DUXBURY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Committee Minutes
Friday, August 15, 2025
9:30 am – 93 Chandler St., Canty room 303

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: 9:36am
Present: Danielle Klingaman, Beth Wilcox, Tony Keady, Lisa Freeley, Theresa Skinner, Kellie Bresnehan, Matthew Gambino, Laurel Deacon, Kathryn Marshall, Jen Weedon
Student Representative: N/A

II. New Business:

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes (6/18/25, 7/29/25)

- June 18, 2025
  Motion to approve the June 18, 2025 minutes.
  Motion: Mr. Gambino
  Second: Mrs. Weedon
  Motion passes 5-0

- July 29, 2025
  On motion by Mr. Gambino, the minutes were amended on page 3 by striking the word 'override' and inserting the word 'budget'
  Motion: Mr. Gambino
  Second: Mrs. Deacon
  Motion passes 5-0

B. Strategic Planning Process Overview

- Pam Gould with the non-profit Teaching & Learning Alliance (TLA), is introduced to give an overview of services and costs TLA can offer to assist the district in developing a Strategic Plan
- Ms. Gould describes the data collection process that includes focus groups and surveys with stakeholders, including students, parents, staff, administration and elected officials.
- The process would consist of three phases: 1) data collection and presentation 2) building the strategic plan and 3) implementing the strategic plan
- Ms. Gould shares examples of other strategic plans developed by TLA
- Cost $20,000
- Mr. Gambino states his concern that this plan doesn't include measurable data, which was a complaint about the last strategic plan.
- Ms. Deacon states her concern that the last strategic plan was not collaborative and while it was data informed, there were not clear data points defined.
- Ms. Gould states that the TLA service is the strategic plan, the district determines the measure of success

C. DPS School Handbook Language

- Dr. Klingaman outlines a proposed addition to the handbook based on the June 27, 2025 Supreme Court decision in Mahmoud v. Taylor declaring that the First Amendment supports the rights of parents to opt their child(ren) out of curriculum and materials involving religiously objectionable content.
- A process and procedure will be developed for any parental requests for curriculum accommodations. Decisions regarding potential accommodations will be context and fact-specific and may depend on the requests and curriculum at issue.
- Proposed addition: "Consistent with Massachusetts regulations, 603 CMR 26.05(1), the Duxbury Public Schools, through its curricula and materials, encourages respect for the human and civil rights of all individuals, regardless of race, color, sex, gender identity, religion, national origin, or sexual orientation. In accordance with district guidelines, families may request information from the building principal on available accommodations related to curriculum content."
- Motion to approve the handbook addition.

  Motion: Mr. Gambino
  Second: Mrs. Weedon
  Motion passes 5-0

- Ms. Weedon requests end-of-year data on the number of families who request to opt out.
- Mr. Gambino proposes that the Policy Subcommittee review any policies impacted by this change.

  Motion: Mr. Gambino
  Second: Mrs. Bresnehan
  Motion passes 5-0

D. 2025-2026 International trips

- Due to safety concerns that arose during a School Committee-approved international trip to Europe in April of 2025, DHS faculty and administration recommend the cancellation of two upcoming trips, Thailand trip (February 2026) and Germany trip (April 2026).
- Mr. Gambino proposes that chaperones for future trips appear before the School Committee
- Motion to cancel the 2026 Thailand and Germany trips

  Motion: Mr. Gambino
  Second: Mrs. Marshall
  Motion passes 5-0

E. Selectboard and Finance Committee Schedule Assignments

- Mrs. Marshall would like to propose that heading into the next budget season, School Committee members develop a schedule to have a presence at Selecboard and Finance Committee meetings
- Mr. Gambino suggests that a attendance not be mandatory, but instead committee members should share responsibility for reporting information from said meetings

- Motion to schedule regular school committee presence/listening at Selectboard meetings

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

- Mrs. Weedon states that she will be responsible for creating schedule

F. Budget Workshop Schedule

- Dr. Klingaman suggests scheduling two committee meetings before November 5th as part of budget preparation
- Mr. Gambino proposes that in place of additional meetings, budget reports be presented at scheduled School Committee meetings
- Dr. Klingaman recommends the committee consider both options
- Meetings are scheduled for September 16, 2025, 10am-11:30am and October 17, 2025, 11am-12:30pm

III. Workshop with MASC Representative :
Guest Facilitator: Sean Costello, Field Service Director, Massachusetts Association of School Committees

A. FY'27 School Committee Goal Setting

- Mr. Costello explains that School Committee goals should be set with active feedback and participation from the superintendent and district to provide for student achievement
- The strategic plan sets the district goals, which informs the Superintendent goals and School Committee goals. These goals don't have to match, but should be aligned.
- Mr. Costello reviews last year's three School Committee goals
- Committee members discuss if goals should be built on last year's goals and/or if additional goals should be considered.
- Mr. Costello suggests that based on the committee discussion, the members consider goals connected to academic achievement/student support, budget, policy, superintendent evaluation, district goals that fall under School Committee purview
- Mr. Costello states that he can return for a School Committee workshop on the Superintendent evaluation
- Mr. Costello suggested that the committee work together to develop action plans that contribute to developing goals.
- Committee members contribute notes/feedback on proposed goals
- Committee members discuss next steps for goal development and the creation of a subcommittee to curate notes/action plans for goals. Mrs. Marshall and Mrs. Weedon volunteer to serve on the subcommittee.

- Motion to create a School Committee Goal Subcommittee

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

- The committee discusses the challenge and logistics of scheduling public meetings for the School Committee Goal Subcommittee

- Motion to dissolve the School Committee Goal Subcommittee

  Motion: Mrs. Gambino
  Second: Mrs. Bresnehan
  Motion passes 5-0

- Mrs. Weedon is appointed to curate the goal setting notes and feedback and submit proposed goals at September 3, 2025 meeting

IV. Adjournment: 1:09 pm

Motion: Mr. Bresnehan
Second: Mrs. Deacon

Next meeting: August 29, 2025 School Committee Workshop

Respectfully Submitted,
Cristin Mitchell
Duxbury Business Office