



BLUE HILLS

REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

**MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
BHR, ROOM W-218
DECEMBER 16, 2025, 7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS:

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

ABSENT:

Eric Erskine	Braintree
Mark Driscoll	Canton, Chair

ADMINISTRATION:

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

FACULTY & STAFF:

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE:

Nissy Kahuha	Senior Class President
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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.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Taryn Mohan led the attendees in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

4. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE TO DSC

Student Representative, Nissy Kahuha, provided the following highlights:

- Skills USA participants attended events at Ball State and Marlboro, winning three medals (two gold, one silver). The team will continue attending conferences and skill workshops in April and May.

- December was celebrated as “Spirit Month,” with themed days such as Comfy/Cozy Attire Day, Quarter Zipper and Nike Tech Day, Winter White Out Day, Ugly Sweater Day, and Pajama Day before Christmas.
- Winter sports updates included boys’ basketball opening home games on September 4 (Groves) and December 15, 2025, and hockey’s opening night on December 3, 2025.
- Fall sports wrap-up: The girls' soccer team was NVADA champions; the boys' soccer team had a strong season, highlighted by a Thanksgiving win, but lost the NVADA championship game.
- The construction program built a hot chocolate stand for the fire station and donated a playhouse to Clark Schools for Hearing and Speech. Sophomores enjoyed hands-on experiences and interacting with younger children.

5. SUPERINTENDENT-DIRECTOR’S REPORT

5.1 DECOMMISSION REQUESTS

On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to approve the decommissioning of two items: **a Piranha metal-cutting shear from the metal fabrication department and a Samsung electric dryer from the cosmetology department.** Motion carried unanimously.

The Superintendent-Director, Jill Rossetti, presented decommission requests for equipment. The facilities team determined that the dryer was beyond repair.

5.2 STAFF ATTENDANCE REPORT

The Superintendent-Director, Jill Rossetti, presented a summary of staff attendance and absences, noting that current attendance rates for staff and administrators are approximately 91% and 92%, respectively. These figures were considered strong averages, especially since this is DESE's first year collecting this data, which will enable future comparisons. There was mention of occasional confusion in classifying individuals as both staff and teachers, which could affect data accuracy. It was highlighted that, compared to other schools observed, which had attendance rates around 80%, the current rates are favorable.

Members questioned DESE's sudden interest in collecting attendance data, expressing skepticism about the request's motives. Jill Rossetti explained that small group sizes, such as the administrator group with only eight members, can easily skew the data if one or more individuals are absent for reasons like FMLA or personal emergencies. The teacher group, with about 80 members, faces similar challenges, as multiple absences can significantly impact the overall statistics.

Concerns were raised about whether the vocational area is "top-heavy" with administrators. Jill Rossetti responded that, based on comparisons with other districts, Blue Hills is not excessively staffed with administrators and is, in fact, running lean in several areas.

6. DSC CHAIR REPORT

6.1 FINANCE AND ADMINISTRATION REPORT REGARDING PROPOSED STAFFING AND SALARY PLANS

On a motion made by Holbrook, seconded by Dedham, it was resolved to accept the proposed staffing and salary plans submitted by the administration for the 2027 budget year. This included an anticipated salary increase of approximately 6%. Motion carried unanimously.

Taryn Mohan presented the DSC chair report, which included an update from the Finance and Administration subcommittee. The main topic was the proposed staffing and salary plans for the 2027 budget. All relevant information had been previously emailed to committee members for review. The Committee discussed moving forward with accepting the anticipated salary increase, projected at around 6%. It was clarified that the report did not propose any new positions for the following year. The only increases in the budget are due to salary adjustments and lane changes, not the addition of a new staff member.

6.2 INTRODUCTION OF RECORDING SECRETARY/CLERK – CAROL MALONEY

Taryn Mohan introduced Carol Maloney as the newly hired District School Committee secretary. Carol Maloney was described as a retired teacher, administrative assistant, and businesswoman with extensive experience in both public and private school systems.

6.3 CD COMPETENCY DETERMINATION

On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to accept the Competency Determination as proposed by the administration, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Department of Education. Motion carried unanimously.

6.4 MISCELLANEOUS

The Committee members who will be able to attend the John Abigail Adams Scholarship presentation were thanked.

7. TREASURER'S REPORT AND WARRANT

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

FY26:

Warrant #29 for \$105,842.61 - Voucher Numbers 1051-1052

Warrant #30 for \$759,106.79 - Voucher Numbers 1053-1062

Warrant #31 for \$675,895.48 - Voucher Numbers 1063-1065 plus manual check

Warrant #32 for \$749,068.85 - Voucher Numbers 1066-1068

Warrant #33 for \$241,856.51 - Voucher numbers 1069-1070

Motion carried unanimously.

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

8. MINUTES APPROVAL

On a motion made by Dedham, seconded by Norwood, it was resolved to postpone the approval of the minutes of the November 18, 2025, District School Committee meeting to the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

9. BUSINESS MANAGER REPORT

9.1 Independent EOYR 2024

Elvio Ferreira, Business Manager, stated that the draft FY24 end-of-year report (EOYR) from the auditing firm contains no significant issues. Still, two items require clarification to ensure the final report is clean. The team will provide the necessary clarifications to the auditing firm.

9.2 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.

10. ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

10.1 PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

10.1.1 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN AND STRATEGY PLAN INITIATIVES FOR THE SCHOOL YEAR

The Principal, Geoff Zini, highlighted the following updates:

- The school is in the final year of a three-year strategic plan, which is built on four pillars: teaching, learning support, primary culture and community engagement, and effective recruitment and retention of staff.
- Each year, a school improvement plan is developed with feedback from lead teachers, the school council, and the administrative team, and it aligns with the strategic plan.
- Progress has been made on all major initiatives, with some being modified over time; most are ongoing rather than completed in a single step.
- A comprehensive review of the curriculum is continuously conducted using a school-wide bias assessment tool.
- This year's improvement plan focuses on key initiatives scheduled for the third year, such as forming new teams, introducing new electives, and piloting AI literacy in classrooms.
- Efforts to improve school culture include implementing the "vision of a graduate" and gathering student feedback through surveys.
- Community engagement is promoted through social media and informational videos, while staff recruitment and retention strategies are being developed.
- The school council continues to provide feedback and fulfill its mandate for community involvement in planning.
- As the current strategic plan concludes, a new plan is being developed with input from various stakeholders, aiming for completion in 2026.

11. FUTURE BUSINESS

The date of the next District School Committee meeting is January 20, 2026.

12. EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was no Executive Session required.

13. 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 7:30 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