



FAIRHAVEN SCHOOL COMMITTEE MINUTES
September 16, 2026

FAIRHAVEN TOWN CLERK
RCVD 2026 OCT 15 AM 9:32

MEMBERS PRESENT: Nicole Pacheco, Erik Andersen, Kelly Ochoa, Donna McKenna, Michael Sherman, Erik Baumann

STAFF PRESENT: Superintendent Tara Kohler, Assistant Superintendent Mark Balestracci, School Business Manager Nicole Potter

The meeting was called to order by Mrs. Pacheco at 6:30 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made by Mr. Sherman to approve the August 25, 2026 Acushnet Subcommittee Minutes, seconded by Mrs. Pacheco, passed with one abstention of Mr. Andersen (2-0-1).

A motion was made by Mr. Andersen to approve the August 25, 2026 Policy Subcommittee Minutes, seconded by Mrs. Pacheco, passed with one abstention of Mr. Baumann (2-0-1).

A motion was made by Ms. Ochoa to approve the August 26, 2026 Regular Session Minutes with the amendment to the fourth paragraph on the second page to state repair of flood damage at East Fairhaven Elementary was completed this week, seconded by Mr. Andersen, passed with one abstention of Ms. McKenna (5-0-1).

Reports & Recommendations of the Superintendent:

Superintendent Kohler told the Committee that both Elizabeth Hastings Middle School and East Fairhaven Elementary School were recognized as 2025-2026 Special Olympics Massachusetts Unified Champion Schools. (Attachment A).

Superintendent Kohler stated the opening of the school year went very well, with positive energy among staff and excitement from new employees. She expressed appreciation for everyone's efforts in making the opening successful. As always, the first month will focus on making minor adjustments and resolving any operational issues. She also stated some concerns were raised about morning arrival at the high school. The principal has listened to feedback and is working to address these issues. Students arriving early by bus are directed to a supervised area. Superintendent Kohler stated the principal was commended for listening to staff concerns and working to improve school operations. Two of his main priorities are addressing vaping and reducing student absenteeism.

A motion was made by Ms. Ochoa to approve the list of Clubs & Advisor positions (Attachment B) funded in the Unit A Collective Bargaining Agreement, seconded by Ms. McKenna, passed (6-0).

Assistant Superintendent Balestracci updated the Committee on the repointing project on the Fairhaven High School chimneys, on both gables. He stated it is progressing on schedule with expected completion by the end of October.

Mrs. Potter stated they are working on the next steps on the Elevator Project which involves preparing a request for qualifications for an architectural firm to develop a scope and bid documents, in order for us to go out to bid.

Superintendent Kohler provided an update on the SMEC partnership and the approved roof replacement project at the Tripp School. SMEC confirmed its intention to continue the partnership. Discussions are ongoing regarding a long term agreement and potential collaboration on HVAC improvements. She also emphasized the educational and financial value of maintaining the partnership, stating that ending it could cost the town approximately \$300,000 more annually. She reaffirmed her commitment to following the Town Meeting's decision, maintaining the partnership, and ensuring a safe learning environment for students. SMEC will arrange a visit for the School Committee and Select Board to observe its programs in operation. Superintendent Kohler will also attend the SMEC board meeting on September 29 to continue discussions.

Superintendent Kohler shared a request from the Town Administrator for a joint meeting with the Select Board to discuss the budget process and improve communication. The Committee agreed that the Finance Subcommittee should meet first and report back to the full Committee on October 14. Superintendent Kohler will request potential meeting dates with the Select Board after the October 14th School Committee Meeting.

The Committee discussed a letter from Mr. Trapillo requesting information ahead of the joint meeting. The Chair will contact the Select Board Chair to clarify whether the request represents the position of the full board and will report back at the next meeting. The possibility of waiving Net School Spending requirements was brought up in Mr. Trapillo's letter was discussed. It was noted that the District does not qualify for an exception, this typically applies to significant financial hardship or changes in revenue.

Mrs. Potter informed the Committee that there will be an article for the School Department in the Special Town Meeting Warrant. The Article is for the insurance proceeds to repair flood damages to East Fairhaven Elementary School caused by the 2026 Blizzard in the amount of \$168,628.08. She noted this is standard practice.

Upcoming Events:

The Acushnet Subcommittee Meeting will be September 23, 2026. The next School Committee meeting is October 14, 2026.

New Business:

A motion was made by Ms. Ochoa to surplus four damaged risers from Elizabeth Hastings Middle School, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved (6-0).

The Committee received the Draft AI policy for a first read. Katherine Ware, Technology Engagement and Library / Media Coordinator reviewed the policy with the Committee fielding any questions. (Attachment C).

A motion was made by Ms. Ochoa to award Full Scope Contracting for the Fairhaven High School Restroom Facility Project in the amount of \$88,000, seconded by Ms. McKenna, approved (6-0).

Unfinished Business:

A motion was made by Mr. Sherman to table the Acushnet Tuition Agreement discussion, seconded by Ms. Ochoa, passed (6-0).

Questions from Individual Committee Members:

Mr. Andersen asked what a School Council is. Superintendent Kohler explained that school councils are building specific governing bodies established under state law and are separate from PTOs. Councils typically include up to two parent representatives, staff, school committee members, and community representatives. Principals oversee the councils and conduct elections when more than two parents express interest. She stated they help review student handbooks. The Committee noted that recruiting parent volunteers for school councils has been challenging in recent years.

Mr. Andersen asked for a reminder of where the \$30,000 to save the PreSchool Program at Leroy Wood Elementary came from. Superintendent Kohler stated she did not have that information with her and would email the Committee the answer to that question once she looked into it.

Mr. Sherman asked if the \$30,000 in phone bills was monthly, or for the year. Mrs. Potter stated that this is part of the Avaya system the Town utilized and it is for the year.

A motion was made by Ms. Ochoa to adjourn, seconded by Ms. McKenna, roll call vote, passed (6-0).
Adjourned at 7:44 pm.

Sheri Souza

Secretary to the School Committee

Approved, October 14, 2026



August, 2026

Kyle Alves
Elizabeth Hastings Middle School
30 School Street
Fairhaven, MA 02743

Dear Principal Alves,

Congratulations!

On behalf of Special Olympics MA, we are honored to declare Elizabeth Hastings Middle School an official '25-'26 Special Olympics Massachusetts Unified Champion School! Under your leadership, the staff and students have demonstrated their commitment to meaningful inclusion through unified sports, inclusive youth leadership and whole school engagement.

The significance of being a Unified Champion School cannot be overstated. This designation showcases your school's dedication to embracing diversity, promoting equity, and empowering students to be change advocates. By providing a platform for students with and without intellectual disabilities to collaborate in sports, education, and community engagement, you are creating a more accepting world that values every individual's unique contribution.

As we begin another school year, we look forward to continuing our partnership and providing resources and tools to support your school community. You have received, or will soon receive, an email with a memorandum of understanding for you to complete. This annual form confirms your commitment to inclusion as a Unified Champion School for the new school year. You will also receive an invitation to our upcoming Unified Champion School Conference on Friday, October 23, 2026, and I strongly encourage you to attend.

Enclosed, please find a UCS certificate that you can display proudly to share the great work your entire school is doing to build a more inclusive culture at your school. Thank you again to you and your dedicated teachers, coaches, athletic directors, counselors, advisors and students who made this possible! We look forward to working with Elizabeth Hastings Middle School to forge new paths towards inclusion at all levels within your school district.

Best,

Patti Doherty
Vice President of Schools and Community Development
Special Olympics Massachusetts
512 Forest Street
Marlborough, MA 01752

**Special
Olympics**
Massachusetts



**Unified
Champion
Schools**

Presented to

Elizabeth Hastings Middle School

Congratulations!

You are recognized by Special Olympics Massachusetts as a 2025-2026 Unified Champion School.
Thank you for your school's commitment to fostering a socially inclusive school climate that emphasizes acceptance, respect and human dignity for all students.

#ChooseToInclude

Patti Doherty

Patti Doherty

Vice President of Schools and Community Partnerships

August, 2026

Date

FAIRHAVEN PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT INTERNAL JOB POSTING

Date: September 2, 2026
Memo To: All Schools

Application Deadline: September 16, 2026
Position Begins: 26-27 SY

Salary Pursuant to the Unit A, Collective Bargaining Agreement

Advisors-Elizabeth Hastings Middle School

National Junior Honor Society
Student Government/Community Service
Yearbook
Jazz Band

Advisors-Fairhaven High School

Senior Class – Class of 2026
Junior Class – Class of 2027
Sophomore Class – Class of 2028
Freshman Class – Class of 2029
Honor Society
Student Government/Student Council
Yearbook

Music/Drama Advisors

Band Master
Band Master-Assistant
Elementary Band
Jazz Band-FHS
Music Festivals
Fall Production
Fall Assistant
Spring
Production
Spring Asst (2)

Co-Curricular Stipends

Art Club-FHS
Environmental Club-FHS
Media Production Club-FHS
Math Team-FHS
Science Club-FHS

Student Interest Clubs*

East Elementary (1)
Wood Elementary (1)
Middle School (4)
High School (5)

*Must use application provided by building principal

Saturday Suspension – High School

Saturday Suspension

**All positions are subject to
appropriation and
participation levels**

Please submit letters of interest by clicking the following link or QR Code:

[FPS Internal Job Application](#)



(The FPS Internal Job Application Form can also be found on the FPS Staff Resource Hub)

The Fairhaven Public School system does not and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, gender identity, age, national origin, ancestry, ethnicity, disability, pregnancy/parenting status, marital status, sexual orientation, homelessness, veteran or military status, or political affiliation in any of its programs, activities, employment practices, provision of and access to programs and services, as well as selection of volunteers, vendors and employers recruiting at the Fairhaven Public Schools. The School Committee reserves the right to alter qualifications if deemed to be in the best interest of the Fairhaven Public Schools.

Artificial Intelligence Policy

Fairhaven Public Schools

Prepared for Fairhaven Public Schools

Draft for Review

This document is structured from the district's prior draft policy, revised DESE-aligned guidelines, PEA²K cohort workbook language, and the Playlab analysis recommendations.

Board-level governance document. This policy sets district expectations, oversight structures, and required safeguards for the use of artificial intelligence across teaching, learning, and operations.

1. Purpose

Fairhaven Public Schools recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI), including generative AI, is increasingly present in teaching, learning, and district operations. This policy establishes the district's governing expectations for safe, ethical, equitable, transparent, and educationally sound use of AI. The district's approach is grounded in a Human-AI-Human model: people begin the work with purpose and context, AI may provide support within approved boundaries, and people retain responsibility for review, judgment, and final decisions.

PEAK also made suggestion to input something about Portrait of a Graduate (Human to Machine Contact) – refer to literature review articles 56, 98, 101)--this is where it already fits in.

2. Scope

- This policy applies to all district employees, contractors, volunteers, students, and third-party vendors using or providing AI-enabled tools in connection with Fairhaven Public Schools.
- It applies to instructional use, professional use, operational use, student use, procurement, communications, data handling, assessment, and decision-making.
- This policy should be read alongside the district's Acceptable Use Policy, student handbook, code of conduct, curriculum expectations, privacy notices, and all applicable federal and Massachusetts laws.

3. Governing Principles

Principle	District Commitment
Authenticity and Learning	AI may support learning, but it may not replace student thinking, educator judgment, or authentic demonstration of understanding.
Privacy and Protection	Student, staff, and family data must be protected. Personally identifiable, confidential, or sensitive

Principle	District Commitment
	information may not be entered into unauthorized AI systems.
Safety and Legal Compliance	Only vetted and approved AI tools may be used in district work. The district will maintain compliance with FERPA, COPPA, PPRA, IDEA, Section 504, ADA, Title VI, Title IX, CIPA, and 603 CMR 23.00.
Transparency and Accountability	District users must be clear when AI meaningfully contributes to content, decisions, recommendations, or communication. Human users remain accountable for all final outputs and decisions.
Equity and Inclusive Access	AI implementation must address access, use, and design divides and must be monitored for bias, accessibility barriers, and disparate impact across student groups.
Human Oversight	AI may inform work but may not independently make high-stakes educational, disciplinary, employment, or service access decisions.

PEAK's Suggestion: *"Fairhaven Public Schools is committed to building AI Literacy for all students as a core educational priority. The district will align AI literacy instruction with MA DLCS standards and embed topics including algorithmic bias, data privacy, misinformation, ethical decision-making, and environmental impacts across content areas and grade levels – not solely in technology courses"*

4. Governance and Oversight

- The district shall maintain a cross-departmental AI Governance Committee with representation from instruction and curriculum, educational technology, special education and student services, data and assessment, finance and operations, human resources, legal and compliance, and family and community engagement.
- The Committee will oversee phased implementation, review proposed tools and practices, coordinate policy review, monitor equity and compliance indicators, and issue an annual AI impact update.
- Designated point people in each department will coordinate local implementation and surface emerging needs, risks, and promising practices.
- The AI Governance Committee will establish annual student advisory input processes, including focus groups and surveys, to gather student perspectives on AI tool use, classroom norms, and reported concerns. Student voice will be documented and used to inform policy revisions and tool selection

- **Peak's Suggestion:** *Fairhaven Public Schools is committed to a transparent, multilingual communication with families about how AI is used in classrooms and operations. The district will host at least one annual AI literacy session for families, offered with multilingual supports, and will share plain-language summaries of AI tool use through the district website and AI Hub. Family input will be solicited through surveys and incorporated into the annual policy review.*

District Roles and Responsibilities

Role	Responsibility Summary
Superintendent and School Committee	- Approve the policy and major revisions. - Ensure district oversight, resourcing, and alignment with strategic priorities.
AI Governance Committee	- Recommend tool approval criteria, monitor implementation, and review district data on use, access, bias, and effectiveness. - Support annual updates to policy and guidelines and coordinate stakeholder engagement.
Administrators and Supervisors	- Ensure staff implementation aligns with district expectations, approved tools, and professional responsibilities. - Support communication with families and ensure academic integrity and student discipline processes are fair and instruction-centered.
Educators and Staff	- Use only approved tools, protect data, verify outputs, and model transparent, ethical use. - Design assignments and assessments with clear expectations for permitted AI use.
Students	- Follow district, school, classroom, and assignment-specific expectations for AI use. - Disclose AI use as required, protect personal information, verify information, and remain responsible for submitted work.
Vendors	- Disclose where and how AI is used, how data is handled, what safeguards exist, and what bias-mitigation and accessibility measures are in place.

5. District-Wide Student AI Acceptable Use Scale

Teachers will identify the applicable AI-use level for an assignment, task, or course activity. Students must follow that direction and disclose use accordingly.

Level	Meaning
Level 0 - No AI Use	No AI assistance is permitted. Work must be fully student-generated unless an accessibility accommodation has been approved.
Level 1 - AI for Idea Generation Only	AI may be used for brainstorming, questioning, or planning. Students disclose use and retain the substance of the work.
Level 2 - AI-Assisted Editing	AI may be used to improve clarity, organization, or mechanics of student-created work. Students disclose use and preserve authorship.
Level 3 - AI for Specified Tasks	AI may complete teacher-defined support tasks such as generating examples, practice questions, or structured feedback. Students disclose and, when requested, cite prompts or interactions.
Level 4 - Full AI Use with Human Oversight	AI is intentionally integrated into the learning task. Students cite or disclose use, critically evaluate outputs, and demonstrate original reasoning, reflection, and accountability.

6. Required Safeguards

Procurement and Vendor Review

- All AI-enabled products must undergo district review before approval or renewal.
- Vendor review must include AI capability disclosure, data use and retention terms, training data or model governance information when available, accessibility documentation, bias-mitigation evidence, age requirements, and legal compliance assurances.
- Special education, multilingual learner, instructional, technology, and compliance perspectives must be included in the review process when student-facing tools are considered.

Equity and Accessibility

- The district will monitor access divide, use divide, and design divide concerns through regular review cycles.
- All student-facing AI implementation must consider multilingual learners, students with disabilities, students from under-resourced households, and historically marginalized groups.
- The district will review disaggregated data related to access, use patterns, outcomes, and reported harms and will take corrective action when disparities are identified.

PEAK's Suggestion: "The district will conduct an annual equity review of AI implementation that disaggregates data by race/ethnicity, disability status, multilingual learner status, and socioeconomic background. The review will examine: device and internet access, AI tool usage rates, academic outcomes in AI-integrated settings, and reported harms or concerns. Results will be shared with the AI Governance Committee and used to inform corrective action and policy updates."

Phased Implementation

Phase	Focus
Exploration	Build shared AI literacy, establish governance, inventory current tools, and conduct initial equity and compliance review.
Piloting	Test vetted tools in limited contexts with clear goals, staff support, and structured feedback.
Scaling	Expand only after review of pilot evidence, equity considerations, training readiness, and legal compliance.
Sustaining and Adapting	Review annually, update guidance as technology changes, and maintain feedback loops with staff, students, and families.

7. Prohibited Uses

STAFF-Prohibited Uses

Staff members are prohibited from:

- Using non-approved AI tools for district work, instructional planning, communications, or any task involving student or staff data when district approval is required.
- Entering protected or confidential information into any AI tool — including student records, IEP content, disciplinary records, health information, staff evaluations, personally identifiable information (PII), or any other confidential district data.
- Uploading, entering, or prompting AI tools with any image, photo, or visual likeness of a student. This includes photographs, screenshots, video stills, or any other visual representation that could identify a student. Doing so may violate FERPA, COPPA, and Massachusetts Student Records Regulations (603 CMR 23.00), and may expose students to risks including facial recognition, data profiling, or the generation of harmful synthetic media.
- Using AI to generate, render, alter, or produce any image depicting a student — real or synthetic — including AI-generated illustrations, avatars, or deepfake-style content that uses or approximates a student's likeness, without explicit written consent and district approval. This prohibition applies even when the intent is educational or benign.
- Using AI to make or finalize high-stakes decisions regarding grading, discipline, placement, eligibility, hiring, staff evaluation, or access to services without meaningful human review, professional judgment, and documented authority. AI may inform — it may never decide.
- Relying on AI detection tools as definitive evidence of academic misconduct or as the primary method for identifying integrity violations. Detection tools are unreliable and may disproportionately flag multilingual learners and students with disabilities.

- Using AI to impersonate another person, generate deceptive or harmful content, misrepresent authorship, or produce content intended to mislead students, families, or colleagues.
- Allowing AI-generated content to replace professional judgment, grade-level expectations, required accessibility accommodations, or civil rights protections under IDEA, Section 504, ADA, Title VI, or Title IX.
- Using AI to monitor students or staff for surveillance purposes — including analyzing classroom interactions, tracking movements, or generating behavioral profiles — in ways that infringe on privacy rights or create a culture of surveillance.
- Deploying AI tools with students before those tools have been vetted for data privacy compliance (FERPA, COPPA, 603 CMR 23.00), accessibility standards, and bias mitigation.

Human-AI-Human Reminder for Staff: All AI use should begin with a human question or need, and every AI output must be reviewed, critically evaluated, and approved by a qualified human before it influences any decision, communication, or instructional practice.

STUDENTS — Prohibited Uses

Students are prohibited from:

- Using non-approved AI tools for schoolwork unless explicitly permitted by their teacher for a specific assignment or purpose.
- Entering personal or private information into any AI tool — including their own or others' full names, addresses, student ID numbers, health information, or any information about other students or staff.
- Uploading, sharing, or entering any photo, image, or visual likeness of themselves or any other student into an AI tool. This includes school photos, selfies, screenshots, or any image that could identify a person. Student images are protected under FERPA and COPPA, and sharing them with AI platforms — even casually — can put your privacy and safety at risk.
- Using AI to generate, alter, or create any image that depicts a real student, staff member, or other person — including deepfakes, AI-generated avatars, or manipulated photos. Creating or sharing such content is a serious violation of privacy and dignity, and may also violate district bullying and harassment policies and Massachusetts law (see Massachusetts Bill H.4744: An Act to Prevent Abuse and Exploitation).
- Submitting AI-generated content as their own original work without disclosure, unless the assignment explicitly permits and defines that use.
- Using AI to impersonate another person, create fake or deceptive content, generate harmful or harassing material, or manipulate media to bully, intimidate, or mislead others.
- Over-relying on AI in ways that replace their own thinking and learning. AI is a thought partner — not a substitute for developing your own knowledge, skills, and ideas.
- Using AI to bypass accessibility supports or accommodations that are part of their IEP or 504 plan without educator guidance.
- Sharing AI-generated content that contains misinformation, bias, or harmful stereotypes without identifying and addressing those issues first.

Human-AI-Human Reminder for Students: Good AI use starts with your question and ends with your judgment. Always ask: Did I think about this? Do I understand it? Is it accurate, fair, and honest? Your voice and your thinking matter most.

8. Current District Approved AI Tools:

The district's list of approved AI tools was developed using resources and vetted agreements from the Student Data Privacy Consortium, ensuring each tool meets established standards for protecting student data. This approach reflects a commitment to using practical, field-tested privacy solutions designed to address real-world challenges in safeguarding learner information.

**List subject to change based on available tools and Student Data Privacy agreements.*

Staff Tools	Student Tools
Gemini & Notebook LM (through the Google Education Suite)	Gemini & NotebookLM (through the Google Education Suite)
Brisk (Free Version)	Brisk Student (Free)
Diffit (Free Version)	Magic School Student (Free)
SchoolAI (Free Version)	Canva Education
Magic School (Free Version)	
Project Read (Free Version)	
Canva Education	
Pear Deck Assessment with AI tool (Paid Version)	
Playlab AI (Just signed DPA)	

9. Review and Revision

This policy will be reviewed at least annually and may be revised sooner in response to changes in law, technology, district practice, or evidence of risk or harm. Administrative regulations and implementation guidance may be updated more frequently so long as they remain consistent with this policy.

(PEAK's suggestion) "The AI Governance Committee will public an annual AI Impact Report that includes: (1) a summary of approved tools and any changes to the approved list; (2) equity data on access and use patterns disaggregated by student demographics; (3) any identified harms or concerns

10. Adoption

Date adopted: _____

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1. The first part of the paper is devoted to a general discussion of the problem of the existence of solutions of the system of equations

$$\begin{aligned} & \frac{dx}{dt} = f(x, y, z), \\ & \frac{dy}{dt} = g(x, y, z), \\ & \frac{dz}{dt} = h(x, y, z), \end{aligned}$$

where f, g, h are continuous functions of x, y, z in a certain domain D of the space E_3 .

2. In the second part of the paper we consider the case when the functions f, g, h are linear in x, y, z .

3. In the third part of the paper we consider the case when the functions f, g, h are quadratic in x, y, z .

4. In the fourth part of the paper we consider the case when the functions f, g, h are cubic in x, y, z .