



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee  
Fifty-Ninth District Committee

**District School Committee Meeting**  
**February 27, 2024**  
**Approved Meeting Minutes**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Call to Order: Time: 7:05 PM**

**Introduction: New Avon Representative: Carl Walker**

Carl Walker was introduced briefly and then he was asked to tell the group a little about himself. He gave an outline of his background and work history as well as letting everyone know he was glad to be part of the committee.

**Members in Attendance:** Eric Erskine – Braintree, Mark Driscoll (Vice Chair) – Canton, Taryn Mohan (Secretary) – Holbrook, Kevin Connolly (Chair) – Norwood, Karen Graves – Randolph, Sheila Vazquez – Westwood, and Chuck Gisondi – DSC Treasurer

**Members not in Attendance:** Tom Polito - Dedham and Clinton Graham – Milton

**Administration in Attendance:** Jill Rossetti – Superintendent-Director, Jill Brilhante – Business Manager, Geoff Zini – Principal

**C. Public Comment: None**

**D. Student Representative Report: Arianis Gonzalez**

Having been absent from the January meeting (Ice Storm), Arianis wished everyone a happy new year. She then spoke about the amazing end to winter sports with Basketball, boys and girls Varsity teams, having championship winning seasons as well as the swim team.

She briefly hit upon other student happening and concluded her presentation with the announcement of the Semi Formal and its theme; “A Night on the Bayou”.

**E. OPEB Presentation: (to be rescheduled)**

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

Vote Required for the following Warrants:

Warrant # 14 for \$ 751,123.60 Voucher numbers 1048-1053

Warrant # 15 for \$ 317,526.38 Voucher number 1054

Warrant # 16 for \$1,519,530.17 Voucher numbers 1055-1058

**Motion to approve Warrant numbers 14, 15, and 16:** Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

**Second:** Eric Erskine, Braintree

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion carries Unanimously by those members in attendance.

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

January 16, 2024

**Motion to approve the meeting minutes for January 16, 2024:** Eric Erskine, Braintree

**Second:** Karen Graves, Randolph

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion to approve meeting minutes for January 16, 2024 carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

**H. General Advisory Committee/Vocational Director Report with Committee Chair**

**Michelle Sylvia, Vocational Director**

The Superintendent presented in Ms. Silvia's absence. She directed the members to the reports that were forwarded to the committee prior to the meeting. She stated these were the reports that the Vocational Director agreed to forward to the Committee at the January meeting. She asked the committee if they had any questions: The committee had no further questions/requests.

**I. Attendance and Discipline Report:** Mark Aubrey, Assistant Principal

Mr. Aubrey, Assistant Principal referred to a report he had submitted to the committee before the meeting. He began by stating that there were no real surprises. Attendance for this year is at 94.56%, up slightly from last school year (93.9%). He then presented numbers for out of school suspensions and detentions. A majority of the discipline assigned was in the Freshman and Sophomore Class. This is typical. The statistics provided included a breakout by race, type of offense, and discipline assigned. This was followed with a short Q and A session.

**J. Special Education Report,** Angelo Dimitriou, Special Services Director

Mid-Year Report

Mr. Dimitriou referred the group to the report he had submitted prior to this meeting. He also used a PowerPoint presentation to review information for the first half of this school year. He began reporting that there are 918 students at Blue Hills. Of these 918 students, 239 are on IEPs and 82 more are on 504 Plans. These numbers are higher than that of the district towns. Blue Hills has a reputation for making everything work for these students so they are able to be successful. Mr. Dimitriou then presented student information on ELL, Special Education, and Low-Income status. This presentation concluded with identified focus areas and contracted support.

**K. Mid-Winter Sports:** Ed Catabia, Athletic Director

Mr. Catabia outlined the Winter Sports season saying that there were 177 student Athletes participating in Swim, basketball, and hockey. He said that the student skill levels were varied and he was happy to report that the Varsity Boys and Girls Basketball had championship winning seasons, the girls going all the way to state and winning and the boys lost the last game and finished as runner-up's.. The swim team also excelled this season. The Hockey team tried very hard and will be fun to watch as they progress.

**L. Program of Studies:** Paul Bavuso, Academic Director

Mr. Bavuso presented a detailed report to the committee prior to the meeting. He also used a slide presentation to explain changes to the 2024-25 Program of Studies. He went through the grade 11 STEM elective class in the Science Department and Grade 12 proposed replacement of Trigonometry with Applied Quantitative Reasoning. He reviewed the reasoning behind the changes and asked the committee to approve the changes.

Motion to approve the changes outlined for the Program of Studies 20-25: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Second: Karen Graves, Randolph

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve the changes for the Program of Studies 24-25 carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

**M. Superintendent's Report:** Jill Rossetti, Superintendent-Director

- Facility Director Search Update

Ms. Rossetti informed the Committee that the Hiring unanimously endorsed the hiring of Tim Rose to fill the Facilities Director position. He has given notice to his current employer and is expected to begin on April 1<sup>st</sup>.

- Equipment Donation (Braintree American Legion) for Culinary Vocational Program (Vote required) There are pictures of the donation and Culinary would like to have it.

**Motion to approve the Braintree American Legion donation:** Eric Erskine, Braintree

**Second:** Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

**Discussion:** None

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

- **ESSA Claim** (Vote Required)

Ms. Rossetti reviewed the ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) Claim letter and the desire to apply for the additional funds (partial Reimbursements for Title IV-E (foster care and homeless transportation)).

**Motion to approve the ESSA Claiming:** Eric Erskine, Braintree

**Second:** Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion to approve ESSA Claims carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

**N. DSC Chair Report:** Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Mr. Connolly spoke to the Committee about the necessity to go through the Chair in all written and verbal communications. He further stated that responding "to all" in emails or writing "to all" members in an email about business is a direct violation to the Open Meeting Law and it has to stop immediately. It is the Chairs' responsibility to present information, answer questions and speak for the Committee. This statement is to serve as a reminder and outlines the Chairs' expectation of the full committee.

## **O. DSC Sub-Committee Reports:**

- **Personnel and Negotiations Sub-Committee:** Eric Erskine, Braintree  
Going into Executive Session.

- **Curriculum:** Construction

**Mr.** Erskine represented the Sub-Committee and said that they were presented with two plans to build home additions for the next school year. One in Norwood and another in Dedham. Both projects are ready to go and will be wonderful learning opportunities for the students as it hits on all facets of the curriculum. Further, it will keep students busy all year. The committee recommends approving the two projects for next year.

**Motion to approve the Norwood Project** (58 Pilgrim Drive): Eric Erskine, Braintree

**Second:** Karen Graves, Randolph

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion to approve the Norwood Project carries unanimously by those members in attendance

**Motion to approve the Dedham Project** (19 Worthington Street): Eric Erskine, Braintree

**Second:** Karen Graves

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion to approve the Dedham Project carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

## **P. Administration Reports:**

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

- Handbook Update (Parent/Student)

Mr. Zini presented the changes (language) that he was requesting language changes in the Parent Student Handbook to keep all written materials the same to avoid any confusion.

**Motion to approve changes as outlined:** Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

**Second:** Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion to approve changes as stated carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

- Tiered Focus Report

Mr. Zini reviewed the Tiered Focus Report and identified deficiencies. He then reviewed the corrective action that needs to happen. The most crucial issue identified was the need to rework the school's bullying intervention plan. BH has one year to implement changes. Overall the report was very positive.

**2. Business Manager Report:** Jill Brillhante

Ms. Brillhante had presented materials to the Committee prior to the meeting. She worked from a slide presentation to review the Preliminary FY@% Budget. She said the budget is fiscally responsible and sustainable. Further, she reminded the Committee that all the COVID funds (ESSER) were coming to end. She went on to report the assessments for each town and how it was calculated. After the conclusion of this presentation, there was a short Q and A session.

**Motion to approve the FY 25 Preliminary Budget:** Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

**Second:** Eric Erskine, Braintree

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion to approve the FY25 Preliminary Budget carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

- Q2 Report (attached)

Ms. Brilhante presented the Q2 Report with the use of handouts, written notes to explain line series and a slides presentation to follow along. She reviewed all the sections, how the lines would spend down throughout the year, and recommended line item changes from surplus to needed line items.

**Motion to approve recommended line transfers** (changes in line series): Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

**Second:** Eric Erskine, Braintree

**Discussion:** None

**Vote:** Motion to make stated changes to line series carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

**Q. Unfinished Business: None**

**R. New Business Topics: None**

**S. 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.

**T. Future Business:**

The next DSC meeting is Tuesday, March 19, 2024 (Special Meeting - Audit Report)

**U. Adjournment: (Vote Required) 8:35 PM**

Motion to adjourn Open Meeting to go into Executive Session with the intent to move back into the General Meeting to adjourn only.

Requires a VOTE: Roll Call

Avon Yes

Braintree: Yes

Canton: absent

Dedham: absent

Holbrook: Yes

Milton: Absent

Norwood: yes

Randolph: Yes

Westwood: Yes

February 27, 2024 Minutes Approved by DSC: March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Minutes submitted by: Pamela Donnellan