is scheduled for June 1.
- Mrs. Holland reports that she attended the DHS School Council meeting. Topics discussed were handbooks, scholarships, NHS requirements, and end of year ceremonies.

D. SEPAC Awards:

- This topic is deferred until the June 10 meeting.

E. 2025-2026 World Language Review:

- Curriculum supervisor Diane Mehegan provides the committee with a review of the 2025-2026 World Language program. This presentation provides information on English learners, both former and current, tiered-focus monitoring, and Massachusetts State Seal of Bi-Literacy requirements and recipients.
- DHS students Grace Cullinan, Mia Hampton, Layla Sota, share their experiences with the Spanish exchange program.
- DHS seniors Oscar Waitkus, and Harper Weekly share their experiences with learning world languages and the impact it has had on their lives.

F. School Improvement Plan Updates:

- Mrs. Wieseahn, Dr. Long, Mrs. McGuire, and Mrs. Cotton Herman present the Chandler, Alden, DMS and DHS Improvement Plans respectively.
- Mrs. Wieseahn highlights Chandler Initiative 2:
 - Chandler Initiative 2: 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. Wieseahn discusses the implementation of CKLA at Chandler, highlighting the success and positive feedback from teachers and parents.
- Mrs. Wieseahn reports Chandler is on track to reach their 85% goal.
- Dr. Long highlights Alden Initiative 3:
 - Alden Initiative 3: By June 2026, completion of the MSBA-required tasks and milestones within the 270-day eligibility period to ensure the district remains on track for timely approval to enter the Feasibility Study phase. This work will be guided by regular progress monitoring, and collaboration with key stakeholders to meet all MSBA deadlines and expectations.

- Dr. Long provides updates on the MSBA eligibility period, including the formation of a committee, community engagement, and the upcoming feasibility study.
- Dr. Long states that all milestones in the 270-day eligibility period have been met.
- Ms. McGuire highlights DMS Initiative 1:
 - DMS Initiative 1: During the 2025-26 school year, DMS will implement focused interventions and targeted strategies to improve student attendance with specific focus on improving the attendance of our students demonstrating “chronic absenteeism” which is defined by DESE as missing 10% of school days. This will be measured by a reduction from approximately 35 chronically absent students to 25 over the course of the school year.
- Mrs. McGuire discusses strategies put into place to support students identified as chronically absent.
- Mrs. McGuire notes a net drop of 18 students from the chronically absent list and that DMS is on target to meet their goal.
- Mrs. Cotton Herman highlights DHS Initiative 1:
 - 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.
- Mrs. Cotton Herman discusses strategies used to increase the relevance of classroom learning by centering culturally responsive teaching practices, deeper learning, and real-world connections for all students.
- Mrs. Cotton Herman notes that 66% of students agreed learning was relevant which represents a 61% increase from 2024.

G. DMS Music Program Update:

- Mrs. McGuire explains the changes to the music department scheduling to improve access to electives for students. The new model involves creating grade-level performance groups for seventh and eighth graders, similar to the current sixth-grade model. The music staff is working on staffing adjustments and curriculum updates to support the new model. The goal is to ensure students have better access to the courses they want while maintaining a positive performance experience.

H. School Handbook/Code of Conduct Changes:

- Ms. Wieseahn reports that there are language changes highlighted in the School Handbooks which are in the school committee folders for review.
- Committee members briefly discuss the changes, including the language surrounding personal electronic devices on buses, bringing beverages to school, and generative AI.
- Vote to approve the School Handbook/Code of Conduct changes

Motion: Mrs. Deacon
 Second: Mrs. Weedon
 Motion passes 5-0

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

I. 2026-2027 School Calendar Update:

- Dr. Klingaman discusses changes to the 2026-2027 calendar stemming from the completion of contract negotiation with Unit A resulting in one less professional development day.
- Vote to approve the updated 2026-2027 calendar

Motion: Mrs. Deacon
 Second: Mrs. Weedon
 Motion passes 5-0

J. FY27 Budget Update and Alignment of Override Funds:

- Mr. Gambino states that he requested this agenda item emphasizing the importance of updating the committee and public on the appropriation of override funds.
- Mrs. Freeley provided an update on the allocation of funds, including the finalization of the Unit A contract, middle and high school scheduling, and the Title One allocation for FY 27.
- Dr. Klingaman states that the search for the Director of Instructional Technology and Innovation is wrapping up with a candidate being identified.
- Free full day universal kindergarten has been established beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.
- Dr. Klingaman informs the committee that the district has been awarded \$73,000 in Title One funding which will allow the district to return \$73,000 to the town at the end of FY'26.
- Member discuss concerns regarding the timeline for budget planning and the need for earlier workshops to ensure proper public communication and strategic planning integration.
- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the discussion in its entirety.

K. Strategic Plan Update:

- Dr. Klingaman updates the committee on the progress of the strategic plan, noting that a draft will be submitted to Pam Gould from TLA after the June 3 Administrative Council meeting.
- The plan includes a three-year implementation plan with action steps, milestones, data sources, KPIs, financial impact, and communication plan with the goal being to align the plan with the school committee's requests and create a meaningful document for school principals.
- Mrs. Deacon raised a concern about the plan's perceived value to the district's administrative team and staff, emphasizing the need for it to be seen as beneficial to all, not just the School Committee.
- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the discussion in its entirety.

L. Framework for Administrative Reports to the Committee:

- Members discuss refining the structure and content of school committee presentations to better align with strategic goals.
- Mrs. Weedon proposed categorizing presentations by purpose and typical content, aiming to clarify what administrators should include.
- Mr. Gambino emphasized the need for updates to reflect changes, successes, concerns, and asks, using a framework to guide presenters.
- The committee decide to hold a workshop on June 26, 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. in Canty 303 to discuss meeting topic and presentation planning for the 2026-2027 school year.
- Please refer to the School Committee tab on the DPS website for the discussion in its entirety.

V . Adjourn: 8:50 pm

Motion: Mrs. Deacon
Second: Mrs. Weedon
Motion passes 5-0

Next meeting: Wednesday, June 10, 2026

Respectfully Submitted,
Suzanne Hughes
Duxbury Business Office