

The Bolton Board of Education held its regularly scheduled Business Meeting on October 9, 2014. Members present were Chair Karen Bergin, Matt Giuffre, Rich Hayes, Alison Romkey and Ron Rousseau. Superintendent Kristin Heckt and Student Representative Elena Harvey were also present. BOE members Julie Begin and Kate Galle were absent.

- A. Call to Order – Chair Karen Bergin called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.
- B. Celebration of Excellence – Superintendent Heckt introduced new staff members Elia Antunes (BHS Tech Ed), Mary Dombroskas (BCS Music), Bethany Morneault (BCS Special Ed) and Christine Johnson (BHS Dean of Students); BHS junior Nicole Vining was recognized for her outstanding commitment to the Bolton U-14 youth soccer program; BCS 2nd grade teacher Wendy Pagani was recognized as the October Employee of the Month and former Bolton student Jonathan Maidment was recognized for his accomplishment as a Thru Hiker of the Appalachian Trail in support of the Alpha-1 genetic disease. BCS Principal, Mary Grande, presented Jonathan with a check for \$500 raised by the staff at BCS for his fund raising efforts for the Alpha-1 Foundation.
- C. Comments from the Audience
 - 1. Staff and Community Input on 2015-2016 Budget – Bolton resident, Jason Norris of 34 Castlerock Lane, thanked Superintendent Heckt and Board members for adding music resources to the current year's budget that have allowed for increased programming for the students. He encouraged them to continue and, hopefully, expand this funding for the 2015-2016 school year as this programming offers attractive options to prospective Bolton students. Bolton school district Music Director, Katy Desrosiers, also a Bolton resident of 47 Golf Lane, echoed Mr. Norris' comments and thanked Superintendent Heckt and Board members for the additional music program funding noting that it has enabled 25 students to participate in the new traditional performance ensemble. The first BCS concert is on October 23 at BCS. Mrs. Desrosiers also requested that consideration be given to reinstating the foreign language program to the elementary students and that the district continue to seek new ways to get the public more involved. BHS science teacher, Jen Carvalho, thanked Superintendent Heckt and Board members for continuing the early dismissal Professional Development days adding they are a tremendous opportunity for staff. She also asked the Board to support the Professional Development budget which was drastically reduced. Ms. Carvalho requested the Board to keep in mind that the state is reviewing the current science standards and will most likely require specialized development for science teachers and that it will require funding and continued early release professional development time.
- D. Additions to the Agenda – Superintendent Heckt requested a Budget Transfer item be added to New Business.
- E. Routine Business Items
 - 1. Communications to Board Members - Alison Romkey received comments from a parent after the BHS Open House that they are concerned about class sizes in Latin and math. The concern has been forwarded to BHS Principal, Joe Maselli.

2. Approval of Minutes – September 11, 2014 and September 26, 2014 – Alison presented a **motion** to approve the September 11, 2014 minutes as presented, 2nd by Matt Giuffre; MUP. Matt Giuffre presented a **motion** to approve the September 26, 2014 minutes as presented, 2nd by Alison Romkey; Alison Romkey, Matt Giuffre and Karen Bergin voted in favor, Rich Hayes and Ron Rousseau abstained; motion passed.
3. BHS Student Representatives Report – Elena Harvey noted that Jacob Dayton apologized for his absence but he was attending a CT Forum debate on the political system at the Bushnell. Elena continued her report noting the Bolton Booster Club sponsored the lights for the annual Night Soccer games played at BHS. The BCS soccer teams played on Thursday, October 2nd and the BHS soccer teams played on Friday, October 3rd. The BHS Student Council will be holding their annual Trick or Treat for canned goods and bags will be available soon to residents wanting to participate. The BHS Student Council will also be sponsoring their annual Leaf Raking offering and residents can contact BHS staff member and Student Council Advisor, Karen Cordero, or Student Council member Carolyn Olmer through the school office to reserve a leaf raking date.
4. Board of Education Committee Reports
 - a. Curriculum – Ron Rousseau reported the new text books for grades 7-9 are being used and curriculum is being aligned. 17 teachers have received Chromebook training and are assisting other staff members.
 - b. Finance – Rich Hayes reported there is a deficit in SPED due to unanticipated outplacement; the formatting of Sheff and Choice expenditures will be revised and should be available at the November meeting.
 - c. Personnel – Chair Bergin reported the committee will be providing updates for the ongoing teacher negotiations in Executive Session.
5. Community Meeting Reports / Board of Education – Rich Hayes noted there was a Fields Committee meeting on 9/16 and that will be further discussed in item E.6.a. He and Matt Giuffre attended a Public Zoning Commission meeting on 10/8 as Bolton residents, but did identify themselves as BOE members, but not representing the BOE. Chair Bergin noted there was a meeting held last month with BOS representatives on shared services, but that nothing definitively was decided.
6. Superintendent of Schools Report
 - a. Board of Selectman Facilities and Public Safety Subcommittee Presentation – Superintendent introduced First Selectman Robert Morra, Selectman Robert Neil and Town Administrator Joyce Stille. Mr. Morra and Ms. Stille provided information on the proposal for BHS athletic field improvements. The proposal includes a new soccer field with running track, sprinkler system and new water tank to support it, wiring, conduits and light bases for future installation of lights, and improvements to the existing baseball and softball fields. Mr. Morra noted that the actual purchase of the field lights could become a CAPA item. The Town will apply for a STEAP grant for tennis court improvements. After discussion on the cost of the field lights, costs of maintenance of grass vs. turf, consideration of more stringent guidelines on what products can be used for grass maintenance, proposed costs of tennis court improvements and impact on other fields, it was agreed an additional meeting of the Fields Committee would be held

before a final proposal would be shared with the BOE. Mr. Morra noted it would be desirable to have a defined plan ready in 30 days, but no later than 60 days. Chair Bergin noted this topic will be on the November BOE agenda. Ms. Stille added that this proposal is part of a larger bond initiative to be presented for Town Referendum and includes improvements to Herrick Park fields, BCS roof, parking lot and sidewalks, Town Hall, Heritage Farm the Municipal Center and the purchase of a new fire truck. It was further agreed that repair to the BCS parapet wall will be discussed at the Three Board meeting. Mr. Morra added that the BOS approved the reformation of the 2+2+2 committee.

- b. Technology Inventory Update – Superintendent Heckt noted the Board had been provided with technology inventory update for the purpose of their review for the at the November 6 work session.

F. Unfinished Business – none

G. New Business

- 1. BHS Ski Trip – BHS teacher Karen Cordero provided information on the proposed February BHS Ski trip to Jay Peak and requested BOE approval. Rich Hayes presented a **motion** to approve the BHS Ski Trip request, 2nd by Matt Giuffre; MUP.
- 2. New Agenda Item – Budget Transfer – Rich Hayes presented a **motion** to support Superintendent Heckt’s recommendation that \$56,036 be transferred from benefits to salaries to properly fund position costs in the operating budget and not in the Choice Grant, 2nd by Alison Romkey; MUP. There was discussion on the prudence of funding positions in the operating budget, clarification of grant funding release dates and expenditure guidelines, and carry over and encumbrance restrictions.

H. Future Business – Superintendent Heckt noted that she has asked the state for reimbursement clarification on the BCS roof project as it pertains to the age difference on two sections.

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

- 1. Personnel

A **motion** to adjourn to Executive Session was presented by Rich Hayes, 2nd by Matt Giuffre; MUP. The Board adjourned to Executive Session at 7:50 PM. The Board came out of Executive Session by consensus at 8:25 PM. A **motion** to accept the BOE Goals noted below was presented by Matt Giuffre, 2nd by Rich Hayes; MUP. The goals presented were: Goal 1: Encourage a positive, safe and accepting culture in all schools for students, staff and our community. Goal 2: Promote learning environments that prepare students for college, careers, and life in the 21st century. Goal 3: Review and update board policies and regulations.

J. Adjournment – A motion to adjourn was presented by Ron Rousseau, 2nd by Rich Hayes; MUP. The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Boyd
Board Clerk