



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee Fifty-  
Seventh District Committee

**District School Committee Meeting Minutes**

**February 15, 2022**

**BHR, Room W-218**

**7:00 PM**

**A. Pledge of Allegiance**

**B. Call to Order: Time: 7:01pm Members**

**in attendance:**

Eric Erskine (Chair)– Braintree, Fran Fistori– Avon, Aidan Maguire (Secretary)– Canton,  
Thomas Polito– Dedham, Taryn Mohan– Holbrook, Yahaira Lopez– Randolph,  
Sheila Vazquez– Westwood, Chuck Gisondi– DSC Treasurer

**Members not in attendance:**, Clinton Graham– Milton,  
Kevin Connolly (Vice Chair)– Norwood

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

**C. Public Comment:** None

**D. Student Representative Report:** Noel Hill opened the student body update commemorating important Black heroes and events during Black History month. Noel shared student feedback on mask mandates, as lifting the mandate is a valid concern for them. Senior night was a success for the Girls Basketball team. Noel was honored to represent Blue Hills at this past weekend's Massachusetts Association of Student Council (MASC) workshop, which gave him the opportunity to learn and apply his leadership skills. Noel closed his presentation with a Nuggets of Knowledge quote that spoke to his heart. "The most important trip you may take in life is meeting people halfway".

**E. Treasurer's Report and Warrant:** Chuck Gisondi Warrant #14 was read by Aidan Maguire (Secretary), Canton

Vouchers 1046-1049 in the amount of \$1,937,356.76

**Motion to approve Warrant #14:** Eric Erskine, Braintree

**Second:** Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

**Discussion:** none

**Vote, Roll Call:** Motion to approve Warrant #14 was carried unanimously.

**F. Masking Update**

Ms. Rossetti asked for a vote on optional mask wearing.

**Motion to approve optional masking:** Tom Polito, Dedham

**Second:** Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

**Discussion:** none

**Vote, Roll Call:** Motion to approve optional masking was carried unanimously.

**G. Athletic Director:** Ed Catabia, Winter Sports Report

Mr. Catabia reported that 160 kids are involved in a winter sport. Blue Hills has not had any COVID related game cancellations, and credits our superb coaches for this. The boys and girls basketball teams will be participating in the MIAA tournament beginning with preliminary games on February 28, March 1 and March 2. MIAA has voted to do away with the mask mandate as of February 28.

**H. Superintendent's Report:** Jill Rossetti

- COVID-19 Update

The COVID dashboard indicates that numbers are trending down. Effective Monday, February 28, the DESE mask requirement will be lifted statewide. Masking continues to be required on all school buses, per federal order, as well as in the school nurse's office. Upon Mr. Polito's request, Ms. Rossetti will share the updated mask policy from MASC with the policy subcommittee via email.

- Conference Room AV Setup Costs

The IT director is awaiting the audio/visual price quote, which will likely involve a change in the layout of room W218. Estimated cost, to be done correctly and without the involvement of a live person to operate the equipment, is estimated between \$5-\$15K.

- Cafeteria Table Donations to Schools in Need (Vote Required)

In January, BHR submitted an Invitation for Bids for the old cafeteria tables. There were no takers. Mr. Galego reached out to the MFAA community to see if any schools are in need of these tables, and has received interest from four schools: Holbrook, Frontier Regional, Melrose, and Norton.

**Motion to approve cafeteria table donations to four schools:** Tom Polito, Dedham

**Second:** Aidan Maguire, Canton

**Discussion:** Recipient schools are responsible for picking up the tables.

**Vote, Roll Call:** Motion to approve cafeteria table donations was carried unanimously.

- Fidelity Donation (Vote Required)

Fidelity has made a \$1,000 donation to Blue Hills

**Motion to approve the acceptance of the Fidelity donation:** Tom Polito, Dedham

**Second:** Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

**Discussion:** None

**Vote, Roll Call:** Motion to approve acceptance of the Fidelity donation was carried unanimously.

- Town Fair Tire Scholarship Donation for Tool Awards (Vote Required)

Town Fair Tire has made a \$1,000 donation of four \$500 scholarships to Blue Hills. These are not allocated to a specific vocational program, and are open to any student.

**Motion to approve the acceptance of the Town Fair Tire Scholarship Donation for**

**Tool Awards:** Tom Polito, Dedham

**Second:** Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

**Discussion:** None

**Vote, Roll Call:** Motion to approve acceptance of the Town Fair Tire Scholarship Donation for Tool Awards was carried unanimously.

- Progress Report on Goals

Ms. Rossetti was prepared to present her “on target” progress report on goals to the committee, but it was agreed that Ms. Rossetti would email the report to committee members instead.

- Other

Ms. Rossetti requested approval for Admissions Addendums for the 2021-2022 application policy regarding attendance, as unexcused absences will throw off the scoring of applicants, as this was not uniformly tracked by schools during COVID. She and the Admissions Director consulted with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education in support of the addendum and suggested raising the issue with the school committee. Ms. Rossetti gave a summary of incoming student numbers. There are 248 seats available with 443 applications received in Round 1, many of which were submitted after the deadline. Notices will go out to families on February 25th with a response deadline of March 1st. Round 2 of the application process then begins.

**Motion to approve the Superintendent’s Request to accept the Admissions**

**Addendums for the 2021-2022 application policy regarding attendance:** Tom Polito, Dedham

**Second:** Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

**Discussion:** None

**Vote, Roll Call:** Motion to approve the Superintendent’s Request to accept the Admissions Addendums for the 2021-2022 application policy regarding attendance was carried unanimously.

#### **I. Minutes Approval:** (Vote is Required)

- February 1, 2022

**Motion to approve** the February 1, 2022 DSC meeting minutes: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

**Second:** Aidan Maguire(Secretary), Canton

**Discussion:** None

Motion to approve the February 1, 2022 DSC meeting minutes passed unanimously.

**J. DSC Chair Report:** Eric Erskine, Braintree

- Evaluation Subcommittee Report on Superintendent-Director Progress Report on Goals Ms. Rossetti will email the report to committee members.
  
- Personnel and Negotiations Sub-Committee Meeting Update: Tom Polito reported that five of the six groups have reached an agreement. Clerical group met last Thursday. The Cafeteria group is meeting on Monday, February 28 and hope is to settle with them at the next meeting. The attorney is putting together the last two contracts for review and signing.

**K. Administration Reports:**

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

The Signs of Suicide (SOS) training began this week and counselors have been meeting with teachers and students in small groups, one class at a time. Springtime plans are underway, including the semi-formal, prom, senior field day and spring athletics.

Appreciation to our English Teacher, Grace Quiterio, for her role in creating posters, profiles and TV banners in observance of Black History month.

**2. Business Manager Report:** Michelle Resendes

- **Fy22 Quarter 2 Budget Report**

Ms. Resendes reported on the Q2 FY22 budget breakdown for the period ending December 31, 2021. At this point we are halfway through the fiscal year, and 40% through the school year. There are no immediate concerns and trending as it should.

Ms. Resendes reviewed the 2021 Budget Update Final transfer of funds, which will reduce the principal on debt and close out the FY21 budget year.

**Motion to approve the transfer of funds and close out the FY21 budget year:** Tom Polito, Dedham

**Second:** Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

**Discussion:** none

Motion to approve the transfer of funds and close out the FY21 budget year passed unanimously.

- **Tentative Approval of 2023 Proposed Expense and Salary Budgets**

The audit is complete and waiting for E & D to be finalized. Ms. Resendes announced that a vote will be taken on March 1st.

#### **L. Unfinished Business**

Mr. Fistori raised the topic of holding one school committee meeting each month. Information will be gathered for what is slated for the rest of the year, i.e. looking at calendars, auditor schedules and evaluation dates. Committee will add 'school committee frequency' to the next meeting's agenda.

#### **M. New Business Topics**

Ms. Resendes alerted the committee on pending plans to price out repairs to campus parking lots and sidewalks, and turned the discussion over to Mr. Galego. We are going out to bid for the cost to seal cracks and repair potholes. Taryn Mohan, through the chair, requested clarity on what areas will be paved. The bid for repairs will be for the entire campus, and based on a previous quote, it is estimated at approximately \$80k.

#### **N. Executive Session: yes**

Mr. Erskine made a motion to move to executive session with the intent to only return to adjourn the public session. Committee took a roll call vote and all responded.

#### **O. Future Business:**

The next DSC meeting is Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 7:00 PM.  
Annual Budget Hearing

**Adjournment:** (Vote Required) **7:37pm**

**Motion to Adjourn:** Eric Erskine, Braintree

**Second:** Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Vote to Adjourn was unanimous by members in attendance.

Minutes Prepared By: Pamela Donnellan, Executive Secretary for the Superintendent-Director  
and DSC Recording Secretary

Minutes Approved By DSC on March 1, 2022: