

Bolton Board of Education  
Business Meeting Minutes  
April 6, 2017  
**Approved**

The Bolton Board of Education held its regularly scheduled Business Meeting on April 6, 2017. Members present were Chair Liz Krueger, Andrew Broneill, Chris Davey, Stacy Reed and Scott Rich. Superintendent Kristin Heckt was also present. BOE member Kate Gallé arrived during the Celebration of Excellence. Board member Alison Romkey was absent.

- A. Call to Order – Chair Liz Krueger called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- B. Celebration of Excellence – the following students were recognized:
  - Kindergarten Student Achievers – Julianna Fairclough, Ricky McDonald and Julianna Meagher.
  - First Grade – Reagan Connor and Daisy Coope
  - Second Grade – Nicole DeNunzio, Nicolo Girasoli and Danniella LaPlante
  - 2017 BCS Geography Bee Winner – Ben Roth
  - 2017 BCS Spelling Bee Winner – Holly McNamara
- C. Comments from the Audience – Chris Davey received contact from a parent whose child graduated last year. The parent expressed concern on how class rank wasn't shared with the student when it was asked for and felt it could have had an impact on college applications. Kate Gallé received contact from several parents requesting that the BOE consider making Friday, June 16<sup>th</sup> as the last day of school.
- D. Additions to Agenda – None
- E. Routine Business Items
  - 1. Communications to Board Members – None
  - 2. Approval of Minutes
    - a. March 9, 2017 BOE Special Business Meeting – A **motion** to approve the minutes was presented by Stacy Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Andrew Broneill; motion passed 5-0, Kate Gallé abstained.
  - 3. BHS Student Representatives Report – Justin Wiles reported that 11<sup>th</sup> grade SAT and 10<sup>th</sup> grade CAPT testing was completed. Spring sports are ready to go as soon as the weather permits. Some BHS students left for the Spain/Italy trips yesterday and all are looking forward to next week's April break.
  - 4. Board of Education Committee Reports
    - a. Building and Grounds – Scott Rich reported the Building and Grounds subcommittee met on Monday in their newly appointed role as the Temporary Public Building Commission for the BCS Asbestos Abatement project and selected the architectural firm to prepare the schematic drawings for that project. They also met on Thursday and discussed the Wi-Fi upgrades, BCS Restroom and Locker Room and phase II of the BCS Carpet to Tile projects. The Town is looking into installing a cistern at the BCS front entrance and the gas lines are scheduled to be installed next week. Work on the BHS fields has been postponed pending receipt of another bid and discussions on shared services resulted in assignments of getting information for the next discussion/meeting on this topic.

- b. Finance – Chair Krueger shared that 68% of the budget has been expended and that SPED is running a deficit of \$83K. Superintendent Heckt noted that, at this point, she is expecting that deficit will be managed without having to ask BOF for additional funding.
  - 5. Community Meeting Reports / Board of Education – Chris Davey attended the Bolton Scholarship Fund meeting. The selection process will begin after the final application closing date of April 18. He also attended the PTA meeting where Superintendent Heckt was the presenter. Scott Rich attended the most recent BOF meetings and noted that they, along with many other town and school boards, are struggling with budget preparation with the unknown factors of the state budget.
  - 6. Superintendent of Schools Report
    - a. Curriculum Updates – Director of Instructional Technology and Curriculum, Sarah Malinoski and Core Leaders and staff members Wendy Scott, Katy Desrosiers, Elisha Rose, Kelly Bucchi and Jen Carvalho prepared a power point presentation for the Board on the status and continued enhancements being made in the district.
    - b. Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) – Staff members Alison Caruso, Jen Carvalho and Sandy Mishriky presented a power point on NGSS with highlights being staff participation in the CREC Science Consortium and the available resources from them and the exciting student results from the changes in the “teaching” of the science curriculum with the NGSS approach. BHS classes and BCS 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grades are integrating the new curriculum. It is a more hands-on, real-world thinking approach and is being very well received by the kids. In response to being asked what other resources would be “nice to have” in support of NGSS, the staff members provided the following: makers’ space at BCS and PD time to collaborate with each other and visit other NGSS districts and workshops. Superintendent Heckt shared that the district has already begun conversations on the makers’ space and Sarah Malinoski noted that teachers are already looking into grant opportunities for improvements and that the district will include the arts to have it be a STEAM initiative, not just STEM. Opportunities for community support will also be looked into.
- F. Unfinished Business
- 1. Text Books – Second Read
    - a. Social Studies, Geography Alive! Regions and People – Grades 6 and 7 – A **motion** to approve the text was presented by Kate Gallé, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stacy Reed; MUP.
  - 2. 2017-2018 Budget Update – Superintendent Heckt noted the BOF met last Thursday and this Tuesday and BOF Chair Bob Munroe jump started conversation regarding the state of the state and that impact on budget preparation. Some BOF members believe the BOE should be flat funded and Superintendent Heckt cautioned it could be very detrimental to the Town as a whole if that thought were to gain headway. The district is in conversation with Columbia on cultivating that relationship and flat funding would result in lost academics, athletics and after school programs which could certainly have an effect on students selecting Bolton as their school of choice. BHS Principal, Joe Maselli, shared that there are currently 19 Columbia students who have expressed interest in selecting BHS and that is the largest percentage in many years.

Superintendent Heckt further noted the BOF is working on preparing community budget pamphlets urging residents to come to the May 1<sup>st</sup> Public Hearing. The BOF will set the budget on May 9<sup>th</sup> and the Town Referendum will be on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. The Superintendent will also reach out to the PTA for their support in notifying residents of the important upcoming dates in regard to the budget.

3. BHS Project Update – Superintendent Heckt met with Joyce Stille, Town Administrator, yesterday and she is waiting to hear back from CSDE, but is still expecting to have the BHS project closed out by June 30, 2017. Ray Boyd, Director of Operations, contacted Mark Hopper from Fletcher-Thompson for assistance in locating some additional documents. Mark will contact Ms. Stille for further parameters of their document search and will respond to both the BOE and Town with any findings. Board member Kate Gallé noted she had received several emails and phone calls from residents expressing great concern on this project and looking to the BOE for updates. She further stated that the BOE has been requesting the Town for status updates for the last several years. Board member Chris Davey asked Superintendent Heckt given the time expended by BOE staff in search for needed documents, what were the effects to the school district. Superintendent Heckt replied that it has prohibited her from time she would normally spend in classrooms and with administrators. There was a collective concern by Board members on residents' perception that the BOE is responsible for the closing of this project and that they have repeatedly been asked for updates. Board member Scott Rich added that this has been an agenda item for the last few BOF meetings, but that no report has been provided by the Town. After discussion on these concerns, it was agreed that Chair Krueger would reach out to past Board members Karen Bergin and Matt Giuffre for any additional information regarding the continual request for information and she would then draft a statement on the BOE's position to be read at the next BOF and BOS meetings.

#### G. New Business

1. 2018 Music Department Trip Proposal – Music Director, Katy Desrosiers, requested permission to bring BHS music students to Washington, D.C. from April 26, 2018 through April 29, 2018 to participate in a Music Festival which includes adjudication and musical clinic. The pricing and complete itinerary will be finalized and the Bolton Music Works! will assist with fund raising. A **motion** to approve the 2018 Music Department Trip to Washington, D.C. was presented by Kate Gallé, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Davey; MUP.
2. 2016-2017 School Calendar – Superintendent Heckt presented a revised 2016-2017 School Calendar set to a 180 student day calendar, allowing the last day of school to be Friday, June 16, 2017. Teaching staff would fulfill four hours of PD on their own time between now and June 1, 2017 and provide supporting documentation to their administrators. A **motion** to accept the revised 2016-2017 School Calendar and four hour PD as presented by Superintendent Heckt was made by Kate Gallé, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Davey; MUP.
3. 2017 Graduation Date – Superintendent Heckt requested approval of June 16, 2017 as the 2017 graduation date and further noted that moving forward, she would be requesting the graduation date to be set for the last day of school, regardless of the week day it falls on. Principal Maselli added that he had discussions with last year's parents of graduates and they agreed it was a good idea to move graduation to the

actual last day of school rather than the traditional closest Friday. The district would continue to support the Project Grad safe celebration. A motion to approve June 16, 2017 as the 2017 graduation date was presented by Stacy Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Rich; MUP.

4. 2017-2018 School Calendar – Superintendent presented a revision to the approved 2017-2018 School Calendar which notes a missing fifth PD day scheduled for March 29, 2018. The last day of school would now be Monday, June 11, 2018. A motion to approve the 2017-2018 School Calendar as presented by Superintendent Heckt was made by Chris Davey, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stacy Reed; MUP. Kate Gallé thanked the Superintendent for scheduling PD days on Fridays as it works well for parents.

H. Future Business – None

I. Anticipated Executive Session – Discussion/Possible Action on:

1. Non-Tenure Letters
2. Superintendent's Evaluation

A motion to adjourn into Executive Session was presented by Andrew Broneill at 8:25 PM, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Stacy Reed; MUP.

The Board came out of Executive Session by consensus at 9:03 PM.

A motion to release the non-renewal letters to the non-tenure staff was presented by Stacy Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chris Davey; MUP.

- J. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was presented by Stacy Reed, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Scott Rich; MUP. The meeting adjourned at 9:04 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Boyd  
Board Clerk