



**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, September 15, 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 subcommittee was:

- **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 Regular Schedule Meeting** was called to order, promptly, at **7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 15, 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, Mr. Polito

MEMBERS ABSENT Mrs. Nearen

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
Ms. Marybeth Joyce, Director of Admissions and Financial Aid
Ms. Stacy Hedges, Teacher at Blue Hills and Student Council Advisor
New Employees Present (Continued from 9.1.15 Meeting):
Mrs. Pamela Donnellan, Executive Assistant
to the Superintendent-Director
Ms. Janice LaVoie, Cosmetology Instructor
Mr. James Danielson, Instructor

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Ms. Melissa Taksar, Instructor

(Note: On occasion, individuals attending do not sign the official sign-in register.)

Birthday Surprise: *Without prior knowledge, Superintendent-Director James P. Quaglia was presented with a "birthday surprise".*

A serenade of "Happy Birthday" accompanied by a candle-carrying cake and card by the District School Committee. Mr. Quaglia expressed his surprise and gratitude for acknowledgement of this momentous occasion. Member Robert A. McNeil took on the responsibility of official cake cutter and distributor.

MOMENT OF SILENCE AND RESPECT: Members of the District School Committee extended a moment of silence and respect to the tragic accident that claimed the life of Canton High Junior, Mr. Paul O'Brien.

2. **Continued New Employee Introductions** – Chairman Charles W. Flahive recognized Principal Jill M. Rossetti. Principal Rossetti proceeded to introduce the new employees present to meet the District School Committee, following the introductions of the District School Committee to the new employees including a brief synopsis of backgrounds, as follows:

Mrs. Pamela Donnellan, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent-Director
Ms. Janice LaVoie, Cosmetology Instructor
Mr. James Danielson, Instructor
Ms. Melissa Taksar, Instructor

Members of the District School Committee wished the new employees great success with their new positions.

3. **Student Representative School Year 2015-16 Report** – Chairman Flahive recognized Student Representative Geoffrey Ostman. Geoff is beginning his second school-year term as Student Representative to the District School Committee. **Incidentally, this is the "first" time this has ever been accomplished!**

- **Student Council** is preparing a busy schedule for SY15-16; one that will continue with altruism and fun-filled activities. It appears that the Home Coming event will be October 9th
- Students thoroughly enjoyed the enrichment assembly that was **presented by Aaron Polansky to all students:**

Summary of Aaron's background and mini-bio...

- 15+ years working in education. Moved several organizations and programs (educational and otherwise) from distress to success. Committed to "what is best for students" while raising expectations, motivation, and outcomes in whatever setting contribution is taking place.

Former Director of Athletics for 2003 Dalton Award winning Athletic Department. 2008 MetroWest Daily News and Midland-Wachusett League Wrestling Coach of the Year. 2011 Wrestling USA Magazine Massachusetts Man of the Year. 2013 MSSAA Assistant Principal of the Year.

Long-term goals include finishing his book, expanding upon his paid public speaking career, and spending more quality vacation time at exciting outdoor destinations with his family.

Principal Rossetti stated that the school will be offered an opportunity to purchase "Geek Socks" as a memento of Mr. Polivy's messages.

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Mr. Polansky's message included this advice: "Is it kind, honest and will it improve the situation"?

District School Committee Members thanked Mr. Ostman for his presentation and input.

4. **Minute Approval** – Chairman Charles W. Flahive addressed the approval of the Tuesday, August 18, 2015 Special Summer Session Minutes and Tuesday, September 1, 2015 Regular Session Meeting. It was determined that the approval of the Tuesday, August 18, 2015 Special Summer Session Minutes would be postponed. Member Aidan G. Maguire, Jr., moved to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, September 1, 2015 Regular Session District School Committee Meeting, as submitted. Motion was seconded by Member Kevin L. Connolly. Motion to approve the minutes was taken to a vote, without further discussion, and it was **UNANIMOUSLY**

VOTED: to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, September 1, 2015 Regular Session District School Committee Meeting, as submitted.

1. **DSC Chair Report**

Chairman Charles W. Flahive spoke on the following items:

1) **Opening Day of School for Teachers** – Chairman Charles W. Flahive addressed the audience at the Opening Day for the Teachers on Wednesday, September 2, 2015. Five members of the Committee attended this event. Principal Jill Rossetti expressed her appreciation for members' attendance.

2) **MASC/MASS Conference in Hyannis (November 3-7, 2015)** – Vice Chairman Nearen will be attending the full conference and was recommended to be the District's voting delegate. Mrs. Nearen was absent for this meeting and it was the sense of the Committee to delay a vote on this matter until she was present. Mr. Polito indicated that he will be attending the full session of this year's conference.

3) **Structure of Subcommittees** – There was considerable discussion regarding an increase to the number of members on subcommittees. Currently, three members are appointed by the Chairman and the Chairman of the District School Committee and Superintendent-Director serve as Ex-officio members on all subcommittees. After deliberation it was decided not to increase the number of appointed members, but to create the position of alternate member, when necessary. That alternate would be assigned by the Chairman (Charles W. Flahive) of the DSC, when necessary. Chairman Flahive is responsible for all subcommittee

- **Establishment of a new ad hoc Legal Subcommittee** – After discussion a vote was taken to establish an ad hoc Legal Subcommittee A vote was taken and **by MAJORITY** (5 AYE – 3 No)

VOTED: to establish an ad hoc Legal Subcommittee.

Ad hoc Legal Subcommittee Members Appointed are: Member Kevin L. Connolly, Member Aidan G. Maguire, Jr. and Secretary Thomas R. Polito, Jr.

- **Additional Subcommittee Appointments** – Member Aidan G. Maguire, Jr. was appointed to the Personnel & Negotiation Subcommittee and Warrant Subcommittee.

7. **Subcommittee Reports:**

Warrant Subcommittee Member, Mr. Eric C. Erskine reported on the review of the documentation of the

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Warrant this evening. Mr. Erskine still wishes to see more definition given with all invoices, especially legal invoices, submitted. The Warrant Subcommittee recommended the approval of the submitted warrant.

8. Administrative Reports:

8.1 **Treasurer, Mr. Charles J. Gisondi** was recognized by Chairman Flahive. Treasurer Gisondi stated that the Bank of America has informed him that Blue Hills is being dropped from their customer list in 90 days. Mr. Gisondi stated that he is actively seeking a new bank and is very impressed with what the Bank of Canton has to offer the District with entering into a banking relationship. Following discussion, Committee Chairman Charles W. Flahive accepted a motion from Member Kevin L. Connolly authorizing District Treasurer Charles J. Gisondi of the Blue Hills Regional Vocational School District to enter into a banking relationship with the Bank of Canton on behalf of Blue Hills Regional Vocation School District. Motion was seconded by Member Fess Joyce. Motion was taken to a vote and it was **UNANIMOUSLY**

VOTED: TO APPROVE THE AUTHORIZATION OF District Treasurer Charles J. Gisondi of the Blue Hills Regional Vocational School District to enter into a banking relationship with the Bank of Canton on behalf of Blue Hills Regional Vocation School District, 800 Randolph Street, Canton, MA 02021-9103.

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

Secretary Thomas R. Polito moved to approve FY16 Warrant #4, dated September 15, 2015, in the amount of \$1,336,144.83. 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 #4, DATED September 15, 2015, in the amount of \$1,336,144.83.

8.4 **Assistant Superintendent/Personnel and Business: Mr. Steven M. Moore** was recognized by Chairman Charles W. Flahive. Mr. Moore reported spoke of the 2016 Legal & Protective Services Operating Budget. A new Operating Budget, **Account 10.2415.510.902.02** has been created to provide text and materials for the Legal and Protective Services Program. The account is funded through transfers from existing budgets and will not impact the FY16 Budget.

Request for Finance and Administration Subcommittee Meeting – Mr. Moore requested a meeting with the Finance & Administration Subcommittee meeting to justify the operating budget and overview the year-end monies. Mrs. Nearen is the chairwoman of the subcommittee and will be contacted for proposed date and time.

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

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- **Summer Camp Report** – Ms. Rossetti stated that the Title I Summer School Program was a great success and directed by **Blue Hills’ Teacher, Ana Peach**. Information was provided on the program, as follows:

Title 1. Summer Exploratory Camp 2015 Report by Ana Peach

BHR 2015 Summer Exploratory Camp				
July-13-29				Time: 8:00-12:00
	Mon	Tues	Wed	
Week 1	13	14	15	
Week 2	20	21	22	
Week 3	27	28	29	

Teachers	Qty	Students
Vocational	4	34/38
Haelson		
Jordan		
Wayland		
Williams		
Academic	6	
Barley (only 2 weeks)		
Flynn		
Lavoie		
Lovell		
Sullivan		
Ray		

A total of 38 students applied through the final process but only 34 participated. The following is the attendance for the 3 weeks:

Attendance	Day 1	Day 2	Day 3
Week 1	32/34	33/34	33/34
Week 2	28/34	31/34	29/34
Week 3	32/34	32/34	33/34

Our objective was met. We offered the students a fun and educational time while easing their concerns about coming to BHR in the fall. Students were excited about their projects, about taking their own BHR key chain and "t" shirt home as well as different foods. Some made presentations for their shops. On the final day a show of their culmination video was shown while all ate pizza, cookies, ice cream and other treats.

Students and parents were given a survey to complete and 24 out of the 34 returned the following responses according to the rates of:

1 =Excellent, 2=Good and 3=Needs improvement.

Students' questions:	Rate	1	2	3
1 Rate your Summer Exploratory experience		19	5	0
2 Rate the vocational experience		19	5	0
3 Rate the academic integration		11	12	1
4 Rate the break time snacks		13	9	2
5 Rate the level of fun		17	7	0
6 Rate the opportunity to meet new friends or to create new friendships		17	5	2
7 Rate how comfortable you are with the school's lay-out		8	14	2

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TOTALS		104	57	7
8	Would you recommend this to another student?		Y	N
			23	1

1 =Excellent, 2=Good and 3=Needs improvement.

Parents' questions:	Rates:	1	2	3
#1. How would you rate the summer exploratory camp experience for your child		22	2	0
#2. How would you rate the enrollment process		20	4	0
#3. How would you rate the snack choices		12	11	1
TOTALS		54	17	1
			Y	N
#4. Would you recommend this to other parents?			24	0
#5. Do you feel your child is better prepared to start BHR?			25	0

Specific comments given by parents:

Bonollo: More gluten free choices. Glad their daughter had this experience to become more familiar with the school.

Crowley: Maura's anxiety was decreased. Disappointed with the decrease in shops offered.

Kesaris: "Thank you".

Crimi: Son really enjoyed it. A great opportunity to try different vocations.

Laun: Daughter really enjoyed it. Happy the school offered this again.

Adams: before this Noah did not want to come to BHR – now he is excited.

Abelard: This will allow their daughters to have a better transition to high school.

McGettigan: daughter had a wonderful time. Glad she had a chance to participate. Suggests full weeks or longer days. "She was sad when it ended."

McDonald: Daughter is much more relaxed about going to a new environment since she's has met some classmates and learned the lay-out of the school.

Muriel: "Great program"

Anastasio: Great experience...wishes for sessions on Thursdays and Fridays.

Jean-Baptiste: Appreciated the program...it helped with kids' transition.

No name: Great program...already met new friends.

Teacher's questions:	Rates	1	2	3
#1. How do you rate the camp offerings?		4	5	0
#2. How do you rate the benefits received by the students?		5	3	1
#3. How do you rate the vocational experience?		6	2	1
#4. How do you rate the academic integration?		2	4	3
#5. How do you rate the level of fun?		3	5	1
#6. How do you rate the schedule?		4	4	1
#7. How do you rate professional fulfillment?		5	3	1
TOTALS		29	26	8

- **Alice Drill** – Is in planning stage.
- **Fire Drill** – First Fire Drill was accomplished successfully yesterday.
- **MCAS** – September 24th will lift the embargo on lists of MCAS scores.
- **DESE** is coming in next Monday, to grant Chapter 74 Approval for new program.

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

- **Commendation:** Mr. Quaglia praised Principal Rossetti on the way she reached out with the recent tragedy.
- **Camp Blue** – Tom Cahill is coming in to next DSC meeting to report on the outcome of Camp Blue's first year.
- **MSBA** – Member Kevin L. Connolly and Mr. Quaglia attended a meeting in Norwood to discuss the MSBA process.
- **Investigation** – Mr. Quaglia is investigating methods that are currently being used with the state cherry sheets and the misinformation that may be reported regarding voc-tech education and will report back to the Committee with his findings.
- **Superintendent's Blog** – Member Aidan G. Maguire, Jr., questioned Mr. Quaglia about the possibility of setting a "Superintendent's Blog" on the new Blue Hills Website.

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

Thank you acknowledgements: The Committee would like to have special thank you items given to the parents that so generously donated their time and talents to the sports programs.

Shirts for DSC Members: Mr. Quaglia will explore the shirts for the DSC Members (with the TRIAD). These shirts would be worn at the numerous events the members attend to assist with identification.

Some of the members continue to express their disappointment with the **Policy Manual mystery**. One member said: "Let's learn from this lesson and stop beating a dead horse."

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

10. **Executive session:** Unnecessary.

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 **8:57 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 6, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**, unless otherwise posted.

Minutes approved by:

Respectfully submitted by:

Thomas R. Polito, Jr., Secretary

Joanne Kuzborski, Recording Secretary