



BLUE HILLS

REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BLUE HILLS REGIONAL ROOM W-218
JUNE 16, 2026, 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

Carl Walker	Avon
Mark Driscoll	Canton (Chair)
Eric Erskine	Braintree
Kevin Connolly	Norwood
Thomas Polito	Dedham
Taryn Mohan	Holbrook
Marybeth Joyce	Milton
Karen Graves	Randolph

ABSENT:

Sheila Vazquez	Westwood
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ADMINISTRATION:

Jill Rossetti	Superintendent-Director
Elvio Ferreira	Business Manager
Geoff Zini	Principal
Angelo Dimitriou	Director of Special Services

GUEST:

Mary Shady	Hague, Sahady & Co. P.C
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1. CALL TO ORDER

There being a quorum present, and adequate and proper notice of the meeting having been given, the meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Chair Mark Driscoll.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. AUDIT REPORT

Mary Sahady, partner of Hague, Sahady & Co. P.C., provided a summary of the Fiscal 2025 Annual Audit. She began by reviewing liabilities, most notably net pension liabilities of \$1.699M and post-employment benefits of \$43.9M. The post-employment liability encompasses

retirement health care benefits, and Ms. Sahady confirmed that the district is responsible for these benefits.

Ms. Sahady reviewed the fund financial statements, reporting a total of \$1.4M in assigned funds, which comprises: excess and deficiency (\$800,000), capital (\$113,000), operating (\$91,000), and the stabilization fund (\$1.1M). As of June 30, 2025, the unassigned amount, is \$597,000, representing approximately 2% of the budget. The Governmental Accounting Standards Board recommends that unassigned funds should comprise approximately 10% of the budget. Upon inquiry, Ms. Sahady noted that to increase the amount in unassigned funds, the Committee should aim to reduce expenditures because, in most instances, any unused assigned funds will revert back to unassigned funds. Additionally, it is challenging to increase revenue above government support. Ms. Sahady also highlighted that an amount of \$1.7M is available in the transportation fund, noting that this could be utilized for transportation costs in the general fund.

In terms of revenue and expenses, Ms. Sahady reported that the largest expenses include instructional costs (\$11M) and employee benefits (\$7.9M). It was also noted that a donation of \$200,000 for education had been received in 2025, which is currently held in a donation account.

Ms. Sahady reviewed the required supplementary, noting a number of open purchase orders in early 2025 which represented \$406,000. During 2025 the majority were closed, leaving \$204,000 at the end of 2025. Additionally, a shortfall of \$773,000 in revenue had occurred due to a duplication error in the 2025 budget on the chapter 70 and chapter 71 lines. It was noted that the shortfall had been recovered due to savings in expenses.

Ms. Sahady reported that there were no findings in terms of non-compliance with rules and regulations, all items tested were in compliance with the laws and regulations, with no outstanding items. Ms. Sahady confirmed that this was also true for the single audit and testing of federal grants.

Upon inquiry, Ms. Sahady noted that external auditors are required to review the student activity fund every three years, with the district performing internal audits for the intervening years. Ms. Sahady confirmed that the student activity fund was audited as part of the Fiscal 2025 Annual Audit, with no findings to report.

Ms. Sahady informed the Committee of a new criteria expected for the 2026 audit, which will require greater participation from management in the Management Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) section of the audit.

ACTION – The Chair will arrange for the Fiscal 2025 Annual Audit to be re-circulated to the Committee.

5. SPECIAL SERVICES REPORT

5.1 Special Education End-of-Year Report

Director of Special Services, Angelo Dimitriou, presented the special services report, noting no major changes since the previous update in January, 2026. Mr. Dimitriou reported that 80 students are expected for the 2026/2027 school year, which is an increase from approximately 50.

The special services report focused on the Guidance Department, and Mr. Dimitriou reported that the department has assisted students in a number of areas during the year, including college and career readiness, postsecondary planning and financing, scholarships, and work

permits. He noted that students interact with guidance counselors multiple times throughout the year, and the department also assists with social aspects, mental health, and crisis management.

Mr. Dimitriou further discussed college applications, noting that these applications have transitioned to the Mass Education Financing Authority (MIFA) portal. Next year, the Guidance Department plans to assist students to utilize both the MIFA portal and additional resources. For the graduating class of 2026, 113 students intend to attend a four-year college, 30 students intend to attend community college, and 50 students intend to enter employment related to their vocational program.

Mr. Dimitriou highlighted the lunch-and-learn program that occurred throughout the year, which featured presentations from various representatives including college admissions and workforce groups, as well as site visits to various industries. Attendance at the lunch-and-learn program had increased, which included greater participation from Juniors.

Mr. Dimitriou updated the Committee on the Financial Aid Scholarship Night, reporting that over 200 students received financial aid, and a total of approximately \$85,000 was gifted in scholarships.

ACTION – Mr. Dimitriou will obtain the information regarding the percentage of four-year college students intending to study out-of-state.

6. ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

6.1 Student Discipline and Attendance Report

Assistant Principal, Mark Aubrey, reported that student attendance continued to improve this year and is up approximately one point to 96.1%. He attributed the positive attendance to both the curriculum and development of teacher-student connections. Student attendance is above the state average, which is approximately 94%. He noted that there had been an increase in tardiness, and upon inquiry, Mr. Aubrey confirmed that students are not marked as late when the delay is due to the school bus. Additionally, Mr. Aubrey confirmed there have been no chronic early leavers.

Regarding discipline, Mr. Aubrey reported an increase in the number of incidents this year; however, the number of suspensions had significantly decreased to a total of nine. The majority of incidents were related to tardiness, electronics, class disruptions, and students being AWOL. When asked, Mr. Aubrey confirmed that only one incident was related to fighting, and no incidents had occurred after school hours. He noted that there is collaboration with the guidance department when required. Upon inquiry, Mr. Aubrey confirmed that no demographic group had received greater discipline and the data from the year followed the expected ratios.

6.2 Parent and Student Handbook

Mr. Aubrey reviewed the changes to the student handbook, reporting the most notable changes:

- The addition of a Grade 10 final exam to replace the MCATs, which no longer count toward competency for high school graduation;
- Information regarding parental permission for students to use certain features on Google;
- The change of home tutoring to 14 school days; and
- No delivery of food or drink during the school day.

Mr. Aubrey noted that the admissions policy will be updated.

On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to accept the changes to the student handbook, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

7. SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTORS' REPORT

7.1 Strategic Plan 2026–2030

Superintendent-Director Jill Rossetti provided an overview of the 2026 to 2030 strategic plan, noting that the plan is intended to strengthen student achievement, workforce readiness, and community access. The plan has four strategic pillars: high-quality instruction and workforce readiness, positive and supportive climate and culture, effective communication and operations, and maximizing resources and community access. The principal will create a yearly school improvement plan, and progress will be evaluated at the leadership meetings.

On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to adopt the Blue Hills Regional School strategic plan from 2026 to 2030 as the district's guiding framework for strategic planning, annual goal setting, budget development, program evaluation, capital planning, and improvements. Motion carried unanimously.

7.2 Scholarship Donation Former Student Thomas Keough III – \$10,000

On a motion made by Norwood, seconded by Randolph, it was resolved to accept a monetary donation of \$10,000, from former student Thomas Keough III. Motion carried unanimously.

7.3 Miscellaneous

ACTION – Ms. Rossetti will present information regarding the waitlist for 2026/2027 at the July, 2026 Committee meeting.

8. DSC CHAIR REPORT

8.1 Zoom Discussion Subcommittee Meeting

Karen Graves provided an update on access to the Committee's Zoom meeting for members who are unable to attend in-person, noting that the Committee obtained advice regarding the technical requirements and confirmed that it will be straightforward. The Subcommittee plans to reconvene and develop a written policy for this item.

8.2 Ad Hoc Recording Secretary/Clerk Subcommittee Meeting

Thomas Polito reported that the recording secretary/clerk position had been re-posted internally, and there had been one application. The Subcommittee will extend an offer to the applicant for a six-month trial basis starting on July 1, 2026. The role will involve 4–12 hours a month, at a rate of \$42.50 an hour. The number of hours for the role will be reviewed after the six-month trial.

8.3 Evaluation Subcommittee Meeting

Taryn Mohan reported that the Superintendent-Director and Treasurer evaluations were received in a timely manner.

8.3.1 Superintendent-Director Evaluation

This year, the evaluation for the Superintendent-Director was more extensive as it was increased from two to eight pages. Ms. Mohan reported that the evaluations for Ms. Rossetti were outstanding. Ms. Mohan thanked Ms. Rossetti for her work throughout the year, and her dedication to Blue Hills.

8.3.2 Treasurer Evaluation

The Subcommittee have decided to review the Treasurer evaluation to more effectively align with the role.

8.4 Personnel and Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting

8.4.1 Union Negotiations

The Chair presented the report on behalf of the Personnel and Negotiations Subcommittee. The Subcommittee met to discuss the goals and objectives for this year's union negotiations. He noted that there are options that may accelerate the timeline for the negotiations, and further details will be included in the next report from the Subcommittee. It was noted that the unions will be informed to expect a start date in September, 2026 for the negotiations.

8.4.2 Pay Increase for Non-Union Employees

On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Braintree, it was resolved to approve a 4% pay increase for non-union employees. Motion carried unanimously.

8.5 MASS/MASC Joint Conference November 4–6, 2026

The Chair requested that Committee members consider their availability for the MASS/MASC joint conference on November 4, 2026, to November 6, 2026. This item will be discussed further at the July, 2026 meeting.

9. TREASURER'S REPORT AND WARRANT

The report was prepared by Treasurer Patricia Leonhardt and read by Secretary Marybeth Joyce.

Ms. Joyce noted that Warrant #61 is in addition to those listed on the agenda and was approved via Docusign.

On a motion made by Norwood, seconded by Dedham, it was resolved to approve the following warrants for FY26:

- **Warrant #58 for \$956,475.01 – Voucher Numbers 1148-1152**
- **Warrant #59 for \$235,243.24 – Voucher Numbers 1153-1154**
- **Warrant #60 for \$800,093.52 – Voucher Numbers 1155-1158**
- **Warrant #61 for \$600,049.56 – Voucher Number 1159**

Motion carried unanimously.

10. MINUTES APPROVAL

The School Committee reviewed the minutes of the District School Committee meeting held on May 19, 2026.

On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the District School Committee meeting held on May 19, 2026, as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

11. BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

11.1 Financial Update FY 26

Business Manager Dr. Elvio Ferreira informed the Committee that the fourth-quarter report for Fiscal Year 2026 will be prepared for the July, 2026 meeting. Additionally, the transfers requiring approval will be discussed at the July, 2026 meeting.

Dr. Ferreira reported that the grants and revolving funds are reconciled through May, 2026, and there are no issues to bring to the Committee's attention.

11.2 FY 2026 Audit Update

Dr. Ferreira noted the audit for the Fiscal Year 2026 will begin in July, 2026.

11.3 Miscellaneous

Dr. Ferreira reported that, in June, 2026, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education audited four federal grants. There was one finding relating to the language in the grant manual, and the updates must be submitted within 90 days. Dr. Ferreira and Ms. Rossetti have prepared a draft of the grant manual.

12. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

12.1 Principal's Report

12.1.1 Summer School Plan

Principal Geoff Zini discussed the plan for summer school, noting that it would run three days a week from July 7, 2026, to July 30, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Enrollment numbers would be confirmed on the final day of school.

13. FUTURE BUSINESS

The date of the next District School Committee meeting is July 21, 2026.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, and roll call vote, Avon, Dedham, Braintree, Canton, Holbrook, Milton, Randolph, and Norwood voted in favor of entering executive session pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy regarding collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting might have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body. The Committee entered executive session and did not return to open session.

15. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting was closed.

DISCLAIMER

The above minutes should be used as a summary of the motions passed and issues discussed at the meeting. This document shall not be considered a verbatim copy of every word spoken at the meeting.

Chair

Date