



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Seventh District Committee

District School Committee Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2022

BHR, Room W-218

7:00 PM

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Call to Order: Time: 7:05pm

Members in attendance:

Eric Erskine (Chair) – Braintree, Aidan Maguire (Secretary) – Canton,
Thomas Polito – Dedham, Taryn Mohan – Holbrook, Sheila Vazquez – Westwood,
Chuck Gisondi – DSC Treasurer

Members not in attendance: Clinton Graham – Milton, Fran Fistori – Avon,
Kevin Connolly (Vice Chair) – Norwood

Administration in attendance: Jill Rossetti – Superintendent-Director, Geoff Zini – Principal,
Michelle Resendes – Business Manager

C. Public Comment: None

D. Student Representative Report: Noel Hill

Noel began his student body report by acknowledging Martin Luther King Day. Noel enjoyed serving as ambassador for grade 8 interviews and sees lots of hope for the class of 2026. Noel provided feedback on covid cases, highlighted Boys Soccer D5 sportsmanship award, and ended with a quote from MLK, Jr. “What are you doing for others?”

E. Treasurer’s Report and Warrant: Chuck Gisondi

Review of two warrants due to postponement of January 4, 2022 DSC meeting.

Warrant #11

Vouchers 1040 for 100,486.99

Warrant #12

Vouchers 1041-1042 for \$498,544.80

Motion to approve Warrant # 11 and Warrant#12: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Second: Tom Polito, Dedham

Discussion: none

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve Warrant # 11 and Warrant #12 was carried unanimously.

F. General Advisory Committee Chair, Linda Wirta and Vocational Director, Michelle Sylvia

- Presentation to DSC

Linda Wirta introduced herself to new DSC members, explained her volunteer role with the Advisory Board, and expressed appreciation to the committee for letting her do a job which in turn helps our school. Ms. Wirta reviewed the types of things the committee is focused on, i.e. student successes, program needs and budget. Every 2-3 years, the advisory board creates a 5 year plan. Discussion about budgetary concerns due to an increase in supply costs, but we are right on target with our needs. Ms. Wirta emphasized that covid has led to the availability of emergency relief funds for schools across the country, and that grants requests are to be made before September 2022. Ms. Sylvia expressed gratitude to Ms. Wirta for a job well done for the past many years.

G. Attendance and Discipline Report, Dean of Students, Tom Cavanaugh

Mr. Cavanaugh presented on Term 1 attendance totals and conduct report. More student warnings are being issued than in the past. Attendance is at about 80%, with a few days of over 200 students absent. Mr. Cavanaugh explained the tardy versus absence totals, excused vs. unexcused. Good behavior, good work habits and good attendance are encouraged, and Mr. Cavanaugh's practice continues to be holding students accountable, stressing that 95% of the problems come from 3-5% of the kids. Overall, the kids have been great!

H. Special Services Director's Report: Angelo Dimitriou

Mr. Dimitriou presented a Special Services Department update on special education and guidance, highlighting that special education students at Blue Hills have the highest graduation rate and lowest dropout rate compared to other districts. Mr. Dimitriou shared that trends show a significant increase in student profiles with ADHD, hearing and vision, and autism. The guidance department has been busy creating student learning plans and coordinating support through our Bridge program. In addition, guidance department staff organize numerous projects, including freshman parent night, freshman exploratory, PSAT's, AFL-CIO scholarship exam, on the spot admissions with Bridgewater State University, ASVAB exam, dual enrollments, signs of suicide trainings, college / post secondary planning. Mr. Dimitriou shared an impressive list of colleges that our seniors are applying to.

I. Superintendent's Report: Jill Rossetti

- COVID-19 Update

Ms. Rossetti announced a hot-off-the-press option for ordering four free at home COVID Test kits through USPS. Ms. Rossetti also shared the state's decision to implement a new option for covid-19 testing at home on a weekly basis. In accordance with DESE and DPH, Blue Hills is adopting the at-home testing program, effective January 31, that will increase testing of our participating students and staff, regardless of vaccination status. This new at-home testing opportunity is voluntary and only those who opt-in before January 24th will receive tests. We

will continue with mandatory masking and self-checks during the week. Mr. Galego continues to do air quality and water quality testing.

- Other

Ms. Rossetti voiced her concerns about students and the fact that some are losing loved ones and many are missing out on the ability to use and develop social skills. Mr. Erskine asked about sports, and Ms. Rossetti responded that games are all happening for now. A list of upcoming weekly sport events will be shared with Tom Polito, via emails through Superintendent Rossetti from Athletic Director, Ed Catabia.

J. Minutes Approval: (Vote is Required)

December 21, 2021

Motion to approve the December 21, 2021 DSC meeting minutes: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Second: Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

Discussion: None

Motion to approve December 21, 2021 DSC meeting minute passed unanimously.

K. DSC Chair Report: Eric Erskine, Braintree

- Personnel and Negotiations Sub-Committee Meeting update

Meetings with the Clerical and Custodial Group are scheduled for January 24th.

Meeting with the Cafeteria Group needs to be scheduled.

L. DSC Sub-Committee Report:

- Finance and Administration Sub-Committee Meeting Update from 12/21/2021.

Ms. Resendes updated the group on discussions from the 12/21/2021 meeting, including a review of the proposed staffing plan and salary budget. There is a 3.8% budget increase from last year, which includes a 6.9% increase in the salary section. January 15 was the deadline for teachers to submit requests for lateral moves, and fifteen requests were received. Ms. Resendes gave an overview on the budget hearing process, and next steps involve presenting proposed expenses and budgets to towns.

M. Administration Reports:

1. Principal's Report: Geoff Zini

- Out of State Field Trip Approval Requests

Mr. Zini reported that due to covid, there will be no out of state field trips.

2. Business Manager Report: Michelle Resendes

- Review of 2023 proposed expense and salary budgets

This was covered during the Finance and Administration Sub-Committee Meeting Update.

N. Unfinished Business: none

O. New Business Topics: none

P. Executive Session: no

Q. Future Business:

The next DSC meeting is Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

R. Adjournment: (Vote Required) 8:12pm

Motion to Adjourn: Aidan Maguire, Canton

Second: Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

Vote to Adjourn was unanimous by members in attendance