

Thomas R. Polito, Jr.
Dedham
Chair

Eric C. Erskine
Braintree
Vice Chair

Michael C. Franzosa
Holbrook
Secretary

Kevin L. Connolly
Norwood

Francis J. Fistori
Avon

Charles Flahive
Westwood

Aidan G. Maguire, Jr.
Canton

Marybeth Nearen
Randolph

Matthew P. O'Malley
Milton



BLUE HILLS

REGIONAL TECHNICAL SCHOOL

Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Sixth District Committee

"Transparency, Accountability and Fiscal Discipline"

August 4, 2020	Meeting Minutes	7:00 PM Open Session
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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 this School Committee meeting. Members of the public can access the meeting via live stream at the link provided below.

- A. **Call to Order** Roll Call: Members and Regular BH Administration in Attendance: Chairman Thomas Polito, Member Aidan Maguire, Vice Chairman Eric Erskine, Member Matthew O'Malley, District Treasurer Charles Gisondi, Member Kevin Connolly, Member Francis Fistori, Member Marybeth Nearen, Superintendent-Director Jill Rossetti, Principle Geoff Zini, Business Manager Michelle Resendes. Not in Attendance: Secretary Michael Franzosa, Holbrook and Charles Flahive, Westwood (Note: Charles Flahive was able to hear the meeting via Zoom but was unable to speak and be heard)

Additional Attendance Sheet attached

- B. **Open Session** DSC Meeting called to order and started at 7:07 p.m.

- C. **Public Comment:**

Katherine Touafek: Katherine was recognized by the Committee Chair to begin. Katherine apologized for Mr. Burke's, inability to attend this meeting due to a scheduling conflict. He was on the agenda for today's meeting. She then thanked the Committee for inviting her to this meeting and offering the opportunity to present School to Career (STC) changes made to allow for remote programming and participation due to COVID-19. At this time, Member Marybeth Nearen then stated that she received information on School to Careers late and suggested waiting until the next meeting to hear this presentation. Tom Polito, Chair, made the argument to proceed siting that the concerns about STC are not new to the committee and that there were extenuating circumstances as to why the material was out late. After much discussion and input, the Committee reached a decision to continue with STC in the time slot noted in the agenda.

Brian Gearty: Tom Polito, DSC Chair, recognized Brian, Blue Hills' Teacher Union Representative. Mr Gearty proceeded to recite a statement put out by the Department of Education encouraging that any school re-opening plans be mindfully done where the safety of teachers, students, staff and families remain a priority and focus in any presented plan.

- D. Treasurer's Report and Warrant Approval: Mr. Gisondi
Mr. Gisondi reminded the Committee that the next round of borrowing would begin next month. (August)

Warrant: Warrant : Voucher Detail Listing: dated 7/29/2020 (Vote Required)

FY'20 Warrant Number 20: \$138,207.24

Motion to Roll Call Vote: Marybeth Nearen (Randolph)
Second: Kevon Connolly (Norwood)
Vote: Unanimously by members in attendance

FY'21 Warrant # 02: \$623,901.39

Motion to Roll Call Vote: Marybeth Nearen (Randolph)
Second: Kevin Connolly (Norwood)
Vote: Unanimously by members in attendance

- E. Minutes Approval: DSC Minutes for June 16,2020
Item was tabled until next meeting. (08/18) Request to change names in notes to titles.
- F. School to Career Partnership: Katherine Touafek (See financial and program report)
Katherine proceeded to let the committee know that the feedback she has been receiving regarding STC has all been favorable and that the feedback was from both school Superintendents, community leaders and varied agencies and companies. The mutual feeling is that STC benefits our students by exposing them to outside experiences that helps them understand how their vocational choices fit into different career paths making what they learn in school more meaningful. Katherine then presented the committee with the way new partnerships and relationships with the community help our students as well as our community companies select and promote interest in the different job/careers that are readily available. She spoke about MASS Hire and how the money presented to STC help our students and keeps program cost down.

Schools to careers are offering a number of exciting opportunities to our students during the upcoming year. These benefits and opportunities include:

- 30 minute remote classes
- 40 minute remote panels from various companies, community leaders and industry professionals
- Classes designed for STEM students

- Expanding services at a 12% reduced cost
- Supported job placements
- New STEM opportunities provided by the pharmaceutical industry
- Expended teacher programs and more

These changes were made financially possible by STC level funding for this year, partner contributions, decreasing hours worked by the Marketing position and hard work by all.

The Committee were impressed with the thoughtfulness and thoroughness of the adapted program and agreed to review the material presented and vote at the next meeting to continue the STC program as outlined for the next school year with an option to revisit program effectiveness in a few months.

G. DSC Chair Report: Mr. Tom Politio, Jr.

Mr. Politio told the group that several of the members were up for re-election this year and reminded them that they had to do their election paperwork and collect nomination signatures. (50 signatures to be on ballot)

He further stated that no one is currently on the ballot and the deadline for doing so was fast approaching.

Mr. Politio thanked Jill Rossetti and the school administration for all the hard work they put into developing a school opening plan. He further stated that the plan itself is evidence of the time and commitment from the school's administration team.

H. Subcommittee Reports As Needed

1. Policies Subcommittee: Marybeth Nearen

Marybeth reported to the committee that while she has the updated mask and Sexual Harassment policies ready to vote on, the Travel Policy has not returned from the school's Attorney, Kevin Bresnahan. Once the Travel Policy is in hand, she will bring the new policies to the DSC for a vote.

I. Administrator's Reports:

1. Principal's Report: N/A

2. Business Manager Report:

- Finalizing End of Year Journal Enteris and Fund Balances
- Transfer of Funds (see report) after a brief discussion, a vote was required to approve the transfer of funds.

Motion to Approve: Kevin Connolly

2nd : Eric Erskine

Vote was unanimous (members in attendance) to approve the transfer of funds

3. **Superintendent's Report** Superintendent Rossetti will provide an update on a variety of matters going on throughout the district.

- **SOA update:** Successfully submitted
- **Reopening Blue Hills Regional**

Jill Rossetti made a couple announcements before reviewing the reopening plan she was submitting on behalf of the school.

The state reduced the number of school days for the 20-21 school year by ten days. These ten days are to be used to train staff, install and implement all technology required to teach remotely while supporting teachers and ensuring that all students are provided the education and support they need to have a successful year. The State is recommending a September 16 start date for students. School Districts may request for Waiver if it is unable to meet this deadline.

(See attached written plan)

Jill Rossetti began this presentation by describing the process the school took to develop their plan including using task forces, surveys, parent/caretaker input, and reviewing responsibilities, expectations and school/student priorities. In the end, the plan presented is a three tier Learning Model. The three tiers include: In-Person Learning, Hybrid Models (2of them) and a Full Remote Learning Model.

The written plan was reviewed step by step by both Jill Rossetti, Superintendent-Director, and Geoff Zini, Principal. They both presented and answered the many questions that came up during this presentation. In closing, the Superintendent is recommending that Blue Hills start utilizing the Hybrid 1 plan with the understanding that this may change depending on any new state mandates, turns in the COVID-19 spread and school /student needs. The beauty of the plan presented is that it is fluid and can easily move to a less or more restrictive plan if need be. Ms. Rossetti, Mr. Zini and Mr. Galego fielded multiple questions including but not limited to: the number of students allowed in classrooms and hallways, air quality, eating arrangements, supporting students with special emotional, physical and academic needs, vocational shops, use of tools, cleaning schedules, COVID PPE and stations, etc.

After this lengthy and robust conversation took place before a vote was taken by the Committee to approve:

The whole reopening plan as written:

Motion: Marybeth Nearen (Randolph)

2nd: Aidan Maguire (Canton)

VOTE: Roll Call: Approved unanimously by attending members

The Hybrid Model 1 (25% Capacity with Disinfecting Day):

Motion: Eric Erskine (Braintree)

2nd: Kevin Connolly Norwood

VOTE: Roll Call: Passed 5 to 2 vote

Marybeth Nearen (Randolph) No, Matthew O'Malley (Milton) NO, Aidan Maguire (Canton) Yes, Eric Erskine (Braintree) Yes, Kevin Connolly (norwood) Yes, Francis Fistori (Avon) Yes, and Thomas Polito (Dedham) Yes.

J. **Unfinished Business**

- Letterhead: Aiden Maguire (Canton) introduced the new letterhead to the Committee. His objections included: not everybody's names are listed, that the subcommittee and members had been omitted and the committee was not given the opportunity to vote on the changes made. He further stated that he preferred the old letterhead.

Mr. Polito explained that the changes made mirror Blue Hill's professionally printed Letterhead and give the committee's correspondence a more polished appearance. He further stated that he did not ask or approve this change. The changes to the letterhead were made by the Superintendent's Executive Secretary to give the minutes a cleaner updated look.

A request to add the names of the entire committee to the letterhead was initiated by Aidan Maguire (Canton). No further resolution or action taken. .

- Pool
Marybeth Nearen (Randolph) noted that Fitchburg had just closed two pools due to COVID-19 and asked to what extent the school's pool was available. She brought up her concern that it may not be safe for student use and asked what safeguards were put in place to protect or students. David Galego, Facilities Manager answered this question stating that the Board of Health has cleared the pool for use. BOH further approved the cleaning schedule and procedures put in place ensured that the area is clean and that the air is not recycled are safe and up to code. The air circulating in school is coming from outside. Ms. Rossetti agreed to furnish the committee with a safety pool report to back up the stated information.
- "Vocational" being taken off letterhead and building
Marybeth Nearen (Randolph) started the conversation asking why the Word "Vocational" was taken off the building and letterhead explaining her concern that the public may not view Blue Hills as a "vocational" school without it being memorialized in some concrete manner. She further stated that the word "Technical" is different in meaning and moves the vocational description further away from what we do at Blue Hills. Committee members were concerned that the decision to remove the "vocational" was a unilateral decision made by the previous Superintendent. Ms. Rossetti explained how Technical actually pulls the vocational piece into to fold and current mission of the school. Further, she explained that "vocational" was never on the school's letterhead and that although vocational was on the outside of the school pre-renovation, it is no longer there.

K. **New Business Topics** not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting: N/A

L. Executive Session: N/A

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.

M. Future Business – Next School Committee meeting will be held

_____08/18_____ at 7:00 p.m. The School Committee reserves the right to implement additional remote participation procedures and will notify the public of these procedures as soon as practicable.

N. Adjournment: 9:57 P.M.

Motion to Adjourn: Kevin Connolly (Norwood)

2nd : Eric Erskine (Braintree)

VOTE: Passed unanimously by attending members

Minutes prepared by: Pamela Donnellan, Administrative Secretary to the Superintendent-Director

Minutes Approved by District School Committee on: September 15, 2020

