Bourne Public Schools

BOURNE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Session Meeting Minutes

DATE: March 4, 2026
TIME: 6:00PM
PLACE: Bourne High School Media Center, 75 Waterhouse Rd., Bourne, MA

ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Rachel Agrillo; Chair Donel Beals; Kendellynn Gagne; Kathleen Quintal; Kerrie Scofield; Student Advisory Representative Zoe Noonan

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Maria Heaney; Kari MacRae

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT: Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent; Christine Borning, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching; Kristin Donahue, Director of Special Education and Student Services; Jordan Geist, Director of Business Service; Chris Oliver, Director of Technology

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Donel Beals calls the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

Chair Beals leads the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC INPUT

No public comments are made.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Bourne Public Schools

- **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT,** *Donel Beals, School Committee Chair*
    - Correspondence & Announcements-Chair Beals has no announcements.
- **STUDENT ADVISORY REPORT -** Student Spotlight: Bournedale Elementary School
    - Taylor Simard highlights recent events at Bourne Elementary School. She says students celebrated the 100th day of school with fun classroom activities, including aging-themed projects. A family math night brought students and caregivers together for interactive, pirate-themed learning, helping students practice skills in a supportive environment. She notes that kindness was a major focus: students participated in Kindness Week, completed challenges, and created crafts to build empathy and community, one class even made and donated blankets, reflecting on the impact of their actions. Other activities included Groundhog Day crafts, a district-wide spirit week, and visits from Bourne hockey players who read to students. She says students also enjoyed outdoor learning before the blizzard and welcomed a visit from the Massachusetts Commissioner of Elementary and Secondary Education, who observed classrooms and met with students and staff. Kindergarten and preschool registration for next year is now open. Taylor also notes events taking place at other schools include: Bourne Intermediate School: upcoming STEAMposium (March 26), recent All-Star Review, and Mr. Kelsch received recognition from Fun 107. Bourne Middle School: hosted a bingo night. Bourne High School: upcoming "Knock Down Hunger" food drive (March 20), DECA state competition participation, and Meet the Coaches Night for spring sports (March 10).
- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT,** *Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent of Schools*
    - Announcements & Accolades:
        - Events: District Calendar - Past and Upcoming Events Report-
            - BES- Mrs. Carpenito highlights events at BIS including: Read Across America Week with schoolwide reading activities, spirit days, and classroom book discussions, ending with Books and Bagels and a teacher book swap, First grade visit from Woods Hole Sea Grant educator Grace focusing on ocean impact and environmental awareness, PTA Family Fun Night with DJ Ouch on March 12, WIN (What I Need) groups extended by one week based on student request, Kindergarten Curriculum Night (Part 2 on March 19) where families participate in classroom activities and take-home learning games, Second trimester grading period extended to March 20 with report cards sent home March 27, Book Fair on March 26 and district-wide STEAMposium at the Intermediate School, Transition planning for Grades 1–2 including student council-led "Passport to BIS," step-up activities, and opportunities for students to explore the new school, meet staff, and share questions or concerns about the transition.
            - BIS-Mrs. Carpenito highlights BIS events on behalf of Mrs. Colbert including: returning from an unexpected two-week break with strong excitement, positive energy, and quick re-establishment of school routines, parent-teacher conferences prior to break strengthening communication, celebrating student progress, and reinforcing home–school partnerships, Read Across America Week with mystery readers, a schoolwide book swap, flashlight reading, Peter Pan movie night, and a culminating book character parade with themed dress-up, upcoming World Down Syndrome Day

celebration (March 21) featuring a Rock Your Socks drive and spirit day promoting inclusion and empathy, MCAS testing schedule for Grades 3–5 (March 23–26) with students prepared and ready to demonstrate their learning.

- BMS- Mrs. Sleboda highlights events at BMS including: Bingo Night with strong family turnout, and $800 raised for Nature's Classroom, supported by staff, sponsors, and organizers, "Lucky for Life" initiative rewarding students for positive behavior with prizes like time with the comfort dog, lunch with the principal, and homework passes, Irish-themed decorations in the main office adding to school spirit, PTA-sponsored March Madness event (March 13) with games, food, and activities, free for students thanks to KAM Appliances sponsorship and family volunteers, World Down Syndrome Day (March 20) with a "Lots of Socks" campaign promoting inclusion and awareness, Drama production of *The Chronicles of Jane* in progress with a performance scheduled for May 8, Read Across America Week celebrations including Drop Everything and Read, book voting, trivia, themed days, and library activities, Winter sports awards and upcoming spring sports Meet the Coaches Night, and planning family communication materials and transition events for incoming students.
- BHS- Dr. Maguire highlights events at BHS including: Girls and Women in Sports Day celebrating opportunities in athletics, with student representatives attending a statewide event in Boston, Marine Biological Laboratory trip providing students with three days of hands-on scientific research, drama program competing in the METG Statewide Festival and hosting a preliminary round, including a preview performance and competition focused on themes of medicine and addiction, winter sports awards night and upcoming spring Meet the Coaches Night, Hope Squad students attending a regional summit to strengthen peer support and mental health initiatives, DECA students traveling to the state competition (March 12–14), art students visiting the New England Aquarium (March 18) for a culminating project, Best Buddies hosting a "Rock Your Socks" event for World Down Syndrome Day (March 20), guest lecture from Mass Maritime on machines and gears for physics and engineering students, Early College informational meeting (March 18) for students and families, and rising 8th grade welcome and information night (March 31) to support transition to high school.
- District-wide-Dr. Zhou says the STEAMposium will take place on March 26th and is open to all schools and community members.

- Superintendent's Goals- Dr. Zhou says the Superintendent goals were previously shared in members' folders and closely align with the district's strategic plan. She encourages members to review, ask questions, suggest edits, and vote to approve so the work can move forward.
- Transition Update-Dr. Zhou shares transition planning updates in a single, ongoing document with consistent headings across months. She highlights key events including: ESP staff preference survey delayed but expected soon to inform placements and scheduling, Anticipated vacancies posted with hiring processes underway despite pending budget approval, FY27 budget planning ongoing with upcoming discussions with town officials regarding potential deficits and maintaining a conservative approach, Facilities planning in progress including furniture, moving, and space use plans across schools,

Draft Grade 8 schedule at the high school developed with input from staff to support both integration and age-specific needs, Grade-level program adjustments underway (including new opportunities such as Grade 5 Spanish) with a focus on intentional transitions rather than simple relocation, Pre-K expansion planning in progress with Champions/Kindercare including pricing, parent surveys, and site visits to evaluate full-day program options, Increased communication efforts including updated FAQs, parent information nights, and transition events scheduled from March through June, Ongoing focus on supporting student transitions through assemblies, visits, and clear communication. She says the overall transition process remains on track with strong collaboration despite minor delays.

- Teaching and Learning Update-Mrs. Borning says the district is recognizing Music in Our Schools Month, Theater in Our Schools Month, and Youth Art Month by celebrating the arts across all schools, with many performances planned for April. She says schools participated in Read Across America Week, and thanks literacy teams and library staff for organizing activities. She notes that the district report card was shared with families, and an upcoming professional learning day on March 20 will include microaggressions training for elementary staff and collaborative planning for secondary educators, particularly around grade-level transitions. She says the district is also preparing for the STEAMposium on March 26, which will be a space-themed event featuring hands-on activities and community partnerships. Mrs. Borning updates on career and technical program applications noting that the Part B application for the Advanced Manufacturing pathway has been submitted and is awaiting a decision, the Early College Part B application was submitted in late February, and the Chapter 74 graphic design and visual communications application is nearing submission, with a site visit expected as a next step. She thanks staff for their extensive work on these complex applications. She also highlights grant funding including: At BMS, $22,000 from the Mass Life Sciences grant for science equipment, $5,800 for MyCAP career exploration (pending approval), with an additional $18,000 Project Lead the Way grant still pending. At BHS, the district secured approximately $304,800 in competitive grants, including $25,000 Project Lead the Way (multi-year), $75,000 Skills Capital grant, $10,000 additional Project Lead the Way funding, $10,000 Genocide Education grant, $25,000 Work-Based Learning grant, $50,000 Innovation Pathways Implementation grant, $35,000 Career Connected Learning grant, $15,000 Innovation Careers Planning grant, $25,000 Early College Planning grant, and $7,000 MyCAP grant, with additional Project Lead the Way funding still pending.
- Budget and Facilities Update-Mr. Geist gives a huge shout out to the maintenance and custodial teams, who worked tirelessly through the blizzard overnight and into the following day. He extends additional appreciation to the town administrator for coordinating power restoration, securing equipment support, and maintaining communication throughout the storm, as well as to the Chief Esip and BPD for updates on road conditions. He says the high school experienced power outages that resulted in approximately $2,000 in food loss. He highlights continued facilities progress at the high school, including in-house painting projects to brighten hallways, removal of outdated fixtures, and upcoming installation of new water bottle filling stations. He says the Jackson Field bleacher project has been delayed due to weather and will still be under construction during graduation, though the field itself will remain usable. The BMS roof project is moving forward through the MSBA process, with contracts and planning underway and designs for the wastewater treatment plant refurbishment are expected to be completed soon, allowing work to proceed over the summer.
- Technology Update- Chris Oliver reports that network infrastructure performed well during the storm, with generators and battery backups effectively protecting equipment from power fluctuations. He says

the technology department has begun planning for summer grade-level transitions, compiling logistics related to software systems and equipment, with further communication to staff expected in the coming weeks. Chair Beals asks whether the schools have generators. Mr. Oliver says all schools except the high school have generators; however, critical systems are protected by battery backups that cover the brief 10–15 second gap between power loss and generator activation. He explains that these backups prevent damage to expensive servers, and most server rooms across the district are now equipped with them, with no servers housed at the high school.

- Student Services and Special Education Update- Kristin Donahue recognizes KT Alexander and Susie Blunt for the Special Olympics banner raising at the pep rally. She notes that the final submission for the civil rights component of the TFM has been completed with confirmation expected soon. She says work continues on planning the extended summer program, teacher postings are expected to be released shortly, and rescheduling and maintaining planned activities following snow cancellations is underway.

- **SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUB COMMITTEE & DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - Curriculum Subcommittee- Kerrie Scofield says the subcommittee meets tomorrow at 9:00.
  - Policy Subcommittee- Chair Beals says the subcommittee meeting was postponed.
  - Budget and Facilities Subcommittee- Kendellynn Gagne says the subcommittee had to postpone and will meet in March.
  - SEPAC- Kristin Donahue says a brief survey was sent to interested participants to gauge preferred timing and format (e.g., daytime or hybrid) for an early literacy presentation, with results to inform planning for a session in late March or April.
  - Cape Cod Collaborative- Chair Beals says does not believe they met last month.
  - District Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee- Mrs. Borning reports on behalf of Jessee Clements that the committee met yesterday to follow up on their January meeting with Dr. Kalise Wornum, and is looking forward to continuing the conversation when they meet with her again in March. She says the committee is also planning to host a table at the STEAMposium to highlight influential women who have made significant contributions in STEAM fields in recognition of Women's History Month.
  - District Technology Committee- Chris Oliver says the committee will be meeting the last week of March.
  - District School Wellness Advisory Committee (SWAC)- Mrs. Borning says the committee meets quarterly and will meet again towards the end of the year..

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- N/A

6. ACTION ITEMS

- Vote to approve Warrants and Payroll

Kerrie Scofield motions to the approve warrants and payroll; Seconded by Kendellynn Gagne; Voice vote passes 5-0-0 (Student Representative Zoe Noonan not eligible to vote)

- Vote to approve regular session minutes of: February 4, 2026- Minutes not available for approval
- Vote to approve Superintendent's Goals

Kerrie Scofield motions to the approve the 2025-2027 Superintendent's Goals; Seconded by Kendellynn Gagne; Voice vote passes 6-0-0

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Recognition of Music In Our Schools Month; Youth Art Month; Youth Theatre Month - April
b. Continued discussion about facilities use planning
c. Student Spotlight
d. Final Approval - MS Nature's Classroom & Washington DC Trip - April
e. Recognition of BHS Unified National Banner Champion School
f. Navigator Awards - June

8. ADJOURN-*Kerrie Scofield motions to adjourn regular session; Seconded by Kendellynn Gagne; Voice vote passes 6-0-0*

Regular Session ended at 7:02 PM

List of documents and exhibits used (GL c.30A, sect 22(a))

Agenda Item	Document
0	School Committee Agenda

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jessica Moerman
Recording Secretary