

Bolton Board of Education
Business Meeting Minutes
March 10, 2016
Approved

The Bolton Board of Education held its regularly scheduled Business Meeting on March 10, 2016. Members present were Chair Liz Krueger, Vice Chair Andrew Broneill, Chris Davey, Kate Gallé, Scott Rich and Alison Romkey. Superintendent Kristin Heckt was also present. BOE Member Stacy Reed was absent.

- A. Call to Order – Chair Krueger called the meeting order at 6:30 PM.
 - B. Celebration of Excellence – the following students were recognized:
 - BCS Geography Bee Winner – Lucas Carini
 - BCS Spelling Bee Winner – Isaac Goncalves
 - BCS Eastern Region Students – Leah Bieu, alto; Sarah Bythrow, soprano; Makayla Lozada, soprano; Joseph Griffin, tuba; Lana Houlberg, euphonium; and Julianna Larson, tenor sax.
 - BHS Eastern Region Students – Abigail Leger, soprano.
 - BHS Drama Club – Seussical: Director Jen Carvalho, Advisor Abbey Sacco and the cast and crew: Cait Altermatt, Melissa Buckley, Philip Bythrow, Ally Cianci, Catie Coyle, Penelope Deoleo-Nelson, Jake Dufour, Lexi Frame, AJ Gallacher, Ben Grant, Sarah Grottole, Victoria Johnson, Abby Leger, Zach Manganella, Monet Massey, Laina McCarthy, Christina McDonnell, Paige Olivieri, Hannah Olsen, Megan Piechowicz, Alex Prior, Gina Ritchie, Julianna Sansevero, Katie Steele, Ray Tonioni, Thea Walters, Evan Wimer and Hannah Woodward.
 - March is Board of Education Appreciation Month and Superintendent Heckt recognized our Board members and thanked them for their dedicated service.
 - C. Comments From the Audience – none
 - D. Additions to Agenda – Superintendent Heckt asked that the BHS Student Representatives Report, Agenda Item, E.3, be addressed next. The Board agreed.
 - E. Routine Business Items
 - 1. Communications to Board Members – Superintendent Heckt shared that she had received notes from the Mancini and Boyd families thanking the Board for sending a Peace Lily plant in remembrance of Angelo Mancini and Raymond Boyd, Sr.
 - 2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. February 4, 2016 – BOE Special Meeting – A **motion** to approve the minutes was presented by Alison Romkey, 2nd by Andrew Broneill; MUP.
 - b. February 11, 2016 – BOE Business Meeting – A **motion** to approve the minutes was presented by Andrew Broneill, 2nd by Chris Davey; motion passed 4-0 with abstentions from Alison Romkey and Scott Rich.
 - c. February 18, 2016 – BOE Special Meeting – A **motion** to approve the minutes was presented by Kate Gallé, 2nd by Scott Rich; MU.
- It was noted that the minutes from the February 11, 2016 BOE Special Meeting will be presented for approval in the April Agenda.

3. BHS Student Representatives Report – Justin Wiles reported that the BHS Girls Basketball team was the runner-up in the NCCC Conference and will play the State Tournament semi-final against Canton on Monday night at ECHS. The BCR Hockey Team also qualified for post-season play and were playing a quarter final match later this evening. A handful of our student athletes were recognized as All Conference and All State and BHS Girls Basketball team member, Jessica Larsh, reached her 1,000th point in February. Spring sports will begin practice next week. Elena Harvey reported that the Robotics Team qualified for the regional competition in their first year; the Semi-Formal is this Saturday with a Mardi Gras theme; the National Honor Society is holding a Blood Drive at BHS on March 28; Unity Day was, once again, very successful with some students surprised to be participating in crochet classes when they thought they would be playing croquet. The Senior Capstone demonstrations will be April 26 and Superintendent Heckt encouraged the Board members to attend this event.
4. Board of Education Committee Reports
 - a. Buildings and Grounds – Andrew Broneill reported that he and Board member Scott Rich have toured both schools with Director of Operations, Ray Boyd, to become familiar with maintenance needs. He also attended a preliminary informational meeting with JD Solar representatives, Ray Boyd and John Butrymovich, Buildings and Grounds Supervisor for the Town. JD Solar is hoping to obtain a letter of intent from the Town and BOE which will allow them to proceed with the application for a solar farm that would ultimately provide power to the town and school buildings. There is no commitment attached to the letter of intent.
 - b. Communications – Kate Gallé reported the subcommittee met and discussed the potential use of social media as a means of communicating with the community on important topics such as budget, curriculum, etc. They are also working with Town representatives and BOE administration on improving communications with Columbia families. The next meeting is scheduled for May 18 in the BOE.
 - c. Curriculum – Chris Davey reported the March 1 meeting focused on two new textbooks for BHS Civics and fifth grade Social Studies and they will be presented for First Read later in the agenda. If approved, they will be purchased with Open Choice grant funds. They are also looking at other textbook needs for additional AP courses.
 - d. Finance – Alison Romkey reported the budget is 56% expended and information on salary and benefits savings will be presented next month. She also noted approval was needed for transfer requests for uniforms and server replacement. Superintendent Heckt noted that uniforms were eliminated from the 2016-2017 budget with the intent of being purchased this year. The replacement of the server was on the BOE CAPA list, but she was recently informed it did not meet the timeline or dollar requirements as a CAPA item and the cost for replacement will have to be absorbed by the BOE budget. A **motion** to transfer \$9K from salaries to athletics for uniform replacement was presented by Alison Romkey, 2nd by

- Scott Rich; MUP. A **motion** to transfer \$25K from salaries to systems was presented by Alison Romkey, 2nd by Chris Davey; MUP.
- e. Personnel – Kate Gallé reported the subcommittee has met with representatives from the AA and IA unions and have contract negotiation dates set for March 16, April 27 and 28.
5. Community Meeting Reports / Board of Education – Alison Romkey reported that she, Chair Krueger, and Superintendent Heckt attended the legislative breakfast and she then attended the CREC Council meeting. Chris Davey reported he attended the Bolton Scholarship Fund meeting and they have held their annual phone-a-thon. Scott Rich reported he attended the District Safety meeting and discussed logistics on lockdown procedures, paving projects and bus turning space at BCS. Kate Gallé reported she attended the PTA meeting and they are having conversation with the Community Education Foundation on possibly merging the two groups and how that would benefit the community and students. The PTA is also looking for new officers for President, Vice-President and Secretary and to ask any potential candidates that Board members might be aware of to contact Christina Morra-Tiu.
6. Superintendent of Schools Report
- a. 2016-2017 Budget Update – Superintendent Heckt reported that the district has elected to change insurance companies from Anthem to ConnectiCare for equal or better coverage at a savings of \$93,827. This will result in a change to the 2016-2017 BOE Budget from a 2.48% increase to a 1.78% increase over last year. Board members were provided with revisions to the Budget Book pages that are affected and the same information will be mailed to Board of Finance members tomorrow with BOE approval of the revised budget information. A **motion** to approve the adjusted 2016-2017 BOE Budget which now reflects an increase of \$239,826 representing a 1.78% increase was presented by Kate Gallé, 2nd by Andrew Broneill; MUP. Kate Gallé thanked Superintendent Heckt and the Town Administrator for their efforts in brokering this change.
- b. Guidance Presentation – Superintendent Heckt preceded the presentation with information that BHS was selected as one of four high schools in CT to be nominated by the CSDE for Blue Ribbon status. This is a very prestigious nomination and requires a large application to be filed by March 18. An intensely committed group of BHS staff and administrators has spent countless hours preparing the application and it will be filed prior to the March 18 due date. BHS also just received notice of the newly appointed CSDE recognition as a School of Distinction which puts them in the bracket of only 10% of all schools in the state to receive this. BHS Principal, Joseph Maselli, noted that the CAPT and SAT testing was successfully completed and all test materials have been sent out. He further went on to thank the junior class for having 100% attendance on the test day. He and school counselors Megan Bellody and Darbi Spivak went on to lead discussion on the Powerpoint presentation on the BHS School Counseling Program which serves not only all students at BHS, but

also includes communication with 8th grade students from Bolton and Columbia. Some question topics asked by Board members involved different learning styles of students, non-college bound students, financial aid and scholarship presentations, job shadowing, college applications, and is there any follow-up with alumni. Mr. Maselli responded to the alumni question that there is no official follow-up program and the cost associated with such a program was quite expensive when explored a few years ago. A good group of alumni are assembled once a year to meet with students and discuss their college experience thus far and often, because we are a small district, students keep in touch with staff and information is shared in that regard. A copy of this presentation follows these minutes.

- c. Technology Presentation – Director of Instructional Technology and Curriculum, Sarah Malinoski, and members of the Technology Committee lead discussion on their Powerpoint presentation. They first thanked the Board and administration for providing the professional time to learn and explore technology and continued to lead discussion and provide insight on the positive impact the use of Google Classroom and its applications have had on students’ interactivity with each other, their teachers, and the content being presented. It is used at BHS not only across disciplines, but is even used in the extra-curricular clubs and ELL and SPED programs, as well. Bolton students begin regular/graded computer instruction in grade 5, but Chrome carts allows the computers to be brought into the lower grades and are frequently used by the elementary classes for specific projects; i.e. 4th grade State Fair. By the time the students reach BHS, there is basically a seamless transition on using all the technology applications. Mr. Maselli also noted that there is a technology component in the BHS graduation requirements. Board member Kate Gallé applauded administration and the Tech Committee for their efforts in providing the guidance to the staff that allows for this powerful teaching tool to be used in so many different ways. Sarah concluded the presentation with the announcement that the district will be receiving \$18K from a State grant we applied for last year that was just recently funded. A copy of this presentation follows these minutes.

F. Unfinished Business – none

G. New Business

- 1. First Read – Textbooks
 - a. Civics Text
 - b. Fifth Grade Social Studies

Sarah Malinoski and BCS Social Studies Teacher and Curriculum Leader, Rick Lambert, provided handouts and information on the need for the new text books. Samples will be available in the BOE until the April 7 BOE Meeting. The purchase of both textbooks will be paid for through Open Choice grant funds.

H. Future Business – Kate Gallé requested an update from the Superintendent on the new Instructional Coach position at BCS. Superintendent Heckt noted that information will be forthcoming in April. Even though information had been provided to the Board

members on the district technology inventory and replacement needs, Chair Krueger asked that discussion on this item be addressed in April or May since the Board member who had asked for the information was not here.

- I. Anticipated Executive Session – Discussion / Possible Action on:
 - 1. Personnel Negotiations – A **motion** to adjourn to Executive Session was presented by Kate Gallé at 9:05, 2nd by Alison Romkey; MUP.
The Board came out of Executive Session by consensus.
- J. Adjournment – A **motion** to adjourn was presented by Kate Gallé, 2nd by Alison Romkey; MUP. Meeting was adjourned at 9:17 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Boyd
Board Clerk