



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Eighth District Committee

District School Committee Meeting
June 20, 2023
Draft Meeting Minutes

A. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Members in Attendance:

Francis Fistori – Avon, Eric Erskine (Chair) – Braintree, Mark Driscoll - Canton, Tom Polito – Dedham, Taryn Mohan (Secretary) – Holbrook, Kevin Connolly (Vice Chair) – Norwood, Karen Graves – Randolph, Sheila Vazquez – Westwood, and Chuck Gisondi – DSC Treasurer

Members not in Attendance: Clinton Graham – Milton

Administration in Attendance:

Jill Rossetti – Superintendent-Director, Geoff Zini – Principal, Angelo Dimitriou – Special Services Director, and Jonathan Pryor – School to Careers Partnership Coordinator

C. Public Comment: None

D. Treasurer’s Report and Warrant: Chuck Gisondi (Vote Required)

Report:

Warrant #23 for \$ 237,504.10 Voucher Number: 1081
Warrant #24 for \$ 2,072,021.23 Voucher Numbers: 1082-1087

Motion to approve Warrant number 23 and 24: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Discussion: None

Vote: Both Warrant 23 and 24 were approved unanimously by those members in attendance

E. Legal Services

Both Legal agencies were asked to come in and support the proposals they have submitted through the bidding system. The choice of legal services will be decided after the presentations and before the DSC July meeting. Copies of both proposals have been forwarded to all committee members and each were asked to review the proposals in preparation for this meeting.

7:45 PM: presentation: Lauren Goldberg, President KP Law, P.C.

Lauren Goldberg, President of KP Law, introduced her team and presented a brief overview of what they have to offer Blue Hills. She stated that the firm has been representing schools since 2006 and that they have attorneys with different expertise to address the different issues that arise in school systems. Although the vast majority of their clients are municipalities vs. schools; their compassion and expertise in different areas put them in a better position to address many school issues such as public records, data privacy and restriction, and negotiations.

The group fielded and answered questions from the committee who then thanked them for their time and presentation.

8:35 PM: presentation: Kevin Bresnahan, Esq. and Alisia St. Florian, Esq. of
Murphy Hesse Toomey & Lehane LLP

Murphy, Hesse, Toomey and Lehane, LLP currently provide legal services to Blue Hills. Kevin Bresnahan stated that they appreciate having had the opportunity to represent Blue Hills since 2016. He then outlined the services they provide and the people they have in house with the expertise BH has required over the years including Title 6 and 9, Special Ed, labor and negotiations, ethics, and school government. Their firm represents primarily schools over municipalities (90%/10%). They have the same people (working in different specialties) assigned to work with the BH staff in these areas so that relationships are formed and areas are represented by the best possible attorney. They very rarely, if ever, have to go outside their firm to access appropriate services.

The group fielded and answered questions from the committee who then thanked them for their time and presentation.

F. School to Careers: Jonathan Pryor, Coordinator

The School to Careers Partnership is back on line. All district towns who previously participated have reconnected as well as most of the partnership companies and agencies including Roxbury Community College, MIT, Naviance, and STEM Women of Color.

Mr. Pryor has reached out to both previous and new schools and companies for the partnership. He planned several trips and events for participants over the last several months and they have all been attended by a growing number of students His goal was to get students out to events with hands on experience vs the virtual experiences that have been offered since COVID.

Ms. Vazquez requested that Mr. Pryor reach out to Braintree and Westwood again and offer STC services once again.

The response to reintroducing STC has been successful and exciting for the students. Next year will be even more rigorous and the increased service and offerings will be done at no extra cost to the district towns.

G. Special Education: Angelo Dimitriou

End of year report

Mr. Dimitriou provided a report to the Committee prior to the meeting. He proceeded to review the Special Services provided to BH students during the 22-23 school year.

Not only did he review specific services such as Special Education, IEP's, 504 plans, Guidance, Foster Care, transportation, and tutoring; he spoke about trends, focus areas, and support services.

He concluded his presentation outlining the provided services between the district towns, towns in MA, and in the State.

Blue Hills has a well-deserved reputation of providing excellent services to students want to be here.

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

- Decommission: Lab Carts (Vote required)

Motion to Decommission Lab Carts: Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Discussion: None

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

- Donation: photography Donation (Vote Required)

Motion to approve Photography Donation: Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Discussion: None

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

- Out of State Training for Business Manager (FL) (Vote Required)

Motion to approve out of state training: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve out of state training for the Business Manager carries unanimously by those members in attendance.

- Building Insurance

The Superintendent told the Committee that the Building insurance went up approximately 16%. She also stated that she has met with the vender twice to try to work down cost but it has not been successful. This is an unexpected increase. Blue Hills will sign a one-year contract and look for a new vendor for future years.

I. Minutes Approval: (Vote Required)

- May 23, 2023

Mr. Polito, Dedham, stated that after reviewing the minutes, he would like a section of the Superintendent's report (section H) be updated. He would like the appointment of the Business Manager, to acknowledge Dedham's "No" response was not personal. He believes Ms. Brillhante to be an excellent candidate. It was made to reflect the process of the appointment.

Motion to approve the DSC Meeting Minutes for May 23, 2023 with the caveat stated above:

Mark Driscoll, Canton

Second: Kevin Connolly

Discussion: None

Vote: Motion to approve the May minutes with the stated caveat is carried unanimously by those members in attendance.

J. DSC Chair Report: Eric Erskine, Braintree

- Legal Services update: See "E" above

- DSC Annual Organization (Nomination and Vote Required)

The following people were nominated and ran unopposed for the following positions:

- 1) Chair: Kevin Connolly, Norwood
- 2) Vice Chair: Mark Driscoll, Canton
- 3) Secretary: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Motion to vote in the fifty-ninth Blue Hills District School Committee: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Tom Polito, Dedham

Discussion: None

Motion to vote in the fifty-ninth DSC is carried unanimously

- Evaluation Update

Only three members have submitted evaluations for the Superintendent, Treasurer and recording Secretary. Please submit all completed evaluations by July 21 so the process can be completed by the next DSC Meeting.

K. DSC Sub-Committee Reports:

- Evaluation Sub-Committee: Report: See Evaluation Update above

- Finance and Negotiation Ad Hoc Sub-Committee: Legal Services Update: See "E"

L. Administration Reports:

1. Principal's Report: Geoff Zini

- Summer School Plans:

Summer School after the fourth of July. It will serve between 15 – 20 students. Three teachers will be instructing students and the program will run for 5 weeks.

- Athletic Update: Spring

The Spring Sports season ran late because most teams made it to play-offs and the State Championships. The Boys Track team are the league winners and all teams had memorable seasons and should be proud of their success.

- Summer School Overview:

Attendance for the Summer School Program will include at least 6 Freshman, 6 Sophomores, 3 Juniors, and 1 Senior. They will access at least 30 courses for the 5-week session.

M. Unfinished Business: None

N. New Business Topics:

The following DSC Members will attend the MASS/MASC Joint Conference in November.

- 1) Eric Erskine, Braintree
- 2) Mark Driscoll, Canton
- 3) Tom Polito, Dedham
- 4) Taryn Mohan, Holbrook
- 5) Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

The recording Secretary will register members into the conference, purchase food packages, and make hotel reservations for attending members.

O. Executive Session: None

P. Future Business:

The next DSC meeting is Tuesday, July 25 at 7:00 PM.

Q. Adjournment: Time: 9:15 PM

(Vote Required)

Motion to Adjourn: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Discussion: None

Motion to Adjourn carries unanimously