

The Subcommittee on School Committee Policies met on Friday, March 13, 2026, in the Virtual Zoom Meeting. Present were Kathy Bent, Courtney West, Sara Ahern, Kristen Harmon, and Jen Kruczek.

Ms. Bent called the meeting to order at 1:00PM.

Minutes

- Motion by Dr. Ahern, seconded by Ms. Harmon, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to approve the meeting Minutes of January 30, 2026.

Review Policy JEB (Entrance Age Policy)

- Dr. Ahern wanted to change the date a student must be 5 years old to start school from September 1 to September 8 and remove the language in red. The Committee agreed.

Review Policy BEDH (Public Comment at School Committee Meetings)

- Ms. Bent stated Committee members have asked to be able to respond to public comments. She went to a webinar and their recommendation was to change the public comment policy to limit people who could speak at the meetings to taxpayers of Barnstable and those affiliated with Barnstable Public Schools. Town Councilors can respond to public comment. They represent individuals. MASC recommends that districts do not debate or respond to public comment.
- Ms. West liked that public comment is limited to 3 minutes each person. She does not mind opening it up to allow for responses to public comment.
- The Committee discussed who is allowed to speak at public comment.
- Ms. Bent asked to add the first sentence of #3 to what she reads during the School Committee meeting.
- Dr. Ahern stated if the speaker is not a student, teacher, resident, or taxpayer, then it is at the Chair's discretion to let an individual speak. There are community organizations that might have something to share that is of public interest. She suggested under #2, adding "unless otherwise permitted by the Chair" for who can speak. The Committee agreed.

Review Policy BEDH-E (Guidelines for Public Comment)

- Ms. Bent changed individuals having to give their "address" to "city/town." The Committee agreed.
- Dr. Ahern stated it is common to not have School Committee responses to public comment.

Next Steps

- Policies JEB, BEDH, and BEDH-E will be on the March 18 School Committee meeting.

Motion by Ms. West, seconded by Ms. Harmon, and the Committee voted, unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jen Kruczek
Executive Assistant