



**MINUTES of the “51st District School Committee”
Regular Schedule 2015 Meeting**

Membership: Mr. Francis J. Fistori, Avon; Mr. Eric C. Erskine, Braintree;
Mr. Aidan G. Maguire, Jr. Canton; Secretary Thomas R. Polito, Jr., Dedham;
Mr. Robert A. McNeil, Holbrook; Mr. Fess Joyce, Milton; Mr. Kevin L. Connolly, Norwood;
Vice Chairman Marybeth Nearen, Randolph and Chairman Charles W. Flahive, Westwood.

“Transparency, Accountability and Fiscal Discipline”

Tuesday, October 6, 2015

Prior to this Regular Schedule Meeting, a subcommittee meeting was scheduled to be conducted. Meeting and report/recommendations will be forthcoming, resulting from its conduct. The subcommittees were:

- Ad hoc Legal Subcommittee: Evaluate School Counsel Options @ 5 p.m. – 1st meetubg
- **6:30 p.m.: Warrant Subcommittee - Review documents relative to Warrant Approval**

A Finance & Administration Subcommittee Meeting was conducted on Monday, October 5, 2015 and a report will be provided at this evening’s Meeting by Subcommittee on the recommendations occurring and results of this meeting.

(NOTE: Subcommittee Meetings are conducted in Room 402.)

The Blue Hills Regional Vocational School **Fifty-First District School Committee Special Summer Schedule Meeting** was called to order, promptly, at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, October 6, 2015** at the Blue Hills Regional Vocational Technical School, **William T. Buckley District School Committee Board Room (#207A)**, 800 Randolph Street, Canton, Massachusetts. Chairman Charles W. Flahive presided at this meeting, as duly elected Chairman...

NOTE: The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

Chairman Charles W. Flahive, conducting this meeting as duly elected Chairman of the 51st District School Committee, announced that all business conducted at this meeting complies with the revised Open Meeting Law in effect, as of July 1, 2010. There are occasions when attendees do not sign in. This meeting’s notes were taken by Joanne Kuzborski, Recording Secretary and digital recorder.

1. ROLL CALL and PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE *

MEMBERS PRESENT: Messrs. Connolly, Erskine, Fistori, Flahive, Joyce, Maguire, McNeil, Nearen, Polito

MEMBERS ABSENT -0-

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. Charles J. Gisondi, District Treasurer
School Year 2015-16 Student Representative, Mr. Geoffrey Ostman
Mr. James P. Quaglia, Superintendent-Director
Ms. Jill M. Rossetti, Principal
Mr. Steven Moore, Assistant Superintendent/Business & Personnel
Mr. Geoffrey Zini, Director of Academics
Mr. Brian Gearty, BHEA

DSC.MINUTES, Tuesday, 10.6.15. Regular Schedule Meeting
--

Ms. Nocole Flynn, BHEA
Attorney Matthew Tobin, School Counsel

2. Public Comment – None.

3. **Student Representative School Year 2015-16 Report** – Chairman Flahive recognized Student Representative Geoffrey Ostman. Geoff has begun his second school-year term as Student Representative to the District School Committee with a continued aura of enthusiasm: .

- **Student Council** has already conducted two meetings under the guidance of Ms. Stacy Hedges. The most recent meeting conducted yesterday (Monday, October 5th) was strictly about the Pip Rally Schedule. Along with Student Council Members, the National Honor Society (NHS) attended and offered ideas.
- **Homecoming: This Thursday (10.8.15)** will be the vote for the Homecoming Court. After school the tally of the vote will be executed. Also, after school, the Pep Rally Schedule will be finalized.
- **Football Game:** This Friday (10.9.15) will be a Varsity Football Game taking on Bristol-Plymouth . Prior to the game, a cookout will be implemented. Also, before the game, PINK DAY will be declared and hopefully all will be wearing their “Pink” in honor of “Breast Cancer Awareness Month.”

SPORTS

- Boys Varsity Soccer has two wins, two losses and three ties Mayflower League has realized ties twice.
- Girls Varsity Soccer: Four wins, three losses and one tie. In Mayflower League play, thus far, have won 1 and lost 2.
- Varsity Football: 2-0 in League Play and 3-1 Overall.

SPirit WEEK: (10-13 to 10-16-15)

- (MONDAY 10.12.15 HOLIDAY)
- Tuesday, Decades Day
- Wednesday – Baby Day for all, except SENIORS WILL participate “Senior Citizen Day”
- Thursday, Costume Day
- Friday, Spirit Day

Coaches for Cancer: The school soccer teams and their coaches are conducting a T-Shirt Campaign. T-Shirts are available this evening for member purchase.

Members of the District School Committee extended their thanks to Mr. Ostman for the comprehensive and well executed student activities’ report. As usual, Mr. Ostman is admirably meeting the requirements of his position and keeping the Committee well informed of student activities, now and planned.

DSC.MINUTES, Tuesday, 10.6.15. Regular Schedule Meeting
--

4. Meeting with School Counsel Matthew Tobin: Called out of order at 7:13 p.m. by a UNANIMOUS ROLL-CALL VOTE of the Committee. –

Chairman Flahive moved to enter into executive session at 8:00 p.m. The Chairman moved to executive **session** to discuss 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 litigating position of the public body and is subsequently declared by Chairman Flahive. By **UNANIMOUS** Roll-Call Vote, the Committee moved into executive session and will return to the regular meeting for the open session business continuance. At **8:40 p.m.** the Committee returned to Open Session of the Regular Schedule meeting, by UNANIMOUS ROLL-CALL VOTE.

5. **Minute approval** was waived by the request of one member; although the recording secretary has prepared and distributed to all members. The recording secretary was disappointed by this decision to once again waive the approval of past minutes and openly indicated her disappointment. Prior to this meeting, Joanne was never told that there were issues with previously submitted minutes, as is the established protocol.

6. DSC Chair Report

Chairman Charles W. Flahive spoke on the following items:

1) PARCC TEST: PARCC Testing results will be addressed at a future meeting.

2) ad hoc Legal Subcommittee Meeting: Chairman Flahive reported on the business conducted at this evening's first meeting (at 5 p.m.), which was also attended by Assistant Superintendent/Business & Personnel, Mr. Steven Moore. The ad hoc Legal Subcommittee has contacted numerous law firms for qualification input. Mr. Moore presented a guide to present to interested parties and returns from legal firms were examined. Forthcoming meetings will be conducted to see just what is available in the school legal counsel arena.

3) MASC/MASS Conference in Hyannis (November 4-7, 2015) – Five members of the District School Committee will attending this year's Conference for professional development. Chairman Flahive, Member Aidan G. Maguire, Jr. and Member Eric C. Erskine will be attending the abbreviated Conference. Vice Chairman Marybeth Nearen and Secretary Thomas F. Polito, Jr., will be attending the full conference from November 4-7. Recording Secretary will attend a special session on Friday, November 6, 2015 for professional development. Joanne is also a member of the Board of COSCAP, an organization of individuals that serve School Committees.

7. Subcommittee Reports:

Warrant Subcommittee Member, Mr. Eric C. Erskine reported on the review of the documentation of the Warrant this evening. The Warrant Subcommittee recommended the approval of the submitted warrant.

Finance & Administration Subcommittee conducted a meeting on Monday, October 5, 2015 at 5:30 p.m. with all members in attendance (Nearen, McNeil and Polito) meeting with Superintendent Director James P. Quaglia, as well as with Assistant Superintendent/Business and Personnel Steven M. Moore, resulting in the following recommendations and votes from the full committee:

Transfers of monies from one account to another: It was the unanimous recommendation of the

Subcommittee to have the full committee made aware of this practice and receive its approval.

Following discussion, questions and answers. Chairman Flahive accepted a motion from Member Robert A. McNeil to have all transfers of account monies brought to the full committee for their approval and vote.

Motion was seconded by Member Kevin L. Connolly. Motion was taken to a vote and it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to have all transfers of account monies brought to the full committee for their approval and vote.

Grants: The Subcommittee unanimously recommends approval of the following: "That all grants come before the full committee and also be approved by the full committee. Following discussion, questions and answers, Chairman Flahive accepted the following motion from **Member Robert A. McNeil. "I move that all grants be presented and approved with a full committee vote."** **Motion was seconded by Secretary Thomas R. Polito, Jr. Motion was taken to a vote, without further discussion and it was UNANIMOUSLY**

VOTED: that all grants be presented and approved with a full committee vote.

Employee Benefit: Another matter regarding employee health benefits was discussed and Assistant-Superintendent Business and Personnel, Mr. Steven M. Moore is commencing with action and followup will be provided to the full committee upon completion.

8. Administrative Reports:

8.1 Camp Blue 2015 Report: Chairman Flahive recognized Activities Director Tom Cahill. Among his many other accomplishments, Tom, was the Director of Camp Blue 2015

Camp Blue 2015, was a summer day camp experience for children entering grades 1 through 6. This summer the Blue Hills Regional School Campus came alive with an amazing variety of activities for children in our general summer day camp. We were proud to offer a variety of exciting and enriching programs designed to meet family's summer needs. At Camp Blue, offered campers a traditional day camp experience as well as the opportunity to explore specific areas of interest in one of our specialty camps. Our specialty camps concentrated on skill development and game strategy for the sport chosen, each of these camps had a half day option for just the specific sport in the mornings or participants could select a full day and children were placed in their appropriate age groups for the afternoon.. Each of the specialty camps provided a recreational swim time just before lunch. All of our programs were created and run by caring and committed educators who provided a vibrant, safe, and stimulating environment for our campers. The camp staff dedicated to making every camper feel acknowledged and supported as they tried new things and interact with others. We have designed a program for children that provided them the opportunity to select from a variety of sports, games, crafts, swimming lessons and recreational swim, archery and many more camp favorite activities. Special events from carnival day, traveling zoos, story tellers, talent show as well as other themed activities. Our Mission was to provide each camper with a memorable summer filled with new

DSC.MINUTES, Tuesday, 10.6.15. Regular Schedule Meeting

adventures and lasting friendships. This goal was realized. CAMP HOURS were General Day Camp will operate from 8:30 AM until 3:30 for a cost of \$195 per week. Ninety-four campers participated in this program and Tom feels confident that he will double the enrollment for Camp Blue 2016. Tom answered questions and supplied requested information. Chairman Flahive stated that he would like to see scholarships offered for future camps, recognizing that there are families under economic stress that could be assisted with scholarships.

Following presentation, members of the District School Committee thanked Director Tom for his presentation.

8.2 MCAS Report AND Summer 2015 Reading Program: Director of Academics Geoffrey Zini was recognized by Chairman Charles W. Flahive. Director Zini proceeded to present the results of the MCAS Testing for Blue Hills' Sophomores and others with a PowerPoint Presentation. All members of the Committee had received by email this presentation via email. Significant improvements have occurred as compared with previous testing.

Each year, the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) requires the administration of Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS) exams to sophomores in high school to determine student eligibility for a high school diploma, inform instruction, and to evaluate school performance according to the state curriculum frameworks.

Blue Hills Regional Technical School in Canton is pleased to announce its grade 10 MCAS scores for the 2014-2015 school year. Blue Hills saw significant gains in all three exams administered – English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics, and Biology. Here are some of the highlights of the 2015 MCAS for Blue Hills:

- The number of students scoring either “Advanced” or “Proficient” increased from 2014 to 2015 in ELA from 93% to 98%; in Mathematics from 74% to 80%; and in Biology from 73% to 82%.
- The percentage of students scoring “Advanced” increased by 16% in ELA and by 4% in both Mathematics and Biology.
- Biology: Saw its best results in Biology since the inception of the Science and Technology/Engineering MCAS in 2008.
- Blue Hills scored higher than the state average on all three MCAS exams.
- In a comparison with our “DART” schools (10 vocational schools most similar to Blue Hills), we ranked 1st in ELA proficiency, 2nd in science proficiency, and 3rd in math proficiency.

The results of the Summer 2015 Reading Program was also reviewed. All Blue Hills' Students, including incoming 9th Grade Class are required to do summer reading.

Following conclusion of Director's Zini's presentations, thanks were extended for the comprehensive, comparative and in depth reports that were presented. The District School Committee wishes to have the results of these testings revealed to all individuals and Judy Bass will be requested to supply a Press Release for that purpose.

DSC.MINUTES, Tuesday, 10.6.15. Regular Schedule Meeting

8.3 **Treasurer, Mr. Charles J. Gisondi** was recognized by Chairman Flahive. Treasurer Gisondi stated that the transition from Bank of America to Bank of Canton is up and moving with the deadline established by Bank of America being met, well beforehand. Thus far, Mr. Gisondi has spent **78 hours** exclusively to the transition which continues to require additional hours, above and beyond his usual job requirements. Mr. Gisondi wishes to leave the meeting after this report to continue work on this most important transition. Mr. Gisondi praised the Bank of Canton for their professionalism and cooperation with this transition. Mr. Gisondi has had numerous meetings with bank officials and had all his questions and concerns reconciled. Mr. Gisondi will continue to update. Superintendent-Director James P. Quaglia requested that the Credit Card, currently held with Bank of America, also be transferred to Bank of Canton as quickly as possible.

- **Warrant Approval** – Chairman Charles W. Flahive accepted a motion, as follows:

Secretary Thomas R. Polito moved to approve FY16 Warrant #5, dated October 6, 2015, in the amount of \$1,268,766.85. Motion was seconded by Member Kevin L. Connolly. Motion to approve was taken to a vote and it was **UNANIMOUSLY**

VOTED: to approve FY16 Warrant #5, dated October 6, 2015, in the amount of \$1,268,766.85.

8.5 **Principal – Ms. Jill M. Rossetti** - Chairman Charles W. Flahive recognized Principal Rossetti.

- **General Advisory Committee Dinner/Meeting:** Principal Rossetti reminded members that the Dinner/Meeting will be conducted tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. in the Cafetorium. All Members have been invited to this Dinner/Meeting and respectfully urged to attend. All Programs are represented, Vocational and Academic, with this being a time when members brainstorm to improve all aspects of student learning. Chairman of the General Advisory Committee is Mrs. Linda Wirta. The Culinary Arts Program is catering the event which is overseen by Administrative Assistant Deborah Bean.
- **Student Enrollment:** Currently there are 882 students from 9th to 12th grade. Target number was 900.

Preparation: Principal Rossetti is preparing the Coordinated Program Review Reports for Civil Rights, CVTE, Special Ed.

8.5 **Superintendent/Director:** Chairman Charles W. Flahive recognized Superintendent-Director James P. Quaglia.

- **Decommission of Obsolete Machinery:** A list was provided to the District School Committee with equipment that is no longer student-learning able for the perusal of the Committee.

DSC.MINUTES, Tuesday, 10.6.15. Regular Schedule Meeting

- **Work in Progress:** A report is being promulgated by Superintendent-Director Quaglia on school rank based on facts, not media reports.
- **Construction Project:** A municipal project is being developed in the Town of Dedham.

9. **Unfinished Business and New Business –**

Shirts for DSC Members: Mr. Quaglia and Joanne will be ordering shirts, upon size identification from all members.

10. **Discussion or Suggestions** for the Good of the District, Including newsworthy educational items – None.

11. **Executive session:** Was called out of order, meeting the conditions of an 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.

12. **Meeting Adjournment.** Chairman Flahive called for adjournment, following the conclusion of all business.

Member Eric C. Erskine moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion was seconded by Member Fran Fistori, taken to a vote and **UNANIMOUSLY**

VOTED: to adjourn the Regular Schedule Meeting, with all regular business concluded, at **9:53 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 Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.,** unless otherwise posted.

Minutes approved by:

Respectfully submitted by:

Thomas R. Polito, Jr., Secretary

Joanne Kuzborski, Recording Secretary