



BLUE HILLS

REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BHR, ROOM W-218
JANUARY 20, 2026, 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

Mark Driscoll	Canton (Chair)
Carl Walker	Avon
Eric Erskine	Braintree
Taryn Mohan	Holbrook
Marybeth Joyce	Milton
Karen Graves	Randolph
Sheila Vazquez	Westwood

ABSENT:

Thomas Polito	Dedham
Kevin Connolly	Norwood

ADMINISTRATION:

Jill Rossetti	Superintendent-Director
Elvio Ferreira	Business Manager
Geoff Zini	Principal
Angelo Dimitriou	Student Service Director
Mark Aubrey	Assistant Principal

FACULTY & STAFF:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

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.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mark Driscoll led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO DSC

There was no report provided.

5. GENERAL ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR AND VOCATIONAL DIRECTOR

5.1 GENERAL ADVISORY REPORT

The subcommittee met and received input from nine chairs, and two additional reports were submitted. Discussions focused on program needs, budget requirements, and highlights from the previous year. There were many positive comments about last year's activities. The event was well attended and provided valuable feedback on the programs.

6. ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL REPORT

6.1 ATTENDANCE AND DISCIPLINE REPORT

Mark Aubrey shared that school attendance is slightly higher than last year and that tardiness remains consistent, with younger students attending more regularly than older students. Student behavior has improved, with fewer incident reports across all grade levels compared to previous years. Only five suspensions have occurred this year: three for physical altercations, one for drugs, and one for repeated absence from Saturday detentions. The breakdown of incidents by gender matches the school's demographics, and the number of students with IEPs was as expected. The most common infractions were tardiness and students getting lost on the way to class, aside from electronics violations. The school was described as very large, which contributes to some of these logistical challenges.

7. STUDENT SERVICE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

7.1 SPECIAL EDUCATION MID-YEAR REPORT

Student Service Director Angelo Dimitriou provided an overview of the Mid-Year Report, including the following:

- Out of 925 students, 194 have IEPs, and 79 have 504 plans, with ADHD being the most common health impairment at Blue Hills.
- The percentage of students with IEPs is slightly down, but some sending towns like Dedham and Holbrook have seen significant increases.
- Although the number of students with special needs is stable or slightly lower, the intensity and complexity of their needs have increased, requiring more specialized classrooms and support.
- The number of homeless and foster care students has been decreasing since 2018.
- Blue Hills has implemented a new state-mandated IEP format, with extensive teacher training and new resources to support plan writing.
- The MICAP initiative is being developed to help students coordinate academic and career planning for post-high school success.
- Staffing levels remain unchanged, but weekly occupational therapy is now offered for the first time, reflecting increased student needs.
- ELL services are managed by the academic office, with a slight increase in ELL students and licensed teachers providing support.
- The impact of the pending lottery on special services is unpredictable; previous pilot lotteries led to lower special ed numbers but higher intensity of needs, resulting in more students needing alternative placements.
- Blue Hills is registering students under the Math Education Finance Authority, with ongoing work in curriculum, testing, scholarships, and awards

8. SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT

8.1 DECOMMISSION AND DONATION REQUESTS

On a motion made by Braintree, seconded by Holbrook, it was resolved to approve the decommissioning of **two items as Char Boiller 36 inch Gas at least 20 years old and 9 Rolling Storage Bins**. Motion carried unanimously.

On a motion made by Braintree, seconded by Westwood, it was resolved to approve the Fidelity Donation of \$1,000.00. Motion carried unanimously.

The Superintendent-Director, Jill Rossetti, reported that there are 410 complete admissions applications. The lottery is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, February 25, 2026, and will likely be broadcast live on YouTube. Parents will receive letters from the admissions office this week. These letters will detail the number of "raffle tickets" (entries) each family has earned—up to three—and explain which entries were earned and why any were not. Families can contact the admissions office with questions. It was clarified that each applicant will be assigned a number, which will be communicated in the letter (either this one or the next). A third-party software company will conduct the lottery to ensure fairness, with staff present but not directly involved. The lottery is scheduled for Wednesday to ensure staff are available for follow-up calls and emails on Thursday and Friday, avoiding delays that could occur if held on a weekend.

The Superintendent-Director, Jill Rossetti, announced plans to recognize volunteers with certificates in honor of National School Board Month, expressing appreciation for their ongoing support of Blue Hills. A group photo with the certificates was proposed at the end of the meeting.

8.2 ACTE'S CAREER TECH VISION 2025 CONFERENCE REPORT

The Superintendent-Director, Jill Rossetti, shared that key takeaways from the ACTE conference included the importance of strong leadership and alignment in CTV programs and that Blue Hills is following national best practices, especially with the planned dental assisting program.

The Criminal Justice teacher learned that AI cannot replace human judgment or communication in law enforcement, and its use in report writing raises legal concerns. The Electrical teacher found that the electrical trade is expected to remain largely unaffected by AI, given high demand driven by an aging workforce, and emphasized the value of strong relationships and hands-on experience in vocational education.

9. DSC CHAIR REPORT

9.1 JOINT DSC AND GENERAL ADVISORY BOARD CHAIRS DINNER AND VOCATIONAL DIRECTOR/MEETING REPORT

DSC Chair Mark Driscoll mentioned that there were two subcommittee meetings that evening, referencing a joint School Committee and General Advisory Board dinner, and highlighted the quality of the presentations and the support provided by all the chairs through their reports.

9.2 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT REGARDING PROPOSED STAFFING AND SALARY PLANS

The subcommittee recently met to review financial figures in preparation for the upcoming budget season. Another subcommittee meeting is scheduled for the following month.

10. TREASURER'S REPORT AND WARRANT

On a motion made by Braintree, seconded by Westwood, it was resolved to approve the following Warrants:

FY26:

Warrant #34 for \$634,341.00 – Voucher Numbers 1071-1073

Warrant #35 for \$16,745.20 – Voucher Numbers 1074-1077

Warrant #36 for \$146,859.57 – Voucher Number 1078

Warrant #37 for \$689,423.16 – Voucher Numbers 1082-1083

Warrant #38 for \$156,065.97 – Voucher Numbers 1079 (void), 1080-1081

Warrant #39 for \$68,479.51 – Voucher Numbers 1084-1086

Warrant #40 for \$387,358.70 – Voucher numbers 1087-1089

Motion carried unanimously.

Prepared by District Treasurer, Patricia Leonhardt Read by Secretary, Marybeth Joyce.

11. MINUTES APPROVAL

On a motion made by Holbrook, seconded by Milton, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2025, District School Committee meeting. Braintree abstained. Motion carried.

On a motion made by Holbrook, seconded by Westwood, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the December 17, 2025, District School Committee meeting. Braintree and Canton abstained. Motion carried.

12. BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

12.1 Q2 REPORT

Business Manager Elvio Ferreira reported that the quarter two financial report for the school year 26 shows that expenses and encumbrances have been tracked, with an available balance remaining, and that all grants and revolving accounts are reconciled and within compliance limits. There are no current issues with grants or revolving funds.

12.2 UPDATE ON STAFF HIRING, STAFF SALARY PLAN, NEW STAFF FY27

For school year 27, the dental program is progressing positively, with plans to hire one dental assisting instructor initially and a second in the third year, funded by grants and donations rather than the operating budget. Renovation bids are expected soon, and financial resources from revolving accounts are available to support these costs.

12.3 BUDGET MEETINGS

Elvio Ferreira, Business Manager, shared that upcoming senate district and FINCOM budget meetings are scheduled and encouraged community participation. A discrepancy of approximately \$591,000 in the budget figures was noted and will be investigated further next month for clarification.

12.4 TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FORMS

Travel reimbursement forms were distributed for signatures. Adjustments will be made for those who attended the conference, consolidating reimbursements into a single form.

13. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

13.1 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

13.1.1 GRADUATION DATE CHANGE PROPOSAL DUE TO SKILLS USA COMPETITION

On a motion made by Braintree, seconded by Randolph, it was resolved to move graduation from Tuesday, June 3, 2026, to Friday, May 29, 2026, with May 30, 2026, as the rain date. Motion carried unanimously.

The Principal, Geoff Zini, proposed moving graduation from Tuesday, June 3, 2026, to Friday, May 29, 2026, with May 30, 2026, as the rain date, to avoid a conflict with the SkillsUSA National Competition and ensure seniors do not have to choose between graduation and nationals.

13.1.2 CALENDAR: RESCHEDULE IN-SERVICE DATE

On a motion made by Westwood, seconded by Milton, it was resolved to reschedule the previously canceled in-service day from December 11, 2025, to Wednesday, March 4, 2026, with the same presenters on artificial intelligence. Motion carried unanimously.

Due to the cancellation of the original in-service day on December 11, 2025, Principal Geoff Zini requested that it be rescheduled to Wednesday, March 4, 2026, with the same presenters on artificial intelligence.

14. FUTURE BUSINESS

The next District School Committee meeting is on February 24, 2026.

15. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session required.

16. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Milton, seconded by Holbrook, and carried, it was agreed that there was no further business to transact; the meeting closed at 7:49 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.

Director

Director

Date

Date