

Thomas R. Polito, Jr.
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Eric C. Erskine
Braintree
Vice Chair

Michael C. Franzosa
Holbrook
Secretary

Kevin L. Connolly
Norwood

Francis J. Fistori
Avon

Charles Flahive
Westwood

Aidan G. Maguire, Jr.
Canton

Marybeth Nearen
Randolph

Matthew P. O'Malley
Milton



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Sixth District Committee

"Transparency, Accountability and Fiscal Discipline"

August 18, 2020	Remote Meeting	7:00 PM Open Session
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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: Roll Call

In attendance: Francis Fistori of Avon, Eric Erskine, Vice Chair of Braintree, Aidan Maguire of Canton, Thomas Polito, Chair of Dedham, Matthew O'Mally of Milton, Kevin Connolly of Norwood, Marybeth Nearen of Randolph, Charles Flahive of Westwood and DSC Treasurer Chuck Gisondi

Not in attendance: Michael Franzosa of Holbrook

Administrators in attendance: Superintendent-Director Jill Rossetti, Principal Geoff Zini, Business Manager Michelle Resendes, Facilities Director David Galego

B. Open Session:

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86441517446?pwd=Q2FNOEYwbTU3V0JvUDQzNHdOYk1pUT09>

C. Public Comment: Please click

<https://forms.gle/P98QCmKzLJAPMzcX8>

to sign up to make a public comment. You will be invited into the Zoom meeting as a panelist to share your comment during the Public Comment portion of the agenda.

You may sign up at any time no later than 4:00 PM on August 18, 2020.

Public Comment list:

- Daniel Harer: Not in attendance for ZOOM meeting
- Dimitria Sullivan: Not in attendance for ZOOM meeting
- Nerlande Sinelien: Not in attendance for ZOOM Meeting
- Riasissa Garcia: Not in attendance on ZOOM Meeting
- Roberto Loporto – Concerned that he was unable to find the contact information for the District School Committee on the school website. The issue will be looked into and resolved. Mr. Loporto demanded that he receive weekly Wednesday reports and that information should be shared via social media, i.e. Facebook. He

was told that would not happen but rather information would continue to be shared via X2, robo calls, parent pages (school newspaper and letters and updates by the Principal. He was also invited to join in on the ZOOM meeting scheduled specifically for Question/Answer sessions.

- Shannon Masse: Asking for re-opening details. Ms. Masse was asked to wait for the topic to be discussed later in this meeting.
- Tricia Whiffen: She is concerned that her daughter will not learn what is necessary to be successful in her vocational study if taught remotely. Ms. Whiffen was told that vocational classes would be on site for the most part but to stay with the meeting to get details when this subject comes up. (Subject is on the agenda for tonight.)
- Kristy Morin: Wanted to know if incoming 9th graders are going to receive Chromebooks to work remotely from home. She was told yes, 9th graders will receive Chromebooks.
- Lisa Supilus: Questioned why the schools were closed last March when the COVID numbers were very low and now schools are planning to re-open when the numbers are high. She was told that the school is following state and federal guidelines and the safety of our students is our main concern now and will remain so.

D. **Treasurer's Report:** Mr. Gisondi will provide an update and current warrant for review, approval and vote.

E. **Warrant Vote:**

- **FY20: Warrant number 21 \$ 27,452.34**
Motion to approve warrant 21: Keven Connolly, Norwood
Second: Marybeth Nearen, Randolph
Motion passed unanimously via Roll Call of members in attendance
- **FY21: Warrant number 03 \$838,804.78**
Motion to approve warrant number 03: Kevin Connolly, Norwood
Second: Charlie Flahive, Westwood
Motion passed unanimously via Roll Call of members in attendance

F. **Minutes Approval:**

- June 16, 2020
Motion to approve: Marybeth Nearen, Randolph
Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood
Minutes Passed 7 to 0: Michael Franzosa, of Holbrook is absent and Charles Flahive of Westwood abstained from vote.
- July 21, 2020
Motion to approve: Kevin Connolly of Norwood
Second: Marybeth Nearen of Randolph
Minutes were passed unanimously by members in attendance

G. DSC Chair Report:

- Policy Subcommittee
 1. Mask/face coverings
Motion to approve policy as written: Marybeth Neared, Randolph
Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood
Policy approved unanimously (Roll Call) by members in attendance
 2. Sexual Harassment Policy
Motion to approve policy as written: Marybeth Nearen, Randolph
Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood
Policy approved unanimously (Roll Call) by members in attendance
 3. Travel Policy: waiting for legal review (Tabled until policy is returned)
- Negotiations Subcommittee
Sub-Committee has to meet early next week to look at a contract. Member feedback about day and then a ZOOM meeting will be scheduled.
- Evaluation Subcommittee
Superintendent-Director evaluation must be reviewed. To date, two reviews are missing (Canton and Westwood). Members will choose a day that fits into their schedules and a Zoom meeting will be scheduled.

H. Administrator's Reports:

- **Principal's Report:** n/a
- **Business Manager Report:** n/a
- **Superintendent's Report:**
 1. Reopening Blue Hills
Superintendent Rossetti began her report stating that Fall Sports guidelines were just released by DESE and that she will have more information to share with the committee as it becomes available. Further, she reminded the committee that the school is currently in the process of negotiating the first day of school and were looking at the hybrid 25% model to start. Ms. Rossetti reminded the committee that their plans will remain fluid as the opening and plan on how to open can change to meet the COVID numbers and state recommendations. She reminded the committee that the school's priority remains with the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff.

I. Unfinished Business:

- Pool Discussion:
The committee discussed concerns about the school pool being open and questioned what measures were in place to minimize COVID risk factors. The facilities Director reviewed the many safeguards that are in place and the cleaning schedule that was in place to keep on top of any potential problems. A decision was made to close the pool anytime the school was closed so that its (pool) use could be monitored appropriately.

- **School to Careers: Requires a vote**
After a brief discussion about whether or not to suspend the School to Careers program for the year the committee asked members to share their thought about the program before voting. The Superintendent stated that she was very impressed with the alternative programming STC was able to put in place to address constraints brought on by the Pandemic. The program is also level-funded for this year, has additional partnerships, and an impressive virtual lineup of panels and activities. She would like to see the program remain available to the students this year. Member Matt O'Malley, Milton, was equally in favor of STC Continuing without interruption. There remained the question of the cost of the program, but after much discussion, the group decided to vote: School to Careers program would continue as written in the plan however, the School Committee would revisit this question in December/January.

Motion to allow STC program to start year and revisit the program's cost effectiveness in December 2020 or January 2021. Marybeth Nearen, Randolph.

Second: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Motion Passes via Roll Call vote: 7-1-1

Yes: Norwood, Randolph, Braintree, Milton, Dedham, Canton, and Avon

Abstain: Westwood

Absent: Holbrook

- **Discussion: school name, "Vocational" in or not in name (district and/or school)**
This is not the first time this topic has been brought up but it remains unresolved for some members who feel that "Vocational" was removed from the school's name without discussion or having been voted on by the committee. Further, one member thought it may have legal ramifications because of the many contracts the school has in place. After a robust conversation, the group agreed to gather history and any back up materials and revisit this topic at the next meeting.

J. New Business Topics: Items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

- Aidan Maguire, Canton, requested that Fall Sports be placed on the agenda for the next meeting scheduled for September 1, 2020.
- Marybeth Nearen, Randolph, requested that the Website Committee meet and that "Website Conversation" be placed on the agenda for the next meeting. This recommendation came from a discussion that came about (but not on agenda) in Unfinished Business". Members specifically citing that certain committee members found the website difficult to navigate, were unable to find their respective bios on the website and what they did find was outdated.
- Letterhead: Aidan Maguire, Canton, stated that he questions and concerns about the new letterhead. In an effort to give the topic fair consideration, Marybeth Nearen, Randolph suggested they put a committee together to review it. Committee members agreed to schedule a time to meet and come back to the committee at a later date.

- Aiden Maguire, Canton, requested the group revisit bringing The Recording Secretary back now that the budget has been approved and staff are being reinstated. A brief discussion ensued about the amount of time the committee could use a recording secretary, stating specifically that 24 hours a week was too much. The resolution was to offer last year's Recording Secretary the position at her current hourly rate for 12 hours a week without benefits.

Motion to bring back Recording Secretary for 12 hours a week at current hourly wage without benefits. Marybeth Nearen, Randolph

Second: Aidan Maguire, Canton

Vote (Roll Call) passed unanimously by members in attendance.

Tom Polito, Chair, agreed to phone last year's Recording Secretary with the employment offer outlined above.

K. Executive Session: 10 minutes for Contracts and Negotiations

An executive session may be called to discuss collective bargaining, strategies and/or possible litigation under Open Meeting Law, Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (b), 2, 3 of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts General Laws. Open meeting discussion may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body.

Motion to move to Executive Session and to Adjourn Regular DSC meeting.

Aidan Maguire, Canton

Second: Marybeth Nearen, Randolph

Vote (Roll Call) passed unanimously by all members in attendance.

- L. Future Business** – Next School Committee meeting will be held on September 1, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. The School Committee reserves the right to implement additional remote participation procedures and will notify the public of these procedures as soon as practicable

M. Adjournment: 9:50 PM

Minutes Prepared and Submitted By:

Pamela Donnellan, Administrative Secretary to the Superintendent

Minutes Approved: 10/15/2020

