



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Seventh District Committee

District School Committee Meeting
June 14, 2022
Draft Meeting Minutes
7:00 PM

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Call to Order: Time: 7:04 PM

Members in attendance: Francis Fistori - Avon, Eric Erskine (Chair) – Braintree, Aidan Maguire (Secretary) – Canton, Taryn Mohan – Holbrook, Kevin Connolly (Vice Chair) – Norwood, Yahaira Lopez - Randolph, Sheila Vazquez – Westwood, and Chuck Gisondi – DSC Treasurer

Members Not in Attendance: Thomas Polito – Dedham, and Clinton Graham – Milton

Administration in Attendance:

Jill Rossetti – Superintendent-Director, Geoff Zini – Principal, and Michelle Resendes - Business Manager, Angelo Dimitriou – Special Services Director, Tom Cavanaugh – Dean of Students, Ed Catabia – Athletic Director, and Paul Bavuso – Academic Director,

C. Public Comment:

No Public Comment placed on agenda from sign up. One comment requested from audience. Brian Gearty read the Fair Share Amendment and requested that the School Committee consider signing this amendment that commits 4% of budgets to underserved students. The School Committee agreed to take it under advisement and discuss it at the next DSC meeting.

D. Speaker: Alyssa Rabes, BH Student

Alyssa Rabes shared her own experience with Enzo, School Therapy Dog, eloquently. She described how he has helped her participate in school by lessening her anxiety levels. She described her feelings and how her relationship with Enzo was a comfort, took the edge off her anxiety, and provided a level of comfort that allowed her to be more of a participant in her school relationships rather than an outsider watching and not fully trusting that her peers, teachers and school counselors. She then went further and said she knew she wasn't alone and that other students have benefited from Enzo's presence at the school. She wanted the Committee to understand just how valuable his being at school is and how he has made a really significant impact on so many students. She ended her presentation by stating that she want's Enzo to stay at school and further, she feels every school should have an Enzo.

E. Treasurer's Report and Warrant: Chuck Gisondi

Aidan Maguire will bring Warrant 20

Warrant # 20 for \$ 2,199,335.49

Voucher number(s) 1080-1085 (Vote Required)

Motion To approve Warrant Number 20: Aidan Maguire, Canton

Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to Approve warrant Number 20 carries unanimously.

Retirement Board Update: Mr. Gisondi reported that David Sullivan is retiring after 35 years of service on the Retirement Board. He has been an asset to Blue Hills and will be difficult to replace. Mr. Gisondi further stated that they have begun the process to find a replacement and will keep the Committee up to date as they move on.

F. Student Discipline and Attendance Report, Dean of Students

Mr. Cavanaugh reported that his annual report is refreshingly positive given the students are back from two years at home. He stated that it is no surprise that the majority of behavioral offenses are attributed to the Freshman class who are out of practice communicating and behaving. School attendance numbers go the other way with Seniors dismissing themselves and accumulating attendance issues because they drive themselves to school (showing up late). There are very few serious offenses and Mr. Cavanaugh reports that students are happy to be back.

G. SPED EOY Report, Special Services Director

Mr. Dimitriou reviewed a report he shared with the Committee prior to the meeting and on screen. The major point is that the number of students with Education (IEP) and Support Plans (504), etc. is growing each year. Blue Hills has become a premiere location for students with support needs. Blue Hills is currently well into admissions for 8th graders.

This year Blue hills was able to provide extra MCAS support for all students in need of it. The results are that 100% of the students have passed their MCAS exams. Blue Hills is also working with outside support such as the Bridge Program that provides help with skills that will assist them with interview techniques and resume writing. The Guidance Department has started to provide "working papers" for Blue Hill students who previously had to obtain them from sending district towns.

H. Summer Reading Plans, Academic Director

Mr. Bavuso thanked the Library Media Specialist and others for their help putting this together and building and growing the program. The summer reading program has goals the foundation is "choice".

Mr. Bavuso presented a PowerPoint Presentation of the Summer program that went into great detail but specifically addresses the benefits to readers. The emphasis is not on reading a specific number of books from a specific list but rather to make readers out of the students attending Blue Hills. They have been providing incentives (small) for reading over the summer but the real reward is that it promotes critical thinking skills and life long learners.

He also reviewed the many sources available to students to complete their Summer Reading. They can read hard covers, video, on-line books, SORA, HOOPLA, and the use of a dashboard built on last year's books that were read and reviewed.

I. Athletics Report, Athletic Director

Mr. Catabia thanked his coaches, school trainer, maintenance ground crews, and administration for their support and hard work to make the Sports Program successful. It was hard to schedule and reschedule games due to COVID, changing regulation, shipping issues and a myriad of other circumstances. Blue Hills did not have to cancel any meets or games this year. This was significant. Blue Hills also hosted a tack meet that included 500 students. Blue Hills was able to schedule and offer a full sports program this year and it was very well attended and interest in participation has increased greatly.

J. Superintendent's Report: Jill Rossetti

- COVID-19 Dashboard Update

The numbers continue to migrate downward. There are indications that it may move upward again but the variance in question appears to be more contagious but less severe. The Superintendent will continue to monitor numbers and report back to the Committee.

- Permission to decommission outdated classroom books

After a brief discussion about the books in question (outdated and unable to be sold) the Superintendent asked the Committee if they could be decommissioned.

Motion to decommission the outdated classroom books was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to decommission outdated classroom books carried unanimously

- Car Donation: The Superintendent asked the Committee to accept the donation of a car to be used in the Freshman Exploratory next year to promote the Auto Collision program.

Motion to accept the car donation was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to accept car donation was carried unanimously

K. Minutes Approval: (Vote is Required)

- May 24, 2022

Motion to approve May 24, 2022 DSC Minutes was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve the May 24, 2022 DSC Minutes was made carried unanimously.

L. DSC Chair Report: Eric Erskine, Braintree

- Announcement and presentation

Moved to July Meeting

- MASS/MASC Joint Conference this year on Thursday, November 3, 4, and 5. (Ends Saturday AM) The Official Delegate Assembly will be held Wednesday evening, November 2, 2022.

- DSC Organization

The Meeting was turned over to the Committee Secretary, Aidan Maguire. After a brief discussion about the process, nominations were made for each of the officer positions starting with the Secretary, Vice Chair and Chair. There were no nominations other than the Nominations of those currently holding the stated seats.

Secretary: Kevin Connolly, Norwood, nominated Aidan Maguire (no further nominations)

Vice Chair: Eric Erskine, Braintree, nominated Kevin Connolly (no further nominations)

Chair: Kevin Connolly, Norwood, and Taryn Mohan, Holbrook, nominated Eric Erskine for Chair (no further nominations)

The group above were voted in for the 58th District School Committee officers.

- CORI Check and Conflict of Interest (paperwork for both in folder)

The Chair asked that the CORI forms be completed by members before they leave the meeting and to complete the Ethics training and forward certificates of completion to the Recording Secretary.

M. DSC Sub-Committee Reports:

- **Policy Sub-Committee:** Aidan Maguire, Canton

DSC Meeting Policy update

Tabled until July

- **Finance and Administration Sub-Committee:** Tom Polito, Dedham

Update: Pro AV System

Tabled until July

- **Evaluation Sub-Committee:** Tom Polito, Dedham – Chair will schedule evaluation meeting.

Tabled until July

N. Administration Reports:

1. Principal's Report: Geoff Zini

- School Council, SIP, and Strategy Plan Report (PowerPoint Presentation)

Mr. Zini provided a brief synopsis of the last three years and reminded the Committee that the Strategy and School Improvement Plan go hand in hand and have been reviewed and updated annually based on the evidence (data) provided at the close of every school year.

He also reviewed the pillars and other charts noting that the items that are not highlighted must be addressed. He then reviewed the plan for the 22-23 school year. Having done this, he demonstrated how one plan moves into the next steps of the new plan.

There was a short discussion about school climate and culture and Mr. Zini noted that Mass Insight will be implementing a district-wide Equity Audit over the next School year to help address these concerns.

2. Business Manager Report: Michelle Resendes

- Approval of Final Budget

Ms. Resendes presented and discussed the final budget for SY 23. She reported that it was passed by all district towns and noted this is the same budget the Committee had previously approved before it was submitted for district town approval. She asked the Committee to approve the Budget.

Motion to approve the Final Budget for SY 23 was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve the SY 23 Final Budget was carried unanimously.

O. Unfinished Business: N/A

P. New Business Topics: N/A

Q. Executive Session: No

R. Future Business:

The next DSC meeting is Tuesday, July 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

S. Adjournment: (Vote Required) **8:25 PM**

Motion to adjourn: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to Adjourn carried unanimously.

Minutes Prepared by: Pamela Donnellan, Admin. Secretary to the Superintendent-Director and
DSC Recording Secretary

Minutes approved by DSC on: July 19, 2022