



MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BLUE HILLS REGIONAL ROOM W-218
JULY 21, 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
Sheila Vazquez	Westwood

ADMINISTRATION:

Jill Rossetti	Superintendent-Director
Elvio Ferreira	Business Manager
Geoff Zini	Principal

Minutes prepared by Jolene de Jager of Minutes Solutions from a recording.

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 7:00 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. SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTORS' REPORT

4.1 Donation from Advanced Auto, Randolph, \$1,000.00 to Automotive Technology Department

Superintendent-Director Ms. Jill Rossetti reported that the District received a \$1,000 donation from Advanced Auto in Randolph for the Automotive Technology Department. Committee members expressed appreciation for the continued support of local industry partners.

On a motion made by Norwood, seconded by Randolph, it was resolved to accept a \$1,000 donation from Advanced Auto in Randolph for the Automotive Technology Department. Motion carried unanimously.

4.2 Hiring Brief Update

Ms. Rossetti reported that the District is in the midst of an unusually active hiring season. She indicated that a more comprehensive staffing report would be presented at the August 2026 meeting. She announced that positions had been filled in Dental Assisting, Metal Fabrication, Construction Technology, Cooperative Education and Continuing Education, Admissions and Guidance, Guidance Counseling, Mathematics, Cosmetology, Electrical Instruction, Graphics Communications, and Custodial Services. She also reported that a second Metal Fabrication instructor had accepted a position that day.

Several vacancies remain, including Auto Collision, Special Education, Computer Information Systems and Networking, Drafting, Instructional Learning Aide, Permanent Building Substitute, and two Electronics instructor positions. Members asked whether these represented new positions. Ms. Rossetti clarified that the vacancies were replacement positions resulting from retirements and non-renewals and did not represent program expansion.

4.3 Admissions Updated

Ms. Rossetti provided an update on admissions for the incoming first-year class. She reported that 245 of the 248 available seats had been filled and that three seats remained open. She also noted that 101 students remained on the waiting list and that approximately 410 completed applications had been included in the admissions lottery. The update demonstrated continued strong demand for enrollment at Blue Hills.

4.4 Dental Assisting Grand Opening & Ribbon Cutting

Ms. Rossetti discussed plans for the grand opening of the District's new Dental Assisting Program, which will become Blue Hills' eighteenth vocational program. Final scheduling remains contingent upon state approval of the program. She anticipates holding a ribbon-cutting ceremony in late August 2026 before students return to school.

The proposed event will include remarks recognizing the work of district leadership, faculty, staff, industry partners, contractors, and Department of Elementary and Secondary Education representatives. The event will also feature a program tour and light refreshments. Members expressed support for the event and discussed scheduling considerations.

5. DSC CHAIR REPORT

5.1 Ad Hoc Zoom Discussion Subcommittee Meeting

The Ad Hoc Zoom Discussion Subcommittee reported that work is continuing on a proposed policy governing Zoom participation in School Committee meetings. The subcommittee has reviewed policies used by several other districts and expects to submit a draft policy for legal review before presenting it to the full Committee. Technology upgrades necessary to support virtual participation are nearly complete, with only final cabling work remaining.

Mr. Polito explained that the subcommittee had assigned him to gather and compile sample policies from other districts. He expressed concern regarding communications related to preparation of the draft and requested that his comments be reflected in the minutes. Chair

Driscoll acknowledged the concerns raised and clarified expectations regarding communication between Committee members and district staff.

5.2 Evaluation Subcommittee Meeting

5.2.1 Treasurer Evaluation Tool Update Discussion

The Evaluation Subcommittee reported that it had completed its review of the Treasurer's evaluation process and determined that the evaluation instrument currently in use was outdated. Treasurer Patricia Leonhardt supplied a revised evaluation format that the subcommittee reviewed and found acceptable. The updated evaluation document will be distributed electronically to Committee members so that the Treasurer's annual evaluation can be completed.

The subcommittee also reviewed the Superintendent-Director's contract to ensure that its evaluation provisions remain aligned with the District's revised Superintendent evaluation process. Members reported that the existing contract language remains consistent with the evaluation model and that no amendments are necessary.

5.3 Personnel and Negotiations Subcommittee Meeting

5.3.1 Curriculum Subcommittee Recommendations

On a motion made by Braintree, seconded by Holbrook, it was resolved to ratify the Curriculum Subcommittee recommendations contained in the Strategic Review of Freshman Exploratory and Vocational Program Alignment Framework for Program Sustainability. Motion carried unanimously.

5.3.2 Superintendent-Director Contract

The Committee received confirmation from the Evaluation Subcommittee that the Superintendent-Director's contract had been reviewed for consistency with the District's revised evaluation process. The subcommittee determined that the existing contract language remains appropriate and requires no modification.

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

Chair Driscoll reminded members of the upcoming MASS/MASC Joint Conference and asked any member wishing to attend to notify the District Secretary of registration and accommodation preferences. The Committee also discussed selecting its voting delegate at a future meeting.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT AND WARRANT

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

On a motion made by Braintree, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to approve the following warrants for FY26 and FY27:

- **Warrant #62 for \$948,470.45 – Voucher Numbers 1160-1162**
 - **Warrant #63 for \$660,028.60 – Voucher Numbers 1163-1168**
 - **Warrant #64 for \$1,663,876.04 – Voucher Numbers 1169-1174**
 - **Warrant #65 for \$318,991.14 – Voucher Numbers 1175-1176**
 - **Warrant #66 for \$101,584.91 – Voucher Numbers 1177-1179**
- FY27:**

- **Warrant #1 for \$2,209,474.55 Voucher Numbers 1000-1001, Wires and Bank Transfer**
- **Warrant #2 for \$270,019.37 – Voucher Numbers 1002-1004.**

Motion carried unanimously.

7. MINUTES APPROVAL

The School Committee reviewed the minutes of the District School Committee meeting held on June 16, 2026. Mr. Polito then requested that the complete transcript of the auditor's report be appended to the June 16, 2026, minutes. He explained that he had sought clarification from the auditor regarding prior discussion of a bus-related accounting issue and believed inclusion of the transcript would better document the discussion for the record.

On a motion made by Norwood, seconded by Dedham, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the District School Committee meeting held on June 16, 2026, as amended. Motion carried.

8. BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

8.1 Transfer Requests

Business Manager Elvio Ferreira was unable to attend the meeting. Committee members indicated that they had questions regarding one of the transfer requests and preferred to defer discussion until Mr. Ferreira could be present to answer questions. The Committee agreed to table the transfer requests until the August 2026 meeting.

9. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

9.1 Principal's Report

9.1.1 School Improvement Plan

Principal Geoff Zini presented the proposed 2026-2027 School Improvement Plan (SIP). He explained that the annual plan aligns with the District Strategic Plan and recommendations from the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC).

Mr. Zini highlighted goals related to curriculum development, MyCAP implementation, integration of academic and career technical education programs, student and faculty feedback systems, the Grade 9 Academy initiative, student recognition efforts, communication planning, technology platform upgrades, review of vocational offerings, expansion of adult learning opportunities, improvement of cooperative education programming, and strengthening advisory board participation.

Members discussed the Grade 9 Academy concept, with questions focusing on how the initiative will support first-year orientation and help students understand Blue Hills expectations, procedures, and culture. Mr. Zini explained that the initiative builds upon current orientation practices while providing a more structured support system throughout the first year.

Committee members also asked about the process used to develop the plan. Mr. Zini explained that the School Council reviewed the Strategic Plan throughout the year and that the SIP was developed from those priorities and NEASC recommendations.

On a motion made by Holbrook, seconded by Milton, it was resolved to accept the School Improvement Plan as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

10. FUTURE BUSINESS

The date of the next District School Committee meeting is August 18, 2026.

11. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On motion made by Avon, seconded by Dedham, 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. Motion carried. The Committee entered executive session and did not return to open session.

12. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion duly made and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting was closed at 7:45 p.m.

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