



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Seventh District Committee

District School Committee Meeting Minutes

February 1, 2022

BHR, Room W-218

7:00 PM

A. Pledge of Allegiance

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

Members in attendance:

Eric Erskine (Chair)– Braintree, Fran Fistori– Avon , Thomas Polito– Dedham, Taryn Mohan– Holbrook, Yahaira Lopez– Randolph

Sheila Vazquez– Westwood, Chuck Gisondi– DSC Treasurer

Members not in attendance: Aidan Maguire (Secretary)– Canton, Clinton Graham– Milton, Kevin Connolly (Vice Chair)– Norwood

Administration in attendance: Jill Rossetti– Superintendent-Director, Geoff Zini– Principal, Michelle Resendes– Business Manager

Mr. Erskine opened the meeting by welcoming the new school committee member representing Randolph. Ms. Rossetti introduced Ms. Yahaira Lopez, who shared a brief bio about her family, interests and community work.

C. Public Comment: None

D. Student Representative Report: Noel Hill was absent.

E. Treasurer’s Report and Warrant: Chuck Gisondi

Warrant #13

Vouchers 1043-1045 for \$744,308.97

Motion to approve Warrant #13: Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

Discussion: none

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve Warrant #13 was carried unanimously.

F. Superintendent's Report: Jill Rossetti

- COVID-19 Update

Ms. Rossetti shared the positive news that covid cases are trending down. Attendance is improving, creeping up to 80% and hoping to reach high 90's. Will continue to keep an eye on the trends.

- Decommission Requests (Approval Requested)

Ms. Rossetti reviewed the December 2021 quarterly decommission requests received from Construction Technology, Electrical and Engineering. Approximate dollar value of items were announced. Items from Electrical and Engineering are of zero value.

Motion to approve the Decommission Requests: Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Discussion: none

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

- Construction Job regarding Deck Project in Randolph (Approval Requested)

Ms. Rossetti provided the committee with details of a proposed \$7500 demo and replacement deck project for construction technology, estimated as a four week project that will provide an excellent learning experience for students. Customer's application is complete and ready to go, pending DSC approval.

Motion to approve Construction Job regarding Deck Project: Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

Discussion: none

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

- Other

Ms. Rossetti provided an update on the new statewide weekly covid-19 at-home testing program. Seventy-four students and 31 staff have opted in. With help from Mr. Zini and the IT folks, initial glitches have been sorted out.

G. Minutes Approval: (Vote is Required)

January 18, 2022

Motion to approve the January 18, 2022 DSC meeting minutes: Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

Discussion: None

Motion to approve the January 18, 2022 DSC meeting minutes passed unanimously.

H. DSC Chair Report: Eric Erskine, Braintree

- Personnel and Negotiations Sub-Committee Meeting update

Negotiations with Clerical and Cafeteria units continue and the next meeting is scheduled for February 10th. An agreement has been reached with Custodial (MOA discussed later).

I. Administration Reports:

1. Principal's Report: Geoff Zini

Mr. Zini shared many positive highlights, starting with this year's list of nominees for MAVA's annual outstanding vocational technical student awards program. Linda Varraso was nominated to receive this year's MVA new teacher award, given to a new teacher that exemplifies excellence in teaching in the vocational high school setting. Stay tuned for winners.

Mr. Zini echoed Ms. Rossetti regarding the significant increase in attendance, and positive news that we are close to where we want to be with numbers. We are hosting a school wide Say Something training presentation from Sandy Hook Promise tomorrow via ZOOM in each classroom area. There will be follow up later this month with SOS (Signs of Suicide) screenings and presentations for students. We are offering a before/after school program in the library with the esser grant funds. This is a great opportunity for students to have focused time to complete schoolwork with assistance. Grade 9 students' vocational placements were finalized last week, and term 2 report cards will be released on February 4th.

2. Business Manager Report: Michelle Resendes

- Review of 2023 proposed expense and salary budgets

Ms. Resendes began by describing the budget process with an overview of how we create our budget. Budgets align with our strategic plan based on priorities and goals, ensuring that the needs of students are met. Ms. Resendes then presented a very detailed and extremely informative slideshow of the proposed budget for next year. Overall budget increase is 3.8% over last year. Ms. Resendes highlighted a few major changes in expense accounts, including where our funding comes from and a review of our revenue plan. We are in the requests and review phase, moving into the adoption phase, as next steps involve going to each district, annual town meetings and hoping for a majority vote. Ms. Resendes's report is available to view online. An open hearing is scheduled for March 1, with the opportunity to ask questions. Mr. Polito's recommendation is to adopt the plan, and committee members will be asked to vote at the next meeting.

J. Unfinished Business: Ratification of BHAA Contract (Vote Required)

The BHAA contract through 6/30/2023, drafted by the attorney has been signed with no side agreements.

Motion to approve: Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Second: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Discussion: none

Motion to approve passed unanimously.

K. New Business Topics: Clinton Graham, Milton

Consideration to offer members the opportunity to attend meetings remotely.

Mr. Erskine shared a recent email sent by Mr. Graham about having a hybrid or zoom option for members at meetings. Mr. Polito responded to Mr. Graham's email, expressing his opinion on the matter. Mr. Erskine spoke to Ms. Rossetti about the idea, and she is working with IT and

pricing out cameras that move, as these would be necessary for this option to work. Ms. Rossetti's opinion is that this expense is difficult to justify, as the room is used infrequently and already has a camera. Rossetti stated that they are looking into the AV cost for the room and will get back to the committee. The committee members talked about modeling after students and teachers, who have been reporting to school in person for the last 100 weeks.

Motion to keep meetings the way they are, in house and no hybrid: Tom Polito, Dedham

Second: Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

Abstain: Yahaira Lopez, Randolph

Motion to keep meetings the way they are, in house and no hybrid passed.

L. Executive Session: yes

Mr. Erskine read the executive session laws and the meeting proceeded into executive session.

Motion declared to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, and not to reconvene in Open Session.

M. Future Business:

The next DSC meeting is Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

N. Adjournment: (Vote Required) 8:20pm

Motion to Adjourn: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Second: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Vote to Adjourn was unanimous by members in attendance.