



## MINUTES of the “51st District School Committee”

### Special Summer 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.

### Tuesday, August 18, 2015

Prior to this Special Summer Schedule Meeting, subcommittee meetings were scheduled to be conducted. Meetings and report/recommendations will be forthcoming, resulting from its conduct. The subcommittees were:

- **5:00 p.m.: Curriculum & Advisory Subcommittee**
- **6:30 p.m.: Evaluation Subcommittee Meeting – Review of Returned Evaluation Documents for the Superintendent-Directors’ Annual Evaluation to be conducted within the 8.18.15 Open Session of the Special Summer Schedule Meeting will conduct this evaluation within the full committee meeting this evening (8.18.15)**
- **6:30 p.m.: Warrant Subcommittee - Review documents relative to Warrant Approval**

(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, August 18, 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 his second meeting as duly elected Chairman, with quorum met.

**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 his second meeting as duly elected Chairman of the 51<sup>st</sup> 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. Inadvertently, the digital recorder was off.

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Messrs. Connolly, Erskine, Fistori, Flahive, Joyce, Maguire, Mrs. Nearen and Mr. Polito

**MEMBERS ABSENT** Mr. McNeil

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mr. Charles J. Gisondi, District Treasurer  
Mr. James P. Quaglia, Superintendent-Director  
Ms. Jill M. Rossetti, Principal  
Mr. Steven Moore, Assistant Superintendent/Business & Personnel  
Ms. Judy Bass, Publicist/Webmaster

## **DSC.MINUTES.Tuesday, 8.18.15. Special Summer Schedule Meeting**

Student Representative to the District School Committee SY15-16 Geoffrey Ostman. Although off for the summer, Mr. Ostman appeared for the photo take.

**51<sup>st</sup> DSC ORGANIZATION PHOTO:** Ms. Judy Bass took a new photo for the web of the recently organization of the 51<sup>st</sup> District School Committee.

**Student Representative Geoffrey Ostman:** Although Geoff has the summer off; Geoff appeared tonight to be part of the taking of the new web photo. Mr. Ostman looks forward to returning to his duties with the start of School Year 2015-2016. Mr. Ostman completed the School Year 2014-15 term as Student Representative with school-year end.

2. **Public Comment** – None.

3. **Minute Approval** –Chairman Charles W. Flahive addressed the approval of the Tuesday, July 21, 2015 Special Summer Session Minutes. Member Aidan G. Maguire, Jr., moved to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, July 21, 2015 Special Summer Session District School Committee Minutes as amended by Secretary Thomas R. Polito, Jr., Motion to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, July 21, 2015 Special Summer Session District School Committee Minutes as amended by Secretary Thomas R. Polito, Jr. was seconded by Member Fess Joyce Motion was taken to a vote without discussion and it was **UNANIMOUSLY**

**VOTED:** to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, July 21, 2015 Special Summer Session District School Committee Minutes as amended by Secretary Thomas R. Polito, Jr.,

4. **Executive Session:** Chairman Charles W. Flahive called out for an out of order executive session to discuss an ongoing litigation matter. It was so noted that no reference will be given to the name of the employee and just general facts would be reviewed by Assistant Superintendent/Business and Personnel, Steven M. Moore. Following the Executive Session, the Chairman announced that the Committee would reconvene to its regular business, following executive session. **By UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE the** Committee entered into executive session at 7:07 p.m. and by **UNANIMOUS ROLL CALL VOTE, the** full Committee returned to the Open Session to complete routine business at 7:52 p.m.

Note: The District School Committee reserves the right to call **executive session**, as provided under Chapter 30A, Section 21(a) (2), of the General Laws to discuss strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations collective bargaining and/or potential litigation.

5. **DSC Chair Report** –

Chairman Charles W. Flahive further spoke on the following items:

1. Cell Phones
  2. Hiring Credentials
  3. Massachusetts Restaurant Association
  4. Coaching Appointments.
- **Chairman Flahive** reminded all that he is available from 9 a.m. through 9 p.m. via cell phone communication, Mondays through Sundays. A recent call from School Counsel Paige Tobin at 5 p.m. indicates that availability. Attorney Paige Tobin will attend the Tuesday, September 1, 2015 DSC Regular Schedule Meeting for discussion with the full Committee.

**Subcommittee Appointments:** Chairman Flahive, the appointing official for all District School Subcommittees, appointed Member Aidan G. Maguire, Jr. as a member of the Athletic and Extracurricular Subcommittee. Further appointments will be made at the Tuesday, September 1, 2015 Regular Schedule Meeting.

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**Athletic Coach Appointments:** Although not on the agenda, Chairman Flahive had commented on what he and others believe may be an overload of teacher coaches with some Blue Hills' teachers coaching three sports while being out of the classroom so often.. Mr. Flahive wonders how any teacher can maintain a high degree of teaching excellence and also coach three sports being out of the classroom so often. Principal Rossetti stated that the teachers' classroom success is first and foremost. Although the athletic program plays a huge factor in the character formation of many Blue Hills Students, academics, teaching and student learning is always first. Chairman Flahive also asked who approves all the new hires and athletic appointments. Ms. Rossetti replied, "I make the recommendations, but the Superintendent-Director appoints them." Mr. Flahive replied, "If the Superintendent disagrees with your choices, you could be fired." This is an example of who has the final word, as per EdReform. Ms. Rossetti was disappointed with this response, also stating that if she had known this subject was going to be discussed, she would have prepared herself for this line of questioning. Mr. Flahive stated that he believes that the coach hiring protocols should be reviewed. "Teacher coaches are out of the school buildings a lot of their teaching times. How do our students do well with teachers that aren't there?" Member Aidan G. Maguire, Jr., mentioned that the JV Football Team had parent coaches last year with four fathers and they did a great job. They were very successful.

Superintendent-Director James P. Quaglia stated, "This whole topic is unfair as it was never on the agenda."

Member Fess Joyce spoke: "It seems to me that the school wants to have the best people on the fields coaching the students. Isn't this what our school is all about? We are very lucky to have teachers that are able to be outstanding coaches as well as amazing teachers."

**MASC/MASS Conference:** Chairman Flahive stated that he would like to see all members attend this event from November 3, 2015 through November 7, 2015

## 6. Subcommittee Reports:

- **Curriculum & Advisory Subcommittee** - The meeting was conducted at 5 p.m. this evening. The first order of business was election of Chairman of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee unanimously elected Member Kevin L. Connolly to this position.
  - **Newly elected Subcommittee Chairman Kevin L. Connolly** reported on the outcome of the Curriculum & Advisory Subcommittee with the recommendation of the subcommittee **to approve the institution of a new position of Technology Integration Specialist (TIS)**, as presented by Superintendent-Director James P. Quaglia and Principal Jill M. Rossetti and request that the Committee place this item on their next agenda for the vote of the Committee (Full Report of the TIS Position is on file and has been supplied at a June 2015 meeting to all members. It is also noted that this position is fully grant funded at this time.)  
The position will be on the 9.1.15 Meeting agenda for a full-committee vote.
- **Evaluation Subcommittee Meeting** – Subcommittee Chairman Fran J. Fistori provided the Committee with hard copies of the final tallies for the Superintendent-Director, as well as written

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comments. The evaluation by the Full Committee. The Superintendent-Director received an evaluation average of the higher side of proficient. The variety of opinions on the Superintendent's performance by individual DSC Members was discussed. The members of the District School Committee applauded Evaluation Subcommittee Chairman (Fran Fistori) for the fine leadership ability that was demonstrated throughout this most important evaluation. The Evaluation Subcommittee, whole-heartedly, recommends the continuation of the Superintendent-Director's employment.

- **Warrant Subcommittee Chairman Charles W. Flahive** reported on the reviewed documents and recommended the approval of the warrants presented at this evening's meeting

## 7. Administrative Reports:

7.1 **Treasurer:** Chairman Flahive recognized Treasurer Charles J. Gisondi. Mr. Gisondi requested the vote of the Committee for the approval of two Warrants (FY15, #24 and FY16, #2)

7.1.1 **Warrant Approval:** Chairman Flahive moved the question of the approval of the Warrant.

Secretary Thomas R. Polito, Jr., moved to approve FY15, Warrant #24, in the amount of \$120,508.07, dated August 18, 2015.

Motion was seconded by Member Eric C. Erskine. Motion was taken to a vote and it was

**UNANIMOUSLY**

**VOTED:** to approve FY15, Warrant #24, in the amount of \$120,508.07, dated August 18, 2015.

Secretary Thomas R. Polito, Jr., moved to approve FY16, Warrant #2, in the amount of \$720,309.92, dated August 18, 2015.

Motion was seconded by Member Eric C. Erskine. Motion was taken to a vote and it was

**UNANIMOUSLY**

**VOTED:** to approve FY16, Warrant #2, in the amount of \$720,309.92, dated August 18, 2015.

7.2 **Assistant Superintendent-Business and Personnel,** Mr. Steven M. Moore was recognized by Chairman Charles W. Flahive. Mr. Moore is prepared to provide information on the high-cost of the Policy Manual and his involvement with this situation.. Mr. Moore stated that when this legal Policy Manual project was enacted, he was not an employee of the district and the whole issue has no root to him. Chairman Flahive stated: "How did this cost get so high without review, or vote of the Committee?" go so high with charges for review?" Mr. Quaglia replied that Attorney Paige Tobin is willing to attend the next meeting for the explanations requested. Chairman Flahive stated that this was a project we could have had done by MASC/MASS and now we have seen this project turn into a \$16,000 fiasco with different "phases" enacted and full committee knowledge nonexistent.

Member Aidan G. Maguire, Jr., the Chairman of the full Committee over the past two years stated, "I take great offense on how this whole issue was handled as it occurred during my Chairmanship term and I know that the Committee was never advised of the escalation of the costs for this project".

Vice-Chairman Marybeth, the Chairman of the Policy Subcommittee, vehemently denied ever increasing the legal

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costs for this project.

**Reconciliation:** It is the hope of the entire Committee that the upcoming discussion with Attorney Paige Tobin will offer cohesiveness to the details of the Policy Manual Project.

**Preliminary End-of-Year Financial Report:** Mr. Moore had provided all members with a copy of the preliminary report well before this meeting. Secretary Polito had some comments regarding how things are done in Dedham that will be addressed at a subcommittee meeting.

7.3 **Principal –Principal Jill M. Rossetti.** Ms. Rossetti was recognized by Chairman Charles W. Flahive.

- **Principal Rossetti** continued with her comments on **The School Year 2015-16 PARENT STUDENT Handbook** is complete and ready for the approval and vote of the Committee.

**Handbook Approval:** Following conclusion of discussions, Secretary Thomas G. Polito, Jr., moved to **approve the 2015-2016 Parent Student Handbook**. Motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Marybeth Nearen. Motion was taken to a vote and it was **UNANIMOUSLY**

**VOTED:** to approve the **2015-2016 Parent Student Handbook**

**Principal Rossetti added that the Design and Vision Communication Program** has a plan to design a new cover for this handbook for next year's edition.

- **Master Scheduling Update** – All student schedules are set (this was an update).
- **Preliminary School Start Readiness:** Principal Rossetti stated, "We are right on target for school year 15-16 start. First day of school will be Wednesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Teachers will have their first day event on Wednesday, September 2, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. District School Committee Members are welcome to attend this event.

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

**Hiring Status:** Mr. Quaglia stated that hiring is nearly completed. Chairman Flahive asked if there was some way the Committee could learn of the credentials of new hires. Chairman Flahive wants to be assured that the best is coming into the District for the Students.

**Letter to District Representatives and State Senators:** Superintendent-Director stated that a letter has been sent to all District State Representatives and Senators announcing the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Blue Hills Regional Vocational/Technical School. Coupled with that advisement, is a request to support Blue Hills' recent submission of an MSBA Statement of Interest.

8. **Unfinished Business and New Business –**

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**iPad Use:** Chairman Charles W. Flahive continues to urge all members to bring their iPads to each meeting. All documents pertaining to upcoming meetings are provided in advance, instantly via email delivery. If anyone requires assistance with the capabilities of this meeting tool, please contact Joanne.

**Cell Phone Use** – Member Aidan G. Maguire, Jr. would like to know how other schools in the state are handling cell-phone use by students. Joanne will use her contacts through COSCAP to harvest this information. Blue Hills currently allows cell phone use within the school with stipulations through its Parent Student Handbook.

9. **Discussion or Suggestions** for the Good of the District, Including newsworthy educational items –

- **School Counsel Meeting:** The Committee wishes to have Attorney Matthew Tobin at a future meeting for discussion of a litigation matter. Attorney Paige Tobin will be asked if she is able to attend the Tuesday, September 1, 2015 meeting.

10. **Executive session:** Conducted out of order and earlier in the meeting, strictly for a personnel item

11. **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 **9:36 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, September 1, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.,** unless otherwise posted.

Minutes approved by:

Respectfully submitted by:

Thomas R. Polito, Jr., Secretary

Joanne Kuzborski, Recording Secretary