



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Sixth District Committee

District School Committee Meeting
April 6, 2021
Draft DSC Minutes

A. Call to Order: Start Time: 7:00 PM

Members in attendance:

Francis Fistori – Avon, Eric Erskine (Vice-Chair) – Braintree, Aidan Maguire, Jr. (Secretary) – Canton, Thomas Polito (Chair) – Dedham, Taryn Mohan – Holbrook, Clinton Graham – Milton, Kevin Connolly – Norwood, Rachele Jeanty – Randolph, and Sheila Vazquez – Westwood, and Chuck Gisondi - Treasurer

Administration in Attendance: Jill Rossetti - Superintendent-Director, Michelle Resendes - Business Manager, Geoff Zini – Principal, David Galego – Facilities Director, and Ed Catabia – Athletic Director

B. Open Session: ZOOM (virtual)

C. Public Comment: None

D. DSC Student Representative Report: Chris Alcibert

Chris introduced himself to the committee and then began his presentation with a Skills USA update, more specifically announcing Kayla Anastasio the new State Officer Elect and about the remaining delegates. The new members of the National Honor Society have been named and everyone has started their community service hours.

Chris spoke briefly about Fall II sports and how much the student body appreciates being allowed to participate. They missed sports and wanted to thank administration and the committee for making this possible.

The recipients of the Non-Traditional and Traditional student of the year awards were announced. Chris was awarded the Non-Traditional title and Karoline Ferreira was named the Traditional student of the year. When asked what those Titles meant, Chris explained that he is in the Cosmo program which is traditionally a female vocation. This put him into a non-traditional category.

E. Treasurer’s Report: Chuck Gisondi

Report: Mr. Gisondi did not have a report this week but reminded the committee that he will be bringing “borrowing” back to the table in the next few weeks.

F. Warrant: Chuck Gisondi (Vote Required)

Warrant # 17 for \$1,469,838.60

Prior to Roll Call Vote, Taryn Mohan, Holbrook, asked if the cost for Porta Potty rental was going to be long term or just for the Fall II and Spring sports. She was told the rental cost was will cover sports through the end of this school year. Aidan Maguire, Canton, said he reviewed the warrant detail when the synopsis of warrant was forwarded to him just before the meeting. He said that when he did look at it, the account detail, he found that the backup for quotes, etc. were not attached. He asked that the detail backup be attached in the future. Michelle Resendes explained that the reason the detail is sent out a week in advance is to give committee members the opportunity to review it prior to the meeting. She encouraged members to call or email their questions to her so she would be able to address the same before the scheduled meeting. If this were to happen, the warrant vote would go smoothly.

Aidan Maguire, Canton, then asked that the backup for special items, large expenditures, and quotes be attached to the warrant detail. Ms. Resendes explained that it is not cost effective to pick out certain backup for the detail. She would, however, gladly just copy all the back up with the detail and members would be able to find any information they wanted.

Ms. Resendes encouraged members to email or call here with any questions prior to meeting and she would gladly assist them.

Motion to approve Warrant number 17 made by: Aidan Maguire, Secretary – Canton

Second: Eric Erskine, Vice Chair – Braintree

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve Warrant # 17 carried unanimously

G. Superintendent’s Report: Jill Rossetti

- **COVID Update**

Ms. Rossetti reviewed the most up to date COVID information released. She mentioned that Canton had moved from yellow to red. The rest of the District towns remain in the yellow. She reviewed the school COVID numbers and relayed that these numbers would not change re-opening plans as of today but that she will continue to monitor this closely.

- **School Opening Update:** Remains April 29, 2021
Once Blue Hills moves to 100% in school learning, remote classes will end. (Note: Geoff Zini and Jill both presented and answered questions here.) There will probably be about 80 remote learners by choice through the end of the school year. Remote learners will be given assignments and specific times to access teachers for help and questions. Google Classroom / Zoom will not be used on and after April 29th. Members of the committee had questions as to why remote means would not be used during classes when school re-opens. It was explained that it was important to work with the students on site without interruption. Remote and live teaching is too difficult with neither group of students receiving the attention they need. It is a choice to remote learn for the remainder of the year and this choice is offered teacher support at specific times and assignments.

- **Donation to CVTE** (vote required)
Various working, used laptops and computer components including wires and connections were donated to the program to allow students to take them apart, practice programming etc. The items are wanted by classroom teachers to provide hands on training to the students.
Motion to accept CVTE donation: Kevin Connolly, Norwood
Second: Sheila Vazquez, Westwood
Vote, Roll Call: Motion to accept CVTE donations passed unanimously

- **Disposal/ Decommission** of an Ice machine from Athletics (vote required)
Motion to dispose of the ice machine was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood
Second: Fran Fistori, Avon
Vote, Roll Call: Motion to dispose of ice machine passed unanimously

H. Minutes Approval: (Vote is Required)

March 16, 2021

Motion to approve 3/16 minutes was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Taryn Mohan , Holbrook

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve minutes carried 8/0: 8 yes votes / and 1 member's connection froze for a minute (Avon – member returned to meeting a minute later)

Mr. Maguire asked if the recording secretary was up to date with posting meetings because he wanted to stop by and sign the minutes. The Superintendent told him everything was up to date and to just go on web site for this information. She also told Mr. Maguire to call and make an appointment to sign off on the minutes.

I. DSC Chair Report: Thomas Polito

Chair Polito reported that he spoke to all members of the committee about whether or not they wanted to return to in-person meetings. He stated that 5 members said yes and 4 said no. The topic of in-person meetings will be revisited in June 2021. Meeting will remain virtual until then.

Chair Polito informed the group that they would be entering into Executive Session tonight.

J. DSC Sub-Committee Reports: As Needed

Building Sub-Committee

Recommended Pool Increases: Needed to cover additional cost to the program. (COVID and the increase in MA minimum wage)

- Lessons: \$75 to \$85 (in district) and \$85 to \$95 (out of district)
- Pool Rental \$125 to \$150

- **Increase of Rental Rates for Pool** (Vote Requested)

Motion to increase the rental rates for pool use: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Rachelle Jeanty, Randolph

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve a pool rental rate passed unanimously.

Negotiations Sub-Committee

- **Clerical Union: Vote for SEIU Clerical Contract** (Vote Required)

Motion to approve the SEIU Clerical Contract: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Rachelle Jeanty, Randolph

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve the SEIU Clerical Contract passed with eight (8) yes votes and one (1) Abstention - Milton

K. Administration Reports:

1. Principal's Report: Geoff Zini

- Senior Plans

Mr Zini let the committee know that planning senior activities were under way. So far they have been talking about a field day, what a prom-like event may look like, and graduation plans. It is exciting for the students and teachers to be planning these events again with safety in mind.

- Sports Update: Spring Sports will begin immediately following the end of Fall II sports. Everyone has been working hard to make this work for the students. Blue Hills will continue to move forward and to make changes as we go to comply with ongoing changes and to participate safely.
- Program of Studies 2001 – 2022
The program of studies was disseminated last week with the agenda and back up materials for this meeting. There are a couple changes, but for the most part the programs remain the same. One noted change was in electives. A World Poetry class was removed and replaced with Ethics in Literature class. The committee had no questions about the Program of Studies for 2021 -20022.

2. Business Manager Report: Michelle Resendes

- Finance Committee Update

Ms. Resendes gave a brief update about the District Finance Committee meetings she had attended since the last meeting. She said that they all appeared to go well and that the town of Norwood was considering turning back their portion of ESSER II money back to Blue Hills.

She then reminded the committee that the Q3 report would be ready for review in the next couple weeks. The school is starting to prepare for end of year responsibilities and closing out the year.

L. Unfinished Business:

Aidan Maguire, asked the Superintendent if she read or knew about an article in the Boston Globe on vocational schools. The Superintendent let him know that she is aware of the Boston Globe article that was a couple months old. She let the committee know that it (vocational schools) are a very hot topic now because the demand for this education is considerably higher than its availability.

Mr. Maguire asked if the new members had been enrolled in MASC so they would receive information about activities such as “Day on the Hill”. The Superintendent told him that all member contact information for the school committee members have been reported to MASC, actually twice. Further, it would be up to the individual members to sign up themselves as active members because it entailed selecting passwords and user names. The superintendent said that the Day on the Hill event is virtual but you had to register online. Mr. Maguire said that it was not correct. He said he has the information and nowhere on the advertisement does it say it is a virtual event. Ms. Rossetti said that she does not have the email in front of her but is certain the information she forwarded to the school committee a week ago said the event this year is “Virtual”. Sheila Vazquez, Westwood, stated that she remembers the email and it did describe the meeting as virtual. Ms. Rossetti told the committee to register online if they wanted to attend the event.

M. New Business: N/A

N. Executive Session:

An executive session may be called 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.

O. Future Business: The next DSC meeting will be on Tuesday, April 27. It will start at 7:00 PM.

P. Adjournment: (Vote Required)

Time: 8:05 PM

Motion was made to adjourn from the general session and move into executive Session

Motion Made By Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Motion to adjourn carried unanimously

Minutes Prepared By:

Pamela Donnellan, Administrative Secretary to the Superintendent-Director

Minutes Approved by DSC on: Tuesday, April 27, 2021