



# BLUE HILLS

## REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
BLUE HILLS REGIONAL, ROOM 218  
APRIL 14, 2026, 7:00 P.M.

**MEMBERS:**

Kevin Connolly	Norwood
Carl Walker	Avon
Thomas Polito	Dedham
Taryn Mohan	Holbrook (Vice Chair)
Marybeth Joyce	Milton
Karen Graves	Randolph
Sheila Vazquez	Westwood

**ADMINISTRATION:**

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

**GUEST:**

Meghan Hyland	Hague, Sahady and Co., P.C. CPAs
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**ABSENT:**

Mark Driscoll	Canton (Chair)
Eric Erskine	Braintree

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 7:03 p.m. with Vice Chair Taryn Mohan serving as Acting Chair. The Acting Chair opened the meeting with a special public hearing on the SY 26-27 Blue Hills Regional Technical School District School Choice Program, conducted in accordance with the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. The notice of the public hearing was read into the record. The Chair then turned the floor over to Superintendent-Director Jill Rossetti.

2. **OPEN PUBLIC HEARING: SCHOOL CHOICE PROGRAM - 2026-027 (M.G.L.C.76, §12B)**

3. **PRESENTATION BY SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR, JILL ROSSETTI**

Superintendent-Director Jill Rossetti explained that School Choice is a Massachusetts program allowing students to attend public schools outside their home district, with districts choosing annually whether to participate and how many seats to offer. She emphasized that Blue Hills is a regional vocational-technical school governed by Chapter 74, with enrollment limits driven by safety requirements, specialized equipment, instructor-to-student ratios, and a newly implemented weighted lottery admissions process across its 17 programs. She reported that the school is fully enrolled at approximately 248 students per incoming class and maintains an active waitlist, with priority given to students from the nine member towns.

Superintendent-Director Rossetti recommended not participating in School Choice for 2026–2027 because seats are already fully used and filled via member-town applicants/waitlist.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

A question was asked clarifying School Choice vs. the admissions lottery. The Chair explained that School Choice is a separate mechanism used to fill seats with out-of-district students and is only utilized if seats allocated to member towns cannot be filled.

5. **VOTE ON PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL CHOICE FOR 2026-2027**

On a motion made by Norwood, seconded by Dedham, it was resolved that the Blue Hill Regional School decline participation in School Choice for SY 2026–2027. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **CLOSE HEARING ROLL CALL**

On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to close the public hearing at 7:08pm. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

The attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

8. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

9. **STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO DSC**

There was no report provided.

10. **AUDIT REPORT**

Megan Hyland, CPA, from Hague, Sahady and Co., P.C., provided a status update on the FY25 audit, clarifying that the audit was still in progress and that final financial statements had not yet been issued. She explained that audit work completed to date included planning, internal control documentation and testing, walkthroughs of key business processes, such as payroll and accounts payable, review of meeting minutes and district policies, committee questionnaires related to potential conflicts of interest, and confirmation letters to banks and legal counsel. She reported that substantive testing was underway and that the audit was expected to be completed in early May 2026. She also noted that the district would likely require a federal Single Audit and possibly additional reports, such as an end-of-year report and student activities report.

Committee members asked about the increased workload associated with a first-year audit, and Ms. Hyland explained that the first year requires more time to understand and document processes. In contrast, future audits are typically more efficient. When asked whether any major issues had been identified so far, she stated that none were anticipated based on work completed to date. The Chair requested that the auditors return to present the completed audit and asked that materials be provided to Committee members in advance of the meeting.

11. **SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTORS' REPORT**

## **11.1 LOTTERY UPDATE**

Superintendent-Director Jill Rossetti reported that the admissions lottery waitlist was approximately 122 students at the time of the meeting and noted that the number fluctuates daily as families accept or decline placement. She confirmed that the school was essentially full at its enrollment target of 248 students. She also informed the Committee that the district would return \$21,461 in unspent ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) grant funds from 2022, noting that this amount was significantly lower than initially anticipated following a detailed review of expenditures.

Ms. Rossetti raised concerns about pending and unclear state graduation and assessment changes, including potential revisions to Math Core requirements and the possibility that end-of-course assessments may replace the Grade 10 MCATs. She expressed concern about whether vocational-related theory coursework would continue to satisfy language-related expectations, warning that a change could require the district to hire additional world language teachers. She also discussed the possibility of unfunded mandates affecting scheduling, staffing, counseling workloads, assessment scoring, and collective bargaining, all during a period of statewide school budget tightening.

## **11.2 DECOMMISSION AND DONATION REQUESTS**

Ms. Rossetti presented a list of donations received for multiple vocational programs, including HVAC equipment, construction technology tools, electrical supplies, and a \$100 check for a culinary arts cultural fair. It was clarified that decommissioning of equipment was not included in this vote.

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Westwood, it was resolved to accept all donations as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **11.3 MISCELLANEOUS**

### **12. DSC CHAIR REPORT**

#### **12.1 SPECIAL RECOGNITION PRESENTATION**

The Acting Chair presented a recognition plaque to former Chair Kevin Connolly in appreciation of his service as Chair from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2025, and for his long-standing dedication to the district.

#### **12.2 AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR RECORDING SECRETARY/CLERK POSITION REPORT**

The Ad Hoc Committee for the Recording Secretary/Clerk position reported that the committee had met before the School Committee meeting to review resumes and discuss candidates. The Committee indicated that it had reached consensus on a candidate and planned to extend an offer, but that the individual's name would not be made public until the offer was formally made.

#### **12.3 AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR ZOOM**

The Ad Hoc Committee for Zoom reported that it met to discuss developing a remote participation policy for School Committee meetings. The Committee discussed reviewing practices used by member towns and guidance from the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC).

## **12.4 CURRICULUM AND ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE REPORT: CONSTRUCTION PROJECT FOR 2026-2027**

The Curriculum and Advisory Subcommittee presented a proposed construction technology project in Holbrook, involving the removal of a roof and the construction of a master suite, for the 2026–2027 school year.

**On a motion made by Norwood, seconded by Dedham, it was resolved to approve the construction project for the 2026–2027 school year. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **13. TREASURER'S REPORT AND WARRANT**

**Warrants provided by Treasurer, Patricia Leonhart read by Secretary, Marybeth Joyce.**

FY25 (correction):

Warrant No. 25 for \$408,073.55 – Voucher Numbers 1125-1126

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to approve the Warrant. Motion carried unanimously.**

FY26:

Warrant No. 49 for \$450,970.08 – Voucher Numbers 1116-1118

Warrant No. 50 for \$764,985.98 – Voucher Numbers 1119-1122

Warrant No. 51 for \$96,886.44 – Voucher Numbers 1123-1124

Warrant No. 52 for \$737,676.82 – Voucher Numbers 1125-1128

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to approve the Warrant. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **14. MINUTES APPROVAL**

The School Committee reviewed the minutes of the March 17, 2026, District School Committee meeting and noted a correction to a student name, which was amended to read “June Kilberg.”

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the March 17, 2026, District School Committee meeting, as amended. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **15. BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT**

### **15.1 QUARTER 3 REPORT**

Business Manager Elvio Ferreira presented the third-quarter financial report for Fiscal Year 2026, stating that salary accounts were in good standing with a reported surplus after all payrolls had been encumbered. He further reported that expense lines were also in good standing, noting that some expenditures had not yet been encumbered and that final figures would be reflected in the fourth-quarter report.

### **15.2 TRANSFER OPEB REQUEST**

The Business Manager presented a request by the Finance and Administration Subcommittee to transfer \$50,000 from the general operating account to the OPEB revolving account.

On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Westwood, it was resolved to transfer \$50,000 from the general operating account to the OPEB revolving account. Motion unanimously.

**15.3 DEBT ASSESSMENT CORRECTION**

Dr. Ferreira announced that there was a debt assessment correction. There were no questions or comments from the Committee members.

**16. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS**

**16.1 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT**

**16.1.1 SENIOR DATES AND GRADUATION**

Principal Geoff Zini reviewed upcoming senior events, including the advisory board meeting, Staff Appreciation Week, the senior art show, and Senior Awards Night. He confirmed that graduation is scheduled for Friday, May 29, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., with a rain date scheduled for the following Saturday at the same time. He also reported that the district used five snow days and one additional closure day, and that the last day of school is projected to be June 25, 2026.

**16.1.2 2026-2027 CALENDAR**

Principal Zini presented the proposed 2026–2027 school calendar, noting the impact of a late Labor Day and confirming that students would begin school on September 8, 2026.

On a motion made by Randolph, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to approve the 2026–2027 school calendar as presented. Motion unanimously.

**17. FUTURE BUSINESS**

The next District School Committee meeting is on May 19, 2026.

**18. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no Executive Session required.

**19. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion made by Norwood, seconded by Randolph, and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 7:55 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.

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Chair

\_\_\_\_\_

Date