



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Sixth District Committee

District School Committee Meeting

June 15, 2021

BHR, Room W-218

7:00 PM

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Call to Order: Time: 7:08

Roll Call:

Members in attendance:

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

Members Not in Attendance:

Clinton Graham – Milton,

Administration in attendance:

Jill Rossetti - Superintendent-Director, Michelle Resendes – Business Manager, Geoff Zini – Principal, and David Galego - Facilities Director, and Angelo Dimitriou – Special Services Director.

C. Public Comment:

Brian Gearty: Mr. Gearty announced that the Norfolk Service Award this year was being presented to the entire Blue Hills Maintenance and Custodial Staff. It was impossible to pick just one person. All members of the facilities department worked so hard over the past year plus keeping the building clean and safe for use every day. All members went above and beyond regular expectations responding to constant regulation updates and the many requests made by staff and DESE alike.

D. Presentation: Recognizing former DSC members that left after the November election.

Mr. Polito, Chair – Dedham thanked Marybeth Nearen for her eight years of service to the school. With restrictions in place in response to COVID-19, We were unable to do anything earlier. Ms. Nearen and the other three DSC members who left in November 2020, Charles Flahive, Michael Franzosa and Matt O'Malley, will receive different combinations of plaques, chairs and assorted citations for their service.

E. Treasurer's Report and Warrant: Chuck Gisondi
Warrant # 22 for \$1,001,302.08 (vouchers 1066 and 1067)

Motion: to approve Warrant #22: Aidan Maguire, Secretary - Canton

Second: Fran Fistori – Avon

No Questions

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve warrant was approved unanimously by those members in attendance

F. Presentation: Randolph STEM program, Jean Brewster and Rachelle Jeanty

Rachelle Jeanty – Randolph, introduced the presentation topic, The STEM program that has been offered through Randolph. Jean Brewster was unable to attend, leaving Ms. Jeanty to introduce the program citing 13 students (5 from Blue Hills) were charged with making a robot.

Blue Hills' students Evan Kery and Arman Kazemi presented.

Evan and Arman both felt that they learned a lot from attending this program. They said that they did not finish the robot their group was working on but had each contributed to the project on program time as well as on their own time. They found the experience worthwhile and fascinating and enjoyed working with different people who possess different experiences and knowledge. The two students are enrolled in the Engineering and Electronics programs at Blue Hills. Their team met 5 times a week and both felt challenged and were proud of the final product (robot).

G. Superintendent's Report: Jill Rossetti

- COVID-19 Dashboard Update

Numbers remain low and the overall outlook continues to be good. Blue Hills will continue to monitor numbers and follow all recommendations and any new regulations implemented as we move forward.

- Comfort Dog Pilot Program

Ms. Rossetti reviewed the reports and proposal she forwarded to the committee prior to this meeting. She introduced Enos as her dog and reviewed what she has done with him to prepare for his role as a therapy dog. The presentation included pictures of Enos with students who were clearly enjoying his company. This presentation included the benefits of therapy dogs at school and Ms. Rossetti also let the Committee know that she was training with police as well. Once her presentation was completed, Ms. Rossetti opened the opportunity for questions and a vote. The committee members asked questions about insurance and liability, handlers, allergies, and if the dog was territorial. Jill assured the Committee that she would be responsible for all training, insurance, maintenance, and care of the dog. She reviewed the training that has happened to date and plans for continued

outside training. The Committee overwhelmingly supported and approved having a therapy dog at the school.

Motion: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook, made the motion to allow a “Comfort Dog Pilot Program” at Blue Hills.

Second by Aidan Maguire, Canton

Vote, Roll Call: The motion was carried unanimously by those members in attendance.

- Summer Virtual Meetings update

The ability to meet remotely has been extended by the state allowing school committee meeting to be held using ZOOM over the summer if desired. A short discussion ensued outlining the pros including the ability to attend while on vacation or from home and the cons including missing the face to face meetings. The committee was pretty evenly divided with how they wanted to attend summer meeting. The Chair, Tom Polito, asked the committee to let him know via email what they preferred.

H. **Minutes Approval:** (Vote is Required)

June 1, 2021

Motion: to approve June 1, 2021 meeting minutes was made by Sheila Vazquez, Westwood.

Second: Aidan Maguire, Canton

Vote, Roll Call: Vote to approve June 1st minutes was unanimously by members

I. **DSC Chair Report: Thomas Polito**

- Ratify BHEA Contract, DSC

The new contract, to start September 1, 2021 was approved, MOA signed, by the union and has to be voted on by the Committee.

Motion: Motion to ratify BHEA contract made by Aidan Maguire, Canton

Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Vote, Roll Call: Motion carried unanimously by members in attendance

J. **DSC Sub-Committee Reports: As Needed**

Going into Executive Session

K. **Administration Reports:**

1. **Special Services Director: Angelo Dimitriou**

- SPED end-of-year Report

Mr. Dimitriou presented a PowerPoint presentation that provided an excellent and succinct snapshot of the services provided over the school year. Out of the 878 students enrolled, 232 students were on Service Plans and 52 students were receiving services outlined in 504 plans. This report included statistics about services provided broken out by District towns, student outcomes, trends, staffing, Tiered Focused Monitoring, and Guidance activity throughout the year.

Students receiving services performed as well if not better during this school year than in the past. Being a student at home did not work for many of Blue Hill's students. Daily academic monitoring by teachers was crucial in identifying and bringing students on site for assistance and services.

Graduation and scholarship information was also presented at this time. Bringing students back on site prior to the end of the year was decision supported by students, families and the faculty and staff at Blue Hills.

2. Principal's Report: Geoff Zini

- Summer Plans and Personnel

Mr. Zini spoke to the Committee about the end of year activities and told them there will be in person Summer School at Blue Hills this summer break. He further announced that he was preparing a grant that would hopefully allow Blue Hills to run an academic acceleration program in August. He agreed to share any further information as soon as possible.

- Final End of School Date: June 17, 2021

3. Business Manager Report: Michelle Resendes:

- Cybersecurity \$2 Million Policy Cost: Ms. Resendes forwarded an estimate for an additional million dollars of insurance for Cyber-theft. The estimate was submitted by XSBrokers. The Committee agreed to hold off on purchasing more insurance and give Matt Eisan an opportunity to put into place those safeguards we have on hand.

- Ms. Resendes presented the 2022 Final Budget/Assessment and asked for a vote.

Motion to approve the 2022 Final Budget/Assessment was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Vote, Roll Call: Motion was carried unanimously by members in attendance

L. DSC Organization: Tom Polito

Mr. Polito turned the meeting over to the DSC Secretary, Aidan Maguire. Mr. Maguire then opens the nominations for officers of the 57th District School Committee, effective July 1, 2021. He will call officer nominations in the following order: Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary.

Chairman: Call for nominations generated Eric Erskine as the only nominee.

Motion made to elect Eric Erskine into the Chairman Position was made by Secretary Aidan Maguire.

Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Vote: The vote was unanimously by those members in attendance.

Vice Chairman: The Secretary called for nominations to fill the Vice Chairman position. There were two nominees for the Vice Chairman position: Kevin Connolly of Norwood and Aidan Maguire of Canton. When the vote was called for Fran Fistori of Avon abstained from vote leaving 7 possible votes to be cast. Kevin Connolly of Norwood received 4 votes and won the Vice Chair position.

Secretary: The call for Nominations for the office of Secretary was answered with the nomination of Aidan Maguire of Canton. Mr. Maguire accepted the nomination and the vote to elect Mr. Maguire as Secretary was carried unanimous by those members in attendance.

M. Unfinished Business:

The secretary was asked if DSC members were registered for the MASC Conference that will be held in November 2021. The DSC members were told that the six members who wanted to attend were registered and hotel reservations were made for them as well.

N. New Business Topics: N/A

O. Executive Session: Yes

P. Future Business:

The next DSC meeting is Tuesday, July 20, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

Q. Adjournment: 8:50 PM

Motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Fran Fistori, Avon

Vote, Roll Call: Vote to adjourn was unanimous by members in attendance

Minutes Prepared by: Pamela Donnellan, Administrative Secretary for the Superintendent-Director

Minutes approved by DSC on 8/24/2021