



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Sixth District Committee
DSC Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, October 20, 2020

Per Governor Baker's order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A sec 20, the public will not be allowed to physically access the School Committee meeting. Members of the public can access the meeting via live stream at the link provided.

Call to Order: Roll Call at 7:06 P.M.

Members in Attendance: Fran Fistori – Avon, Eric Erskine (Vice Chair) Braintree, Aidan Maguire – Canton, Thomas Polito (Chair) – Dedham [technical difficulties coming in and out of meeting], Michael Franzosa (Secretary) – Holbrook, Matthew O'Malley – Milton, Kevin Connolly – Norwood, Marybeth Nearen – Randolph, and Charles Flahive – Westwood.

School Administration in Attendance: Jill Rossetti – Superintendent-Director, Geoff Zini – Principal, Michelle Resendes – Business Manager, David Galego – Facilities Director, Marybeth Joyce – Admissions Director, Paul Bavuso – Academic Director, Michelle Sylvia – Vocational Director, and Angelo Dimitriou – Special Services Director.

Open Session: ZOOM Meeting (Virtual)

Public Comment: None

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Gisondi

Mr. Gisondi reported that the BH Retirement Committee was down one member due to Steven Moore's retirement last year. Further, he spoke about Mr. Moore's experience and expertise in this area and his contributions to the Committee. He asked that Mr. Moore be asked to re-join the Committee and to attend virtually as he has moved out of state.

After a short discussion, Kevin Connolly made the motion to ask Steve More to join the Retirement Board and to attend virtually.

Motion to Approve: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Marybeth Nearen, Randolph

Roll Call Vote: Motion passes (7 yes votes, and two abstained – Canton and Westwood)

Warrant: Vote Required

FY21: Number 7 for \$535,132.26

Motion to Approve: Kevin Connolly, Norwoos

Second: Marybeth Nearen, Randolph

Roll Call Vote: Warrant Number 7 passes unanimously

Admissions: Student Enrollment Report, Marybeth Joyce, Admissions Director

Student Enrollment : Numbers by Town: See attached report for detail. Does not require a vote

Although this item was on the agenda, the physical report was not forwarded to the Committee until the day before meeting. There was a brief discussion about tabling this report until the next meeting instead of hearing the presentation immediately. The next meeting will be at least three weeks away because of the November elections and 5 current Board seats are up for election. No vote is required so the Committee will hear the presentation. Ms. Joyce reviewed the report page by page breaking down number of students by town, vocation, and grade, etc. She compared these numbers to previous years and outlined the differences, the increased admissions, and numbers of students leaving the school. Mr. Polito has several questions about where the numbers come from and specific reasons why students leave.

The Committee decided to revisit this report at the next meeting allowing time for members to review the report and presentation in its entirety.

DSC Chair Report: Thomas Polito, Jr., Dedham

Mr. Polito started by recognizing the five current members who are either retiring or their seats are up for election on November 3rd. He thanked Charlie Flahive for his 12 years of service (November 18, 2008) to the school and wished him and his family well on his retirement. He then thanked Marybeth Nearen for her 8 years (November 18, 2012) of service to Blue Hills. Mr. Polito moved on to wish Matthew O'Malley (April 2018) luck on his return to law school and to Michael Franzosa (November 15, 2016) a thank you for his contribution to the committee. Mr. Connolly is re-running uncontested for his committee seat representing Norwood. A gathering/party will be planned later to celebrate when it can be done safely.

Mr Polito then spoke about his expectations surrounding financial information being relayed to the DSC when items go to bid or large sums of money being spent. Although BH staff did nothing wrong (according to state guidelines) financially or in their purchasing and notification, the DSC wants to just be informed when the school wants to put something out to bid or spending between 10 and 50 thousand dollars. The Business Manager agreed to pass on this information.

The committee felt that it was important to know about repairs going on at the school as well. They wanted to ensure things like the East Stairway repair at least goes to the District Building Sub-Committee. Mr. Erskine felt that the District was upset because they thought the East Staircase issue was part of the renovation project. His point is to communicate to the DSC when repairs/items under the state reporting mandate go out for bid. The Superintendent and Business Manager agreed to do so.

Sub-Committee Reports

Personnel and Negotiation Sub-Committee

Sub-Committee will be going into Executive Session

Administrator's Reports

Principal's Report: Geoff Zini

Hybrid Learning has been going very well and student Attendance has been consistently very good with an average daily attendance of 94.6 per cent. The numbers are encouraging and student participation is very promising. Mr. Zini also mentioned that there is a Virtual Open House planned for November 14th and that Parent teacher conferences are underway and overall participation is good. There are day and evening timeslots available and if a parent needs a meeting outside of scheduled hours, the teachers will accommodate them.

Business Manager Report: Michelle Resendes

Revolving Accounts Approval (vote required)

Ms. Resendes reviewed the report and letter she submitted as back up information for this presentation and ask. She spent time reviewing the requested changes and the reasons for them. After discussion, Mr. Connolly made the motion to approve changes.

Motion: Kevin Connolly

Second: Eric Erskine

Roll Call Vote: Motion passes (7 yes, 2 abstain Canton and Westwood)

Superintendent's Report; Jill Rossetti

Superintendent Goals: This was tabled to a future meeting for vote.

DSC Handbook: Ms. Rossetti asked the committee if they had an opportunity to read the DSC Manual she put together for the school committee to help them understand their roles more fully. Further, she stated that it would help new members coming on board acclimate to their new responsibilities so they are able to support the students and school. There was a short discussion and one member felt it was not necessary as they follow regulation from MASC. Ms. Rossetti said that the information was the same and that this manual just puts the information together. Ms. Nearen felt it might be good for new members but that they have Goals under the MASC.

COVID update: Ms. Rossetti reviewed the color codes the state uses for cities and towns to identify risk associated with them. Green being low risk and red being high risk. She let the committee know that she was keeping up with this and that the numbers and codes were updated and released every Thursday. She said we have 4 towns in the red and 5 in yellow, She assured the committee that she was on top of this and would keep them apprised.

Unfinished Business:

None

New Business:

None

Executive Session:

The Committee voted to go into Executive session and to adjourn regular meeting.

Motion to move into Executive Session and adjourn regular meeting: Kevin Connolly

Second: Charlie Flahive

Roll Call Vote: Motion passes unanimously

The next School Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10th at 7:00 P.M.

Adjournment: 8:32 P.M.

Minutes submitted by:

Pamela Donnellan

Administrative Secretary to the Superintendent-Director

Minutes Approved: 11/17/2020 by the DSC