



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Ninth District Committee

**District School Committee Meeting
Draft DSC Meeting Minutes for November 21, 2023**

A. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Call to Order: Time: 7:02 PM

Roll Call:

Members in attendance:

Eric Erskine – Braintree, Mark Driscoll (Vice Chair) – Canton, Tom Polito – Dedham, Taryn Mohan (Secretary) – Holbrook, Kevin Connolly (Chair) – Norwood, Karen Graves – Randolph, Chuck Gisondi – DSC Treasurer

Members not in attendance:

Clinton Graham - Milton, and Sheila Vazquez – Westwood

Administration in attendance: Jill Rossetti – Superintendent-Director, Jill Brillhante – Business Manager, Geoff Zini – Principal, Paul Bavuso – Academic Director, Stephanie Albernez – Admissions Director, and Ed Catabiaa – Athletic director

C. Public Comment: None

D. Treasurer’s Report and Warrant: Chuck Gisondi

Vote Required for the following Warrants:

Warrant # 8 for \$ 765,673.45	Voucher number(s) 1026 - 1027
Warrant # 9 for \$ 865,735.55	Voucher number(s) 1028 – 1034

After a short discussion

Motion was made to approve Warrant Numbers 8 and 9: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Second: Tom Polito, Dedham

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve Warrant Numbers 8 and 9 carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

E. Minutes Approval: (Vote is Required)

October 17, 2023

October 26, 2023

After a short discussion

Motion was made to approve DSC meeting minutes for October 17, 2023: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Second: Mark Driscoll, Canton

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve DSC meeting minutes for October 17, 2023 carries unanimously by those members in attendance

Motion to approve Special Meeting DSC minutes for October 26, 2023: Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Mark Driscoll, Canton

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve the October 26, 2023 minutes carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

F. Student Representative Report: Arianis Gonzalez

Ms. Gonzalez put together a wonderful presentation outlining the active sport teams and their respective status in terms of championships and season records. All sports teams have enjoyed an exceptional season with Soccer and Coed Golf going undefeated. She highlighted the football, soccer and golf team's success as they all have been outstanding. Arianis went on to speak about Spirit Week and other activities that were enjoyed by the student body.

G. Fall Sports Update: Ed Catabia, Athletic Director

- Fall Sports Update

Mr. Catabia said that the Student Representative did such an amazing job reporting on BH team status and record that he would only be repeating her presentation. He moved to say that Ryan Kiff, the BH Rugby Coach is being honored as the Coach of the Year for Rugby on December 6, 2023. He also mentioned that the Vocational Championship is taking place on Wednesday, November 29th. Furthermore, Coach Flynn is being inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. He reiterated what a fabulous year everyone participating in BH Athletics had, both student athletes and coaches, and that he could not be prouder. They all worked hard and it shows.

H. Superintendent's Report: Jill Rossetti, Superintendent-Director

- Therapy Dog Update and Request to Continue with Luca: (Vote Requested)

The Superintendent spoke a little about having lost Enzo on November 10th. She also mentioned that he is the recipient of the Volunteer of the Year from the TDU National Volunteer of 2023. He was also put in the TDU calendar and is pictured for September 2024. It is important to acknowledge that this was made public before Enzo's cancer diagnosis. He was an exceptional dog and a wonderful addition to the BH Community.

Ms. Rossetti went on to introduce Luca, a cream/white Golden Labradoodle puppy who Ms. Rossetti will train as she did with Enzo. He clearly did not need introductions as he popped into the conference room greeting everyone around the room making his way around the tables and then moved on to the audience. After everyone met Luca, He was then taken from the room by a family member, Sophia, to go home. Ms. Rossetti then asked the Committee for approval to allow Luca into Blue Hills while he is training to be its new therapy dog.

Motion to approve Luca's attendance at Blue Hills: Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Mark Driscoll, Canton

Discussion: Mr. Driscoll, Canton, said he wasn't really a "dog" person, but having witnessed Enzo at work in the school and hearing from all kinds of people about him, he has become one. Further, he is excited about having Luca at school.

Vote: Motion to allow Luca in school during his training carries unanimously by all members in attendance.

- Out of State Field Trip (Vote Requested)

A request was made to allow a group of students (between 20 and 36) to attend a Woman's Basketball game in RI. They have been going annually and would like to attend this year as well.

Motion to Approve the out-of-state field trip: Mark Driscoll, Canton

Second: Karen Graves, Randolph

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to allow the identified group of students attend an out-of-state Woman's Basketball game in RI carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

- Decommission Vocational Items (Vote Requested)

BH would like to decommission desks that were donated to Cosmo before the renovation project. These desks have no value and are ruined.

Motion to decommission stated desks: Mark Driscoll, Canton

Second: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to decommission desks carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

- Donation, STC (Approval Requested)

Columbia Construction has donated 25 hard hats, 25 High Visibility vests, and 25 pairs of safety glasses, at an approximate value of \$1,000. to STC. These will be used by STC for trips to commercial and residential construction sites.

Motion to approve donation: Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Mark Driscoll, Canton

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve equipment donation carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

- Effective School Solutions – ESSER III funded

BH would like to expend these funds by next September. BH recommends this be identified to pay for mental health services for students in need where services may/may not be identified on an IEP or 504 Plan. It can also provide funds for professional development in this area as well. Special Services has ideas about providing these services and this need is not likely to slow down.

Motion to allocate said funds: Mark Driscoll, Canton

Second: Tom Polito, Dedham

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve allocation of funds carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

- I. DSC Chair Report:** Kevin Connolly, Norwood
Committee will go into Executive Session today.

J. DSC Sub-Committee Reports:

- **Personnel and Negotiations Sub-Committee:** Tom Polito, Dedham

Mr. Polito said he would report to the Committee in Executive Session.

- **MASS/MASC Joint Conference Report:** Eric Erskine, Braintree

Mr. Erskine reported that the Delegate Meeting did not resolve any of the items during the time put aside. He also stated that when he gets the resolutions and delegate recommendations, he will bring them to the full committee.

K. Administration Reports:

1. Principal's Report: Geoff Zini

- Open House Update

There was a tremendous turnout for Open House. Stephanie Albernaz led a wonderful event. Of the attendees, 322 students registered and of those, 47% had already applied. Within two weeks of the Open House, 238 additional applications were received.

- Showcase

There were 450 8th graders from our district towns attended Open House. It was the largest turnout BH has had to date. In addition, 140 of our current BH students opted to volunteer for this event rather than come in late. Students and staff did a wonderful job.

- Thanksgiving Day Game Date and Time were announced.

- Student Enrollment Report from SIMS report:

The total number of students enrolled at Blue Hills on October 1, 2023, according to our SIMS report, is 918. Every year our enrollment numbers increase.

2. Business Manager Report: Jill Brilhante

- Budget Goals (Vote Required)

Tabled until after Q1 report.

- Reauthorization of Revolving Fund Balances (Vote Required)

Ms. Brilhante reviewed all the information and line items that were documented on the reports sent to the Committee prior to this meeting for their review. She then answered questions from the committee. Once completed, she asked for reauthorization of Revolving Fund Balances.

Motion to approve the reauthorization of Fund Balances: Mark Driscoll, Canton

Second: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to reauthorize Revolving Fund Balances carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

- Budget Calendar (Vote Required)

Ms. Brilhante asked the Committee if they had any questions about the previously submitted Budget Calendar. There being none, she asked to Committee to approve it as written.

Motion to approve the Budget Calendar: Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve the Budget Calendar carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

- Q1 Report

As the year progresses, all unencumbered funds will be reallocated. She is looking for this to be done by January/February of this year. No vote taken here at this time.

- Ledbetter Scholarship (Vote Required)

William Ledbetter passed away on September 9, 2023. The Ledbetter Family has directed mourners to donate in his name to Blue Hills Regional in lieu of flowers. Money has been donated to the school to establish a memorial scholarship. BH is asking the Committee to approve the donation.

Motion to approve the donations in William H. Ledbetter's name for a scholarship fund:

Eric Erskine, Braintree

Second: Mark Driscoll, Canton

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve the donation from the Ledbetter family carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

L. Unfinished Business: None

M. New Business Topics: None

N. Executive Session: Yes

The District School Committee may vote to go into executive session pursuant to M.G.L. ch. 30A, section 21 (a)(3) which permits a public body to go into executive session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the chair declares.

O. Future Business:

The next DSC meeting is Tuesday, December 19, 2023

P. Adjournment: (Vote Required) Time: 8:10 PM

The Committee elected to end the general meeting and to go into Executive Session.

Motion to adjourn and go into Executive Session: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Tom Polito, Dedham

Discussion: None

Vote: Roll Call: Avon – N/A, Braintree – yes, Canton – Yes, Dedham – Yes, Holbrook – Yes,

Milton – Absent, Randolph – Yes, Westwood – Absent, Norwood – Yes

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

Minutes approved by DSC on: December 19, 2023