



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Seventh District Committee

District School Committee Meeting
August 24, 2021
ZOOM Meeting
7:00 PM

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: Time: 7:00 PM

B. Open Session: Virtual Meeting

Members in Attendance;

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

Administration in Attendance:

Jill Rossetti – Superintendent-Director, Geoff Zini – Principal, Michelle Resendes – Business Manager, David Galego – Facilities Director, Marybeth Joyce – Admissions Director, and Matt Eisan – IT Director

C. Public Comment: None

D. Treasurer's Report and Warrant: Chuck Gisondi

Warrant # 24 for FY21 in the amount of \$ 170,587.56

Motion to Approve Warrant # 24: Aidan Maguire, Canton (Secretary)

Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood (Vice Chair)

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve Warrant #24 carried unanimously

Warrant # 2 for FY22 in the amount of \$ 903,906.91

Motion to Approve Warrant #2: Aidan Maguire, Canton

Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve Warrant number 2 passed unanimously

E. Superintendent-Director Report: Jill Rossetti

- COVID-19 Dashboard Update

Jill Rossetti reviewed the last dashboard report that was forwarded to the DSC last Friday reviewing new concerns about the COVID-19 Delta Variant and its impact on numbers infected and regulations including the use of face masks. Blue Hills will continue to monitor the changes and regulations as we move forward and closer to the start of school.

- Recommendation on Masks

The state has just started to move closer to a mask mandate. After reviewing all the data and meeting and speaking to Public Health nurse (Canton); it is the Superintendent's recommendation that Blue Hills staff and students wear face masks when we return to class in September. This topic moved to the 80% vaccination rule stating that if this threshold is met, there is no need to mask. Mr. Polito (Dedham) suggested that staff be mandated to get the vaccine or lose employment. Ms. Jeanty (Randolph) then reminded the group about HIPPA laws and maintaining the right to choose whether or not to be vaccinated. Mr. Connolly suggested that this topic is best to be discussed in Executive Session as it sounds like a point covered by Negotiations. The topic was tabled for the moment to be addressed at a later time.

- Staffing Report – Update

Ms. Rossetti provided an overview of the newly hired staff and teachers for Blue Hills. She also let the committee know that we are actively interviewing and looking for only two additional instructors (Special Ed and Computer Technology). Mr. Graham (Milton) asked if he could get a demographic breakdown of the newly hired individuals. Ms. Rossetti said she was able to have this information for the next meeting.

- RI OSHA Training

Ms. Rossetti let the Committee know that Brian Gearty was due to have his OSHA (Train the Trainer) certification renewed. The class that was available (days) prior to his training expiration date was in RI. Because it was out of state, she was informing the Committee. When asked if there was one in MA available, Ms. Rossetti said he would have to take a full 5-day class if he waited for the next available class. There was a little confusion and Mr. Maguire said he couldn't take the RI class because this is MA. Ms. Rossetti explained that it was a trainer class for OSHA. Mr. Erskine asked for a motion to support Mr. Gearty's participation in the RI OSHA class.

Motion to support participation in the RI class was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood
Second: Aidan Maguire, Canton

Vote, Roll Call: Motion was carried unanimously

F. Admissions and LPN Program: Marybeth Joyce

- Practical Nursing Handbook

Marybeth Joyce presented the handbook they would be using for the Practical Nursing program. She also mentioned the back up booklet that was presented outlining the changes that were made and why. Most changes were centered around regulation and health recommendations. She also introduced her new staff and asked if the Committee had any questions about the handbook. When no questions were raised she let the committee know they could contact her at any point if they did and asked for a motion to approve the Nursing Handbook.

Motion to approve the Nursing Handbook was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Aidan Maguire, Canton

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve the Nursing Handbook was unanimous.

G. Rachelle Jeanty: Announcement: 21st Century STEM Career Pathway Program

- Ms. Jeanty, provided a flyer that was forwarded to all DSC members with the meeting materials on the 21st Century STEM Career Pathway Program. This program is offered to students in grades 7 – 12. She reminded the committee that 13 students from Blue Hills participated last year. All participants enjoyed the experience and benefits from working and learning together while making a robot. She then asked the group to spread the word.

H. Minutes Approval: (Vote is Required)

June 15, 2021

Motion to Approve June 15, 2021 Meeting Minutes: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Tom Polito, Dedham

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve 6/15/21 minutes passed 8 to 1 Abstention (Canton)

July 20, 2021

Motion to approve July 20, 2021 meeting minutes: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Tom Polito, Dedham

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve 6/15/21 minutes passed 8 to 1 Abstention (Canton)

I. DSC Chair Report: Chair Eric Erskine

- Evaluations

Mr. Erskine reported that Mr. Polito, Dedham, compiled the information for the Superintendent-Director's position. He further stated that the results were from 8 of the 9 DSC members.

The Superintendent had an average score of 4.5 on a 1-5 scale. (1 being the lowest score and 5 the highest) The 4.5 indicates excellence which is significant for a new Superintendent during a pandemic. The Committee is very pleased with Ms. Rossetti's performance and congratulated her on her hard work during an even harder time.

- Mask Vote:
No vote was taken on wearing masks at this time because the school will follow state regulations and it looks like there will be a mandate issued in the next day or so.

J. DSC Sub-Committee Reports: As Needed

- Reminder issued that a Negotiations Meeting for The Clerical, Café and Maintenance/Custodian unions are scheduled for tomorrow (8/25/21) night at 5:00, 6:00, and 7:00. Meetings will be in-person

K. Administration Reports:

1. Principal Report: Geoff Zini

- Readiness to Open School
Mr. Zini provided the committee with an overview of the preparation that went into preparing for the start of school. This overview included the packages that went out to parents and families, information about the buses and where to find the schedules, days and times to report to school, and sports. He further stated that 30 % of students (approximately 300) signed up for fall sports. Most sports will start before the first official day of school and he then introduced Ed Madden as the new Head Football Coach.

2. Business Manager Report: Michelle Resendes:

- Q4 Report
Ms. Resendes reviewed the Quarter 4 report in detail. She referred the group to the handout she sent out earlier with the meeting materials. She reviewed the account lines and identified areas where there was a surplus of money and the reason the surplus of funds existed. She then went to lines that were overspent and the reason behind the expenditures. Once this information was reviewed and questions answered, Ms. Resendes asked the Committee to approve line item transfers.

Motion to approve the line item Transfers was made by Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Vote, Roll Call: Motion was carried unanimously

- ESSER II grant
Ms. Resendes explained how the money in this line was spent and how the money and the regulations that had to be followed
- Plans for ESSER III
The ESSER III grant is a three-year grant. This means the money is available and can be spent over three year. There is a committee being put together and a survey to be distributed to get input from the school community.

3. Facilities Director: David Galego

- Report on summer work on facilities/grounds
- Mr. Galego reviewed what facilities and the custodians have been doing over the summer to be ready to reopen. He also told the committee that he scheduled and had done most of the testing and certifications that were done so that there would be less disruption over the school year. He also reviewed some of the limestone treatment done in graphics to correct the PH levels before it gets to the sewer. He also reviewed the work on the signs out front and the proposals for a new one. A variance will be needed but Mr. Galego has been working with the town inspectors and does not anticipate any trouble there. The Committee is very pleased with the reports they have been receiving and feel that Mr. Galego and his team are doing an excellent job.

L. Unfinished Business:

- Mr. Erskine asked the committee to forward their choices for sub-committee participation because he would like to have them assigned for the next meeting.

M. New Business Topics:

- A group picture will be taken at the next meeting. Dress accordingly.

N. Executive Session: N/A

O. Future Business:

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

P. Adjournment: (Vote Required) 8:34 PM

Motion to Adjourn: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Fran Fistori, Avon

Vote, Roll Call: Vote to Adjourn carries 8 to 1 vote not recorded (Milton)

Minutes prepared by: Pam Donnellan, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent-Director.

Minutes approved on September 7, 2021.

DSC Secretary Signature: