



MINUTES of the “48th District School Committee” Regular Schedule 2012 Meeting

Membership: Francis J. Fistori, Avon; Germano John Silveira, Braintree;
Vice Chairman Aidan G. Maguire, Jr., Canton; Chairman Joseph A. Pascarella, Dedham;
Secretary Robert S. Austin, Holbrook; Mr. Fess Joyce, Milton; Mr. Kevin L. Connolly, Norwood;
Mr. Richard Riman, Randolph and Mr. Charles W. Flahive, Westwood.

Tuesday, September 18, 2012

The Athletic & Extracurricular Subcommittee conducted a meeting at 5 p.m. this evening. Members are: Charles W. Flahive, Chairman, Kevin L. Connolly and Fess Joyce.

The Warrant Subcommittee conducted a meeting at 6:30 p.m. to inspect the invoicing and particulars relative to tonight's warrant. Chairman Richard Riman will report on its findings within the regular meeting. Including Mr. Riman, members are Mr. Robert S. Austin and Mr. Charles W. Flahive.

The Blue Hills Regional Vocational School Forty-Eighth District School Committee Regular Schedule Meeting was called to order promptly at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 18, 2012** at the Blue Hills Regional Vocational Technical School, Room 402, 800 Randolph Street, Canton, Massachusetts. Chairman Joseph A. Pascarella, presided.

1. **ROLL CALL and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE ***

MEMBERS PRESENT: Messrs. Connolly, Fistori, Flahive, Joyce, Maguire, Pascarella, Riman and Silveira
MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Austin
OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Charles J. Gisondi, Treasurer
Ms. Rachel E. Rudin, Student Representative to the DSC, School Year 2012-13
Mr. James P. Quaglia, Superintendent-Director
Mr. Michael J. Barrett, Assistant Superintendent/Principal
Mr. Richard Brennen, Intermittent Director of Vocational Programs
Mr. Thomas G. Cavanaugh, Dean of Students
Mrs. Katherine Touafek, “School-To-Careers” Coordinator
Mr. Mary Devine, “School-To-Careers” Program Assistant
Mrs. Caroline Dynan- Library Media Specialist/ Teacher (New Hire)
Mr. Charles Rothman –Math Teacher (New Hire)
Patrolman Scott Connor – Town of Canton

*On occasion, individual(s) attending the meeting do not sign the attendance sheet.

Chairman Joseph A. Pascarella announced that the District complies with the inception of the revised Open Meeting Law in effect, as of July 1, 2010. This meeting is being recorded in person by the recording secretary. All documents referred to within the meeting are in the Meeting-Record File. Meeting minutes were recorded electronically as well as by person.

- **New Employees: Chairman Pascarella recognized** Assistant Superintendent-Principal Michael J. Barrett. Mr. Barrett introduced new Faculty Members:
 - **Mrs. Caroline Dynan- Librarian/Media Coordinator/Teacher** – Mrs. Dynan announced that she is having a wonderful time enjoying her career in the teaching field within this position and looks forward to bringing her management skills to the position as well. Mrs. Dynan included that “everyone” has been wonderful to me here at Blue Hills helping to acclimate me to the school.

- **Mr. Charles Rothman –Math Teacher** – Mr. Rothman, a seasoned Math Teacher, including teaching experience in Fall River and Brookline looks forward to his new expedition at Blue Hills, arming students with fine mathematical skills.
- **Professional Teachers Status:** Superintendent Director James P. Quaglia was recognized by Chairman Pascarella. Mr. Quaglia announced the following teachers have been granted Professional Teacher Status:
 - Ms. Jaclyn Feeney – Math Teacher
 - Mr. Joseph Fineran – Math Teacher
 - Mr. Brian Goff – HVAC Teacher
 - Ms. Wapaemi Wariboko – United States History Teacher

Mr. Quaglia added that this is a milestone event for these individuals and Mr. Quaglia is looking forward to working with all teachers for the benefit of our students this coming school year.

2. **Visitors with Business for the Committee and Public Comment** – Chairman Pascarella greeted Officer Scott Connor. Officer Connor will accompany Dean of Students Thomas G. Cavanaugh with a school security presentation.
3. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** - Chairman Pascarella moved for the approval of the following District School Committee Meetings: 8.21.2012, 8.29.2012 and 9.4.2012. A motion was made by Vice Chairman Aidan G. Maguire, Jr., to approve the District School Committee Meetings conducted on 8.21,2012, 8.29.2012 and 9.4.2012, as presented. Motion was seconded by Member Kevin L. Connolly. Motion was taken to a vote, without discussion and it was **UNANIMOUSLY VOTED:** to approve the District School Committee Meetings conducted on 8.21,2012, 8.29.2012 and 9.4.2012, as presented.
4. **Communications** – The District School Committee receives regular flow of emails which provide the Committee with an accurate synopsis of what is happening within the District School.
 - A letter of thanks from **Mrs. Veronica (Ronnie) Doherty**, a recently retired, extremely popular, Physical Education Teacher, was read by Superintendent-Director Quaglia. Mrs. Doherty extended her thanks for the 36-years of employment she enjoyed at Blue Hills and also the “chair” she will thoroughly enjoy with retirement.
 - MASC/MASS Annual Conference was announced by Superintendent-Director Quaglia and is scheduled for November 7th through the 10th. Member Charles W. Flahive will attend. Any other member wishing to attend should let the secretary know ASAP.
5. **Student Representative Report** - Mr. Rachel E. Rudin was recognized by Chairman Pascarella. Ms. Rudin was welcomed with a round of applause by the Committee. Ms. Rudin is serving as the District School Committee Student Representative for School Year 2012-2013. Ms. Rudin is also the student-elected Class 2013 President. Ms. Rudin spoke of her future aspirations and provided a detail of things that are happening around the school since school start. Ms. Rudin reported:

SPORTS →	FOOTBALL	2-0
	SOCCER	0-4
	VOLLEYBALL	1-3

The PEP Rally will be October 19th – with a Home Coming Dance that night.

STUDENT COUNCIL: “This year there will be a General Student Council and also Class Student Council.

Goals include encouraging student involvements and provided multiple activities to choose from.

For example: This year’s freshmen class is starting with a strong class project and will conduct a “Yankee Candle Fundraiser”

SEMASC CONFERENCE, OCTOBER 26, 2012 - Ms. Rudin will attend this conference which is provided to equip opportunities to students within student government and arm student leaders with tools that will provide them with lifelong skills with handling the challenges of life.

6. DSC Chair Report

- Chairman Pascarella requested that the Committee continue to brainstorm and bring forward their ideas for goals that they wish the DSC to accomplish cooperatively during the term of School Year 2012-13. Members are requested to reflect on the recommendations from Mr. James Hardy of Massachusetts Association of School Committees at the DSC August 21st Workshop. New information was not exchanged at this meeting.

7. DSC Subcommittee Reports (as needed):

- **Athletic and Extracurricular Subcommittee** – Chairman Flahive reported on the content of the meeting conducted this evening: Improvements to the school’s athletic fields was the primary subject. A long-term plan was discussed. The plan would carry a cost of approximately \$300K and span a period of three years. Mr. Flahive was extremely disappointed with the majority vote of the Athletic and Extracurricular Subcommittee meeting to recommend the acceptance of the proposal (2 Aye/Messrs. Connolly and Joyce -1 Nay/Mr. Flahive).

- **Full Committee Vote on the majority recommendation of the Athletic and Extracurricular Subcommittee** –

Chairman Pascarella moved the question of the acceptance of the majority recommendation of the Athletic and Extracurricular Subcommittee to approve the “Proposed Plan for Athletic Fields, as reworked as of 9/18/12.”

Mr. Flahive’s explanation to the Full Committee for his nay vote was:

- Mr. Flahive wants to see the backstops and fencing around the baseball dugouts and perimeters addressed immediately and not wait for the implementation of a three-year plan.
- Mr. Flahive stated: “Are we taking the best interests and safety of our athletes and spectators into mind? Isn’t that what we are all here for?” Along with this, “It is an embarrassment to host games on our fields.”
- Mr. Flahive continued, “Secondly, our student athletes deserve suitable fields to play their sports. These fields have been used for over 45 years and need serious refurbishing and help. Presently everyone

agrees, the football and baseball fields are a disgrace. Just take a look at their condition if you haven't already and take into mind the safety issues to be addressed, as well."

- Mr. Flahive also stated, "The softball and baseball teams operate without scoreboards. Scoreboards should be placed. Funding for these items could be generated through business contacts and other organizations. Scoreboards should be a must."
- Mr. Flahive concluded stating that this is why he was a "Nay" vote for the "long-term plan". Mr. Flahive wants work started sooner.
- An Athletic and Extracurricular Subcommittee meeting has been posted for Tuesday, September 18, 2012 at 5 p.m. Mr. Flahive fully intends to keep the conversation with the matter of the fields' improving, constant.

The Committee requested the input from Superintendent-Director Quaglia. Mr. Quaglia responded that the fields are in deplorable condition and something has to be done.

- **Warrant Subcommittee** – Chairman Richard Riman reported that the warrant review was all set.

8. Unfinished Business:

8.3 **Goal Setting** - Chairman Pascarella stated that Mr. Jim Hardy of Massachusetts Association of School Committee (MASC) provided the Committee with a training session with focus on setting and implementing common goals. Chairman Pascarella looks forward to the input of the full Committee with setting goals.

9. New Business –

9.1 **Athletic Program Report:** Superintendent-Director announced that a more appropriate time to announce Athletic Accomplishments would be upon the completion of the season at one of the December Meetings. Coach Ed Catabia will be notified.

9.2 **"School-to-Career" (STC) Report** - Chairman Pascarella recognized Program Coordinator Katherine Touafek and Mrs. Mary Devine:

Some of the STC Programs:

For Students:

- Paid and Unpaid Internships in Private and Public Sectors
- The Neponset Valley Leadership Institute: Programming and Staffing for One-Week Student Leadership Program
- Bio-Engineering Symposium: 3-day intensive seminar for students in science/math at major bio-tech and engineering companies
- Shadow Days: Site Visits to Businesses for Career/College Planning
- Marine Biology: Ecosystem Study on Northeastern Univ. Mysis Research Vessel
- Boston Federal Reserve Bank Economic Adventure
- Hotel Management/Hospitality Careers at Boston College & Sheraton Four Points

- Putnam Investments/Mercer HR: Careers in Technology & Finance
- Inside the Studio: Careers in Performing Arts Seminar
- Careers In Health Care: Programs Caritas Norwood Hospital, Good Samaritan, Boston
- Children's Hospital, S. Shore Hospital and Mass. General
- Emerging Technology Series at MIT Cambridge, MA
- Aviation Professions: A World of Opportunity at Boston Air Charter
- Professions in Law, Forensic & Criminal Justice: Key Leaders in Norfolk County
- Preparing for Success: Seminars on resume writing and job interviewing

For Teachers:

- Enterprising Teacher Program (Paid Summer Externships)
- One-Day Seminars: Off-Site Curriculum Linked Workshops
- Business Speakers bringing expertise, business practices and resources to schools

STC has worked with 3M Corporation, Army Corps of Engineers, Bank of Canton, MEDI-TECH, Canton Assoc. of Industries, Dedham Savings Bank, Caritas Good Samaritan/Norwood Hospitals, Dana Farber, Federal Reserve Bank, FOX 25, Genzyme Genetics, Gillette Stadium, Mass. Legislators Reps. Galvin, Rogers, Timilty, Ayers, Senators Joyce, Walsh and Morrissey, Marriott Corp, MIT, Neponset Valley Chamber, Norfolk County DA, Northeastern Univ., BC, Dunkin Brands, Pepsi-Cola, Phoenix Electric, Putnam Investments/Mercer HR, Randolph Savings Bank, Reebok, Ritz Carlton, Sen. Kerry, Shaw Environmental, & Rodman Ford.

Mrs. Touafek provided a question and answer session for the members as well. Following the presentation, Chairman Pascarella extended the thanks of the Committee for the presentation.

10. Administrative Reports (as needed):

10.1. Treasurer: C. Gisondi - No report

10.2 Business Manager: D. Proule - Business Manager David W. Proule advised the Committee that the Finance Department is working on End-of-Year Report for the presentation to the District School Committee.

10.3 Assistant Superintendent/Principal: M. Barrett

- Assistant Superintendent/Principal Michael J. Barrett stated that the students' first day at school went well, with no incidents.
- **School Security** – Mr. Barrett was recognized by Chairman Pascarella and introduced Dean of Students Cavanaugh who provided an impressive PowerPoint Presentation of The A.L.I.C.E. Program. This Program has been designed to increase chances of surviving an active shooter or violent intruder event on campus. The program utilizes five key components; Alert, Lockdown, Inform, Counter, and Escape and encourages community members to take an active role in their own survival.

- Planning for an active shooter/violent intruder incident is not something that should be a priority in any school setting, however the significant increase in violence at schools from grade-school through college now necessitates that every member of a community plan for the unthinkable. Incidents such as Columbine, Northern Illinois University, and Virginia Tech are the notable events, however school violence is something that occurs on a daily basis in the United States today. What the A.L.I.C.E. program teaches is how to utilize the strategies that have been proven to work best during such incidents and how to maximize the available information to make the best decision for your situation.

The A.L.I.C.E. Program Main Objective: Teach you how to be a participant in your own survival and lead others to safety as well.

The Program at Blue Hills:

The A.L.I.C.E. Program at Blue Hills has included administrative trainings for four administrators with the assistance of the Town of Canton Police Department. Full staff assemblies have been conducted to introduce the Program and answer any and questions regarding its existence. The A.L.I.C.E. Program has been very well thought out and is here to insure that Blue Hills has the ultimate protection for its community and protection success if ever subjected to the unexpected violence that exists in this world.

Important Note: Millions of students of all ages attend school each day, without incident. School is the safest place an individual can be but because of the isolated incidences that have occurred within the world, not just the USA.

- A question and answer session was provided by Patrolman Scott Connor and Dean Cavanaugh.

Following the conclusion of questions and answers, the Committee thanked Patrolman Connor and Dean Cavanaugh for the valuable information that was provided with this presentation.

10..4 Superintendent/Director: J. Quaglia

- **Hiring/Staffing Update** – Superintendent-Director James P. Quaglia stated that the DESE has approved the Interim appointment of Mr. Richard Brennen as Director of Vocational Programs, as needed. All hiring is completed.
- **The BHAA Contract** will be opened up to accommodate a model evaluation system. Letters must be received by Unions requiring reopeners for any reason before proceeding.
- **“Crutches for Africa” – A fundraiser for Africa will be conducted by the School.** The goal will be to provide, through collection of crutches, canes, wheelchairs, walkers and any appliance; items that will help handicapped individuals in a third-world country become mobile. Africa is an economically depressed country with an acute need for the items to be collected. The Blue Hills' National Honor Society will also assist with this campaign, along with the Neponset Valley Rotary Club.

11. Discussion or Suggestions for the Good of the District, Including newsworthy educational items:

- **Pension Reform** – Member Richard Riman provided his fellow members with an article on the state of the country as it faces pension fund catastrophes. Mr. Riman provided this article to his fellow members as a service to them and an eye opener.
- **Plan for Norwood Event** – Member Kevin L. Connolly stated that he is in the process of planning a luncheon at the School's "Chateau" with Members of the Norwood Municipality. Superintendent-Director James P. Quaglia is also a participant with this plan.
- **Canton Police Department** – Member Fess Joyce expressed his deep appreciation for the cooperation that is continuously extended by the Canton Police Department to the Blue Hills' Community, particularly the recent implementation of The A.L.I.C.E. Program

13. **Warrant** - Chairman Joseph A. Pascarella accepted motion for the following warrant:

Upon motion of Vice Chairman Aidan G. Maguire, Jr. to approve **FY13, Warrant No. 4, (Vouchers 1021-1023) dated September 18, 2012 in the amount of \$751,235.80.**, seconded by Member Kevin L. Connolly, it was **UNANIMOUSLY**

VOTED: to approve **FY13, Warrant No. 4, (Vouchers 1021-1023) dated September 18, 2012 in the amount of \$751,235.80.**

14. **Executive session:** By **UNANIMOUS roll call vote**, the Committee voted to move into executive session as provided under executive session to discuss collective bargaining, strategies and/or possible litigation under Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (b), 2, 3 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Laws. Open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and requires executive session. Chairman Pascarella advised the audience that the Committee would leave the executive session solely for the purpose of adjournment.

15. **Adjournment** – Following conclusion of all District School Committee's regular meeting and executive session. Chairman Pascarella accepted a motion from Member Germano John Silveira and seconded by Member Fran Fistori to close the Regular Session Meeting of the District School Committee.

It was **unanimously:**

VOTED: to adjourn the Regular Scheduled Meeting at **9:37 p.m.**

The Committee's **next meeting** will be a **Regular Schedule Meeting** conducted in the **William T. Buckley District School Committee Board Room (#207A), on January 17, 2012 at 7:00 p.m.**, unless otherwise posted.

Minutes Approved:

Respectfully submitted by:

Robert S. Austin, Secretary

Joanne Kuzborski, Recording Secretary