



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee  
Fifty-Seventh District Committee

**District School Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**October 19, 2021**  
**Room W-218**  
**7:00 PM**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Call to Order: Time: 7:06 PM**

**Members in attendance:** Francis Fistori – Avon, Eric Erskine (Chair) – Braintree, Aidan Maguire (Secretary) – Canton, Tom Polito – Dedham, Taryn Mohan – Holbrook, Kevin Connolly (Vice Chair) – Norwood, Rachelle Jeanty – Randolph, Sheila Vazquez – Westwood, and Chuck Gisondi – DSC Treasurer

**Members Not in Attendance:** Clinton Graham, Milton

**Administration in Attendance:**

Jill Rossetti - Superintendent-Director, Michelle Resendes – Business Manager, Geoff Zini – Principal, Dave Galego – Facilities Director, Marybeth Joyce – Admissions Director, and Paul Bavuso – Academic Director

**C. Public Comment: None**

**D. Treasurer’s Report and Warrant:** Chuck Gisondi

Warrant # 6 for \$ 1,073,184.30

Vouchers 1020 – 1023

**Motion to approve Warrant number 6** for \$1, 073,184.30: Aidan Maguire, Canton

**Second:** Kevin Connolly, Norwood

**Discussion:** none

**Motion to approve Warrant #6** was unanimously approved by all members in attendance

Mr. Gisondi then asked the committee to vote to approve Anticipation Notes. The borrowing is down 6%. He also stated that these Notes require a lot of grunt work and that Michelle Resendes and her team have done a wonderful job pulling together all of the required information. Mr. Maguire read the document.

**Motion to approve the Anticipation Notes:** Aidan Maguire, Canton

**Second:** Kevin Connolly, Norwood

**Discussion:** nothing further

**Motion to approve the Anticipation Notes** was approved unanimously by those members in attendance.

**E. Superintendent's Report:** Jill Rossetti

- COVID Dashboard
- Ms. Rossetti reviewed the latest numbers distributed last Thursday and noted that the number of COVID cases had originally started to go down and then began to plateau. The numbers in the District are starting to creep up again. The superintendent will continue to monitor the numbers and report back to the Committee.

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

October 5, 2021

One error was found and corrected ("Westwood" changed to "West")

**A motion to approve the October 5<sup>th</sup> minutes** with the noted correction: Aidan Maguire, Canton

**Second:** Kevin Connolly, Norwood

**Discussion:** Nothing additional

**Vote, Roll Call:** Motion to approve 10/05/2021 minutes passed unanimously by those members in attendance.

**G. DSC Chair Report:** Eric Erskine, Braintree

- DSC Sub-Committee Assignments:  
Who is now the Chair for the Policy Sub-Committee? (Rachelle Jeanty or Clinton Graham)  
Rachelle Jeanty requested that this be tabled until the next meeting as Clinton Graham, Milton, is not in attendance. Request approved and item is tabled until the next meeting.

**H. DSC Sub-Committee Reports:**

- **Policy Sub-Committee Admissions Policy (see below)**

**I. Director of Admissions: Marybeth Joyce**

- High School Enrollment Report

MaryBeth Joyce presented several charts on enrollment comparisons, breakdown by town, and numbers over the last few years. BHR has the highest number of students enrolled now (September 2021) than in the past 30 years. Today, BH has 917 students in 2021.

Enrollments are ideally set at 240 per grade, and we currently have 246 grade 9 students. Grade 11 and 12 slots are harder to fill because they must transfer to BHR from another tech school and from the same vocational program.

Key points from 2020 enrollment charts: Higher percentage of students enrolled, though less students applied. (noteworthy data for budgetary reasons)

2018-2021: Need to look at the fluctuations in the applicant pool. (# of applications, # of acceptances, and # enrolled)

The numbers over the years indicate an upward trend. (2018-2019 (856 enrolled); 2019-2020 (856 enrolled); 2020-2021 (890 enrolled); 2021-2022 (917 enrolled))

The floor was then opened up for questions. Questions that were asked and answered included:

Do we have data on why students leave?

How many have moved out of district?

How many students leaving between grades?

The Committee was reassured that BH does capture this data in many ways and reports.

Some reasons why students leave includes but is not limited to the following: a fear of meeting new people, not wanting to leave the home community, getting on a bus, leaving home town friends, moving out of state, and transferring to private school.

- Admissions Policy (second reading and vote on November 2, 2021)

Ms. Rossetti presented the policy stating that it had to be updated and the policy that has been distributed and has been reviewed by 2 attorneys.

Once approved by the Committee, a copy will be submitted to DESE to keep on file. The majority of changes were around student discipline. A second read and vote will be scheduled for the next DSC meeting. (11/2/2021)

#### **J. Academic Director: Paul Bavuso**

- Summer Reading Report

Mr. Bavuso presented a very thorough PowerPoint Presentation describing the Summer Reading Program (voluntary) and outcomes. The students' interest and available book sources made this a successful year for reading. The final numbers were 590 books read by 502 students. There was a lot of favorable Buzz in the halls when everyone returned. Many asking how they could earn a BH tumbler, etc. One of the significant findings was that the majority of students preferred a hardcopy of the book instead of using e-books or audio. In an age where students are on their phone all the time, this was a surprise. Mr. Maguire asked why BH did not go back to assigning books with a couple of choices where the expectation was all will read and report on a book. Mr. Bavuso responded that the purpose of a voluntary programs was no longer to make kids read but rather to make all students better and excited readers. It also puts students on the same starting point in September without having to wait for students to catch up if the reading was tied to curriculum.

- Spring MCAS and AYP Results

Mr. Bavuso spent time reviewing Pandemic related changes and scores with those from last year. The data suggested that for Blue Hills, there was very little difference indicating that teaching methods and support given during the pandemic worked for most of BH student. He also reviewed growth potential achievement levels. The new standard is to test on-line vs. on paper. There will be no more mailing in tests. This will streamline the process and make it easier for all. Students are still able to take as much time as they need to complete and that is part of scheduling the exams in house. The 3 areas being looked at and utilized include ATLAS, Social and Emotional Learning Strategies, and Acceleration Roadmap.

## **K. Administration Reports:**

### **1. Principal's Report: Geoff Zini**

Mr. Zini told the Committee that Homecoming was coming up and although all activities were not fully planned out, they did expect to have a dance after the Friday football game and that it would be held in the Café and courtyard. It would also include Spirit Week activities and themes.

Also, reported were plans for upcoming parent/teacher conference (virtual and in-person) and BH's annual Open House.

In conclusion, Mr. Zini talked about Coach Madden receiving the Kraft Family & Patriots Charitable Foundation Weekly Coach award. This comes with a cash prize for the athletics Department. There was a motion to accept the donation, but after much discussion, it was tabled until the November 2, 2021 DSC meeting.

### **2. Business Manager Report: Michelle Resendes:**

Ms. Resendes reported that all annual entitlement grants for SY22 have been approved. She further stated that BH is waiting on the ESSER III grant and will update the Committee when she receives more information.

She informed the Committee that the Budget FY23 was underway and that they would start with administration and move on from there. Budget reviews will run from November 4 through December 6, 2021.start

## **L. Unfinished Business: None**

## **M. New Business Topics:**

- Kraft Family donation: Vote on November 2, 2021
- For November 2, 2021: Review Resolutions and discuss vote at the MASS/MASC Joint Conference in November
- Admissions Policy: second read and vote on November 2, 2021

## **N. Executive Session: None**

## **O. Future Business:**

The next DSC meeting is Tuesday, November 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM.

## **P. Adjournment: (Vote Required) 8:25 PM**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Kevin Connolly, Norwood

**Second:** Tom Polito, Dedham

**Discussion:** None

**Motion to adjourn** carried unanimously by members in attendance

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

**DSC Minutes for October 19, 2021 Minutes: Approved by the DSC on November 2, 2021**