



Blue Hills Regional District School Committee
Fifty-Sixth District Committee

**District School Committee Meeting
February 2, 2021
Remote (ZOOM) Meeting**

A. Call to Order: Roll Call 7:03 PM Start

Members in attendance: Eric Erskine (Vice-Chair) – Braintree, Aidan Maguire, Jr. – Canton, Thomas Polito (Chair) – Dedham, Taryn Mohan – Holbrook, 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, Paul Bavuso – Academic Director, Michelle Sylvia – Vocational Director, and David Galego – Facilities Director

B. Open Session: Zoom

C. Public Comment:

Linda Wirta, Boosters: Ms. Wirta wanted to update the Committee and ask their assistance in promoting the Booster’s latest fundraising effort, “The Love of Boosters Basket Raffles”. They are putting together baskets, some with themes, and raffling them off. They are currently selling tickets for the first basket. They are on facebook and you may purchase at the school store.

Liam Connor, Senior at Blue Hills: Liam asked the committee to look into approving the football 2 season. He spoke about how he and other school athletes miss playing sports and would like the committee to consider the fall 2 season. He thanked the Committee for allowing him to speak.

D. Treasurer’s Reports: Chuck Gisondi

No Updates to report

E. Warrant: Chuck Gisondi (Vote Required)

Warrant # 13 for \$744,119.80, no questions about Warrant # 13

Motion to approve Warrant # 13 was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Taryn Mohan, Holbrook

Roll Call Vote: Motion passed unanimously by members in attendance (7/0)

F. Superintendent's Report: Jill Rossetti

1. School Report/ COVID-19 Update

After reviewing the COVID numbers from District towns, indicators suggest that the COVID numbers will continue in a downward trend. There is a lot more yellow in the Color Coded charts assigned by the state for the District. Positive cases are at approximately 2%. Ms. Rossetti also noted that Blue Hills currently has the ability to do Rapid COVID testing for students and teachers if needed and has volunteered to be a vaccine site for the State. Teachers are currently on Level 2.3 for vaccines.

Ms. Rossetti stated that Blue Hills continues to increase the number of students that are in-person learning and those receiving extra help and services. Hybrid 25 will continue and the Administration Team is looking to expand to Hybrid 50 with in-person learning. Aidan Maguire, Canton, questioned the amount of time it is taking the school to re-open stating that in many other schools it is the air quality preventing the students to return to school. He reminded the committee that we just spent millions of dollars on the HVAC system indicating that we should be much further along and that he does not understand the hold up. The Superintendent reminded him that air quality is just one of many factors that goes into the decision of expanding in-person learning. Mr. Maguire reminded the group that students have been out of school for almost a year. The Superintendent thanked Mr. Maguire and assured him that she both heard him and understands the concerns he brought to the committee.

2. Donation from Braintree AFW (Vote Required)

The AFW presented a donation of \$150. to Blue Hills for their refurbishing a flag receptacle box. The Box was made by Metal Fab several years ago and was damaged by a snowplow last year. They did a beautiful job refurbishing it to like new condition.

A vote is needed to accept the donation. Prior to the vote, Aidan Maguire, Canton, asked if the money was going to the Metal Fab shop or to the general fund. The superintendent said that three of the vocational programs worked on this project and that the money was going to be assigned to the Vocational Department.

Motion to accept donation was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Roll Call Vote: Motion to accept donation passed unanimously by members in attendance.
(7/0)

Ms. Rossetti will send a thank you note for the donation.

Kevin Connolly, Norwood, wanted to introduce Al Varraso to new members as someone having worked at Blue Hills and is a big supporter of the school. He actually hired the current Superintendent and his daughter, Linda Varraso, currently works at Blue Hills in the Culinary program.

G. Minutes Approval: (Vote Required)

January 19, 2021

Motion to approved DSC meeting Minutes from January 19th was made by Eric Erskine, Braintree
No questions

Second: Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Roll Call Vote: Motion to approve minutes passed unanimously by members in attendance. (7/0)

H. Run-in Shed Construction Project: Michelle Sylvia (or Designee)

Presented by David Blakely

Mr. Blakely made the presentation stating that building the Run-In Shed was a project they wanted to start soon in Construction. He further stated that this project would be for the DCR and would benefit the Park Rangers, specifically the Mounted Police for the horses that are housed at the Pappas Rehab Center in Canton. The cost to DCR will be \$35,000. in materials and the program will be charging 25% for the service. A vote from the DSC is required.

Motion to approve the Run-In-Shed project was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Sheila Vazquez, Westwood

Roll Call Vote: Motion to approve the Run-In-Shed project passes unanimously by members in attendance (7/0)

Rachelle Jeanty, Randolph presented the Committee with an opportunity offered by Randolph. She informed the group that the 21st Century STEM Career Pathway is a program provided through a grant in Randolph that offers classes to students in grades 7 through 12. Ms. Jeanty wanted to make sure Blue Hill students be made aware of its availability. Geoff Zini, Principal, agreed to put the information in the weekly newsletter.

I. Strategy Plan Initiatives: Update

- **Geoff Zini, Principal**
 - **Michelle Sylvia, Vocational Director**
 - **Paul Bavuso, Academic Director**
 - **Matt Eisan, IT Director**
- (PowerPoint presentation)**

Geoff Zini, Principal, presented the update on the Strategy Plan Initiatives that are currently being addressed at Blue Hills. The outlined Teacher and Learning objective, Goal 3.3 Formalizing and evaluating Emergency Communication Plans and Procedures and number 4.4 Professional Development Schedule for next school year that is dynamic and relevant. Each of the three initiatives has a point person assigned to it who will ensure that their objective will be met. Three additional objectives will be identified for next year and the work on these objectives will begin in September 2021.

J. DSC Chair Report: Thomas Polito, Chair

1. Report

Mr. Polito, Chair, began a discussion about the school budget, specifically about the purchase of needed big-ticket items for shops and in the classrooms. He asked about how items were:

- Selected for purchase
- How they were selected (the process)
- What funds were used for purchase (Capital / Perkins Grant)
- How we keep track of purchases from year to year
- Assure fairness

Ms. Resendes and Ms. Rossetti responded to each of these points including how lists for needed items were collected, how and which purchases were to be purchased and how the use of Capital Funds and the Perkin's Grant were used. They told the committee how the list was developed and is kept from year to year. It is from this list that purchasing decisions are made.

Mr. Polito asked that Blue Hills put together a report for the next meeting using data going back two years outlining purchases made and which budget line the purchase was made from.

Mr. Polito asked if the committee could start to meet at the school again. Mr. Maguire supports the move back into the school. Mr. Erskine asked that we continue with Zoom even if the committee moves back on site because the number of people attending is considerably higher via ZOOM. Ms. Rossetti told them that it wasn't going to be easy because they won't fit in the Board Room and the elements necessary for this to happen continue to be difficult. So they asked to be kept up to date with this. In the meantime and moving forward, Mr. Polito asked that the meetings be recorded to be put on line and local cable tv like they do in Dedham. Ms. Rossetti said she would look into this and get back to him.

The subject of the pool was brought up. The committee wanted to know who was using it and how are we keeping it safe and clean. Mr. Maguire, Canton, then asked if the pool was even worth keeping open for sport teams having to abide by the 25% restriction in place. Ms. Rossetti explained that the 25% restriction was on the total pool capacity; not team participant numbers. She also said that the pool was a benefit to the community even with no locker room use and other restrictions. She explained that the pool abides by all safety standards required and that the Pool and Rec. Director, who runs these programs, is very strict and does an excellent job. Mr. Galego attested to the safety and cleanliness of the pool.

K. DSC Sub-Committee Reports:

1. Curriculum and Advisory Sub-Committee

The sub-committee meeting took place and was reported as having gone well. All programs in place safeguarding services and providing needed support were on point.

L. Administration Reports:

1. Principal Report: Geoff Zini

Mr. Zini spoke earlier in section "I"

2. Business Manager Report: Michelle Resendes
Approve Proposed Budget SY22 (Vote required)

Mr. Resendes said that she needed to ask for a vote on the Preliminary Budget for next year so that she is able to forward it to the Financial Committees at each of the sending towns in preparation for the Budget Hearing scheduled for March 2, 2021.

After a short discussion,

Motion to approve the Preliminary Budget was made by Kevin Connolly, Canton

Second: Aidan Maguire, Canton

Roll Call Vote: Motion to approve the Preliminary budget passed unanimously by members in attendance. (7/0)

Ms. Resendes then told the Committee that she received one of the COVID grants, ESSER 2 and that this money came with the stipulation that 75% of the money be offered back to the sending district towns. She anticipates that all towns will want the money.

M. Unfinished Business:

There will be a Personnel and Negotiations Sub-Committee next week to review contract issues and the Committee Recording Secretary position.

N. New Business Topics: N/A

O. Executive Session: N/A

P. Future Business: The next DSC Meeting will be Tuesday, February 16, 2021 at 7 PM

Q. Adjournment: Vote Required (8:47 PM)

Motion to adjourn was made by Kevin Connolly, Norwood

Second: Eric Erskine, Braintree

Roll Call Vote: Motion to adjourn passes unanimously by members in attendance. (7/0)

Minutes Prepared by:

Pamela Donnellan, Administrative Secretary to the Superintendent-Director

Minutes approved by DSC on: February 16, 2021