



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Sixth District Committee

District School Committee Meeting
December 01, 2020
Remote (ZOOM) Meeting
7:00 PM Open Session

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: Call to Order: 7:02 PM

Member in Attendance: Fran Fistori – Avon, Eric Erskine (Vice Chair) – Braintree, Aidan Maguire – Canton, Tom Polito (Chair) – Dedham, Taryn Mohan – Holbrook, Clinton Graham – Milton, Kevin Connolly – Norwood, Rachelle Jeanty – Randolph, Sheila Vazquez – Westwood and Chuck Gisondi – DSC Treasurer

Administration in Attendance: Jill Rossetti – Superintendent-Director, Michelle Resendes – Business Manager, Geoff Zini - Principal, and David Galego – Facilities Director

B. Open Session: Zoom Link

C. Public Comment:

One Response: Bob Loporto: Mr. Loporto has a question about Blue Hills' in school learning and he likes the new BH Website. He said he was concerned about the lack of in house learning compared to other area schools and wanted to know the measure the school will use to increase in house learning to 50%. Ms. Rossetti said that she would be answering most of the question later in the meeting. Mr. Polito, Chair, let Mr. Loporto know that his concern is noted and that they would address these issues later.

D. Treasurer's Reports: Chuck Gisondi reported that there is nothing outside of Warrant number 9 to discuss at this time

E. Warrant: Chuck Gisondi (Vote Required)

Warrant Number 9: \$950,300.87

Motion to approve Warrant Number 9: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Vote: Roll Call: Motion to approve warrant number 9 passes with 7 yes votes and two abstentions (Milton and Randolph)

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F. Minute Approval: (Vote Required)

November 17, 2020

After a short discussion, **Motion to approve the minutes for the November 17 Meeting** was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to approve minutes passed unanimously

G. Blue Hills Strategy Plan: Jill Rossetti

Ms. Rossetti presented to the Board a Strategy Plan that she and several members of the Administration and faculty spent months putting together. The Plan is concise and reflects all the hard work that went into putting it together. It lays the groundwork and direction that the school will move toward over the next couple of years. This Plan is to be revisited every summer to keep the plan current using the past years data to measure progress and update as necessary. (See Strategy Plan) The school committee was impressed with the written plan and asked the Superintendent if she would like the Committee to accept the Strategy Plan. The Superintendent said she would like them to do so.

Motion to accept the Strategy plan: Clinton Graham, Milton

Second: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to accept the Strategy Plan passed unanimously

H. Blue Hills Regional Vocational School District School Committee : Member Handbook

Taryn Mohan, Holbrook, asked that the Committee set up a sub-committee to review the Member Handbook with the intent to bring it back to the Committee to adopt and use the same. The Chair, Tom Polito – Dedham, said that it would fit better into the Policy Sub-Committee and suggested that she ask to be assigned to that sub-committee and then bring the handbook there.

I. DSC Chair Report: Thomas Polito, Chair

1. Secretary: Vote is required to appoint new DSC Secretary

Motion to vote Aidan Maguire, Canton, as the new Secretary for the DSC was made by Clinton Graham, Milton

After a short discussion, Taryn Mohan, Holbrook, **seconded** the Motion

Vote, Roll Call: Motion to elect Aidan Maguire as DSC Secretary passed unanimously

2. The Chair, Tom Polito – Dedham, asked the members to send him a list of the sub-committees that they would like to participate in as he is assigning participants into the various sub-committees over the next week.

J. Superintendent's Report: Jill Rossetti

1. The Superintendent told the Committee that NEAS&C were in virtually (ZOOM) over a few days for their follow-up visit. It went very well and all of the feedback received was very good. She stated that the school was prepared and the follow-up went smoothly. Blue Hills is now waiting for their written report, which is expected to be positive.

2. The Superintendent presented a COVID update. She stated that the Metrics used at this time indicate a slow increase in positive COVID cases and that the State color system puts Blue Hills in the yellow zone. She further stated that student, faculty and staff are all doing a very

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good job with guidelines in place including the use of masks, social distancing and cleaning. students are encouraged and do take mask breaks appropriately.

3. The Superintendent reported that Blue Hills would bring in selected Junior and Senior Students on December 16, 2002. The on boarding of additional students will be slow and watched carefully. Should this addition work out well and safely, Administration and team will assess the situation and will either add Freshman and Sophomores after the holidays in January or hold off.
4. Organization Chart: Updated with no real change to be current (no action necessary)

K. DSC Sub-Committee Reports as needed

Negotiations and Personnel: Sub-Committee met and the DSC would be going into Executive Session tonight to discuss.

L. Administration Reports

1. Principal Report: Geoff Zini

- **High School Update:** Mr. Zini, Principal, stated that term one had just ended and that grades have been released. He then reported that attendance for the first term was higher than the first term last year. He then reported that the numbers of students failing at least once class is higher than last year, however, the increase was expected and mirrored by most other schools in the Commonwealth teaching remotely. Mr. Zini assured the Committee that safeguards are in place to address this and that the faculty and guidance are working very hard to meet students where they are at emotionally. Safeguards put in place include but are not limited to the following:
 - Extra in school Wednesday tutoring, extra help and guidance available on Wednesdays along with Special Services
 - Meeting students where they are at educationally in virtual classrooms
 - Ability to access teachers via email virtually
 - Family support and access to teachers for support while virtually learning
 - Ongoing opportunities offered to support students with difficulty succeeding in the virtual classroom including use of paraprofessional providing in school support on Wednesdays

A thoughtful discussion took place after the presentation and the principal agreed to send out data on student failure to the committee with the offer to discuss any questions about the same individually or bring to the group in a future meeting.

2. Business Manager Report: Michelle Resendes

- **Approval of amended Transportation Contract. (Vote Required)** Ms. Resendes asked the Committee to approve via vote the Transportation Contract and ability to sign that she, Michelle Resendes, reviewed at the last meeting. She explained that our lawyers have reviewed and approved the contract. The Contract is only for this school years and the school received an excellent contract while assuring the safe continuance of service.

Motion to approve the amended transportation Contract; Kevin Connolly,
Norwood

Second: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Vote, Roll Call: Contract approved and passed with 8 yes and 1 abstention, Milton

M. Unfinished Business: N/A

N. New Business Topics: N/A

O. Executive Session: There will be an Executive Session: Negotiations and Personnel Sub-Committee. 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.

P. Future Business: The next DSC Meeting will be Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 7 PM

Q. Adjournment: 7:51 PM Committee to adjourn general meeting and continue in Executive Session

Motion to adjourn general meeting: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Vote, Roll Call: Vote to Adjourn passed unanimously

Prepared By: Pamela Donnellan
Administrative Secretary to the Superintendent-Director

Approved on: 12/15/2020 by the DSC