



# BLUE HILLS

## REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
BHR, ROOM W-218  
OCTOBER 21, 2025, 7:00 P.M.**

**MEMBERS:**

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

**ABSENT:**

**ADMINISTRATION:**

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

**FACULTY & STAFF:**

Kathy Dowd	Class Trip Advisor
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**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 7:00 p.m.

Mark Driscoll led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**3. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO DSC**

There was no report.

**4. 2027 SENIOR TRIP PROPOSAL**

**On a motion made by Holbrook, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to approve the 2027 Senior Trip proposal to Greece. Motion carried unanimously.**

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Randolph, it was resolved to approve an excused travel day for the 2027 Senior Trip. Motion carried unanimously.**

The 2027 senior trip will be a nine-day journey to Greece, with travel dates tentatively set for April 15 to April 25, 2027, though the exact dates will be finalized closer to departure. The group will fly into Athens, and the itinerary includes sightseeing such as pottery, the Olympic Stadium, the Acropolis, and a short cruise. The trip is organized through EF, a company the group has used before, and the total cost per student is \$4,279, which now includes tips, so chaperones and group leaders do not have to handle cash. There will be a 6:1 student-to-chaperone ratio, and only students and designated chaperones may participate. It was noted that students and chaperones may need excused days off at the start and end of the trip, depending on the final travel dates.

## **5. SPRING MCAS AND ACCOUNTABILITY REPORT**

Academic Director, Dr. Paul Bavuso, reported that the school does not require assistance or intervention from DESE and aims to increase the percentage of students meeting targets from 35% to 75% next year, compared to the state average of 45%. MCAS scores at Blue Hills reflect statewide declines post-pandemic, with English Language Arts and Science scores similar to the state average, and Math slightly below the state average. Student growth in ELA exceeds expectations, while Math growth is typical but could benefit from improved instructional strategies.

Achievement scores have declined, but students are showing relative improvement compared to peers, and curriculum review is ongoing to address these trends. All demographic groups perform within similar ranges, indicating equitable education delivery. 66.2% of students participate in advanced coursework, with a state target of 72.2%. The graduation rate is 99.5%, extended engagement is 99.5%, and the dropout rate is 0.2%, all of which outperform state averages.

It was noted that chronic absenteeism has been reduced by 51% in one year, now at 5.3%, which is significantly better than the state average of 17.8%. School culture, vocational programs, and strong support systems are credited with high attendance and engagement. Declines in Mathematics and Science scores were attributed to pandemic-related learning loss and changes in test timing and graduation requirements.

## **6. SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

### **6.1 DONATION REQUEST**

On a motion made by Norwood, seconded by Holbrook, it was resolved to accept a donation for the health-assisting program. Motion carried unanimously.

### **6.2 DISCOVER PANAMA**

The Superintendent-Director Jill Rossetti attended a global leadership development program in Panama, focusing on global competency and district leadership through hands-on learning, educational innovation, and professional networking. The trip included activities such as visiting the Imbera tribe, participating in a beach cleanup, and conducting experiments with microplastics to highlight environmental issues. The report emphasized the importance of global competency for students, including workforce readiness, technical problem-solving, and cultural fluency. Participants also toured historical sites, learned about local ecology, and participated in cultural exchanges, including traditional dances and local

cuisine. The Superintendent-Director, Jill Rossetti, recommended similar experiences for other members of the school community, noting the value of international exposure and cultural understanding.

**7. DSC CHAIR REPORT**

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Holbrook, it was resolved to allow the ad hoc subcommittee to interview the three selected candidates for the recording secretary position, make the appointment, and offer the job to the chosen candidate. The appointment would then be ratified at the following Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously.**

Thomas Polito reported that an ad hoc subcommittee met before the Board meeting to discuss the process and candidates for the recording secretary position. Approximately 20 applications were received and reviewed. The pool was narrowed down to three candidates, who will be interviewed in early November 2025. The subcommittee requested authorization from the DSC to select a candidate, offer the job, and have the appointment ratified at the following Board meeting. This process aims to expedite onboarding by two to three weeks. All three finalists have relevant experience, particularly in schools, administration, or as a paralegal. None of the candidates are internal applicants; all are external.

**8. TREASURER'S REPORT AND WARRANT**

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to approve the following Warrants:**

**FY25:**

**Warrant #32 for \$68,290.00, Voucher No. 1133**

**FY26:**

**Warrant #16 for \$67,005.61, Voucher No. 1024-1025**

**Warrant #17 for \$57,064.37, Voucher No. 1026**

**Warrant #18 for \$523,526.54, Voucher No. 1027-1028**

**Warrant #19 for \$80,253.47, Voucher No. 1029-1030**

**Warrant #20 for \$56,348, Voucher No. 1031-1032**

**Warrant #21 for \$961,530.44, Voucher No. 1033-1035**

**Warrant #22 for \$73,138.44, Voucher No. 1036-1037**

**Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**9. MINUTES APPROVAL**

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Braintree, it was resolved to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2025, District School Committee meeting as amended. Motion carried unanimously.**

The group reviewed the minutes from September 16, 2025, and noted minor edits. It was agreed to include presenters' names along with their titles in the minutes to improve public understanding.

## **10. BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT**

### **10.1 FY25 END-OF-YEAR FIGURES**

The Business Manager, Elvio Ferreira, presented an overview of the fiscal year 2025 budget, which was efficiently managed with 97.3% of funds spent and a surplus of \$436,236, representing 1.6% of the total budget. Open encumbrances total \$279,119, with some items still in transit and expected to arrive soon. The surplus will be carried into FY26 and used for necessary technical and academic purchases that could not be completed before the fiscal year ended. Surplus funds do not need to be transferred to the state budget and will likely be used for equipment and maintenance supplies, pending auditor recommendations. The Business Manager, Elvio Ferreira, noted that open encumbrances can remain open for an entire year to allow for delayed purchases.

### **10.2 BUDGET CALENDAR APPROVAL**

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Holbrook, it was resolved to approve the budget preparation calendar. Motion carried unanimously.**

### **10.3 REVOLVING ACCOUNTS APPROVAL**

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Braintree, it was resolved to approve the schedule of revolving accounts as described in the packet, allowing those funds to remain active and utilized as necessary moving forward. Motion carried unanimously.**

The Business Manager, Elvio Ferreira, requested that the District School Committee reauthorize certain revolving funds, which require an annual vote to remain active and usable. The Committee discussed whether these funds had been used previously and confirmed that they had. The Business Manager, Elvio Ferreira, clarified that voting on these funds is required by Massachusetts municipal law. The group discussed specific account details and raised questions about balances, such as the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) project funds and regional transportation accounts. There was agreement to take a closer look at accounts with high balances and to consider how those funds might be used to offset costs in the upcoming budget cycle, provided they meet the criteria for each account.

### **10.4 FY26 FIRST QUARTER REPORT**

The first-quarter financial update for FY26 showed that salary and expense spending are on track, with no significant issues identified to date. Capital costs from the 7000 series have not yet been spent; these funds are reserved for stabilization and emergencies.

### **10.5 TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT FORMS**

Travel reimbursement forms were distributed for signatures.

### **10.6 MISCELLANEOUS**

The Business Manager, Elvio Ferreira, and the Superintendent-Director, Jill Rossetti, have begun discussions and negotiations on three district contracts —natural gas, electrical, and transportation —that are expiring soon and will be renegotiated or put out for bid. The district holds a significant number of solar credits that can be rolled over to future bills or requested as a payout, depending on usage and the remaining balance. There are currently two solar contracts and three utility contracts with the general provider.

## 11. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

### 11.1 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

#### 11.1.1 HIGH SCHOOL ENROLLMENT REPORT

The Principal, Geoff Zini, reported that total school enrollment increased by 15 students from last year, reaching 925, which is the highest in the past decade. Grade-by-grade comparisons showed small decreases within cohorts, but overall retention remains strong. Avon's student numbers rose significantly, and overall enrollment across five years is up by eight students, with normal fluctuations by town. During the reporting period, 29 students withdrew: 12 moved out of district, 12 returned to their sending town, one earned a GED, and four left due to placement changes. The acceptance rate for new students is consistent, with about 72–73% of offers accepted each year.

#### 11.1.2 TRAVEL REQUESTS

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to approve the out-of-state and overnight travel requests, which included a culinary trip to Rhode Island and three Skills USA trips. Motion carried unanimously.**

Several out-of-state and overnight travel requests were approved unanimously.

#### 11.1.3 MISCELLANEOUS

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Westwood, it was resolved to permit the donation of one of the spare playhouses to the Clark School for Hearing and Speech. Motion carried unanimously.**

The school had a successful NEASC accreditation visit last week. The visiting team, representing several vocational schools, gave excellent initial feedback. The faculty and staff were commended for their hard work in preparing the self-reflection report. Recommendations will be received over the next several months, followed by a final report to be shared with the community.

Over 400 students attended the homecoming dance, which was hosted by student council advisors and more than 20 chaperones. Spirit weeks have been ongoing for the past two weeks, and the homecoming football game is scheduled for Friday night.

The school's open house is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

The school has a partnership with Clark Schools through the construction tech program. Last year, students built birdhouses and participated in Project Playhouse, receiving donated materials. Clark School requested that one of the extra playhouses (built as mockups) be donated for their use.

## 12. NEXT MEETING

The date of the next District School Committee meeting is November 18, 2025.

## 13. EXECUTIVE SESSION

**On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, the District School Committee voted to go into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, Section 21 (a)(3), , to**

**conduct a hearing on a grievance filed by the Blue Hills Educators Association, which permits a public body to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the Chair so declares. Motion carried unanimously.**

The Committee entered an executive session at 8:10 p.m. Following the executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

**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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Director

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Director

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Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date