

The Bolton Board of Education held its regularly scheduled Business Meeting on November 13, 2014. Members present were Chair Karen Bergin, Julie Begin, Kate Galle, Rich Hayes, Alison Romkey and Ron Rousseau. Superintendent Kristin Heckt and Student Representatives Elena Harvey and Jacob Dayton were also present. BOE member Matt Giuffre was absent.

- A. Call to Order – Chair Karen Bergin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- B. Celebration of Excellence – The following students and staff were recognized: BCS Grade 7 Student Achievers Samantha Bailey and Robert Flowers and BCS Grade 8 Student Achievers Jacob Rich and Abigail Ross; BHS students Caroline Olmer (Daughters of the American Revolution Good Citizen Award) and Jacob Dayton (Comcast Leaders and Achievers Scholarship Award); and November Employee of the Month, Mary Welsh, BCS Nurse.
- C. Comments from the Audience: Bolton Resident, Chris Davey of 21 Mt. Sumner Drive, asked the Board to review the current policy in regard to food not being allowed for classroom parties because of potential allergy reactions and to look at other possible steps to protect those students and solicit feedback from parents and staff on their feelings on this policy.
- D. Additions to Agenda – None
- E. Routine Business Items
 - 1. Communications to Board Members – Kate Galle received a letter from a student and three (3) phone calls from parents with concerns on the recent communication from BCS Administration regarding outside food not being allowed in classroom celebrations. Alison Romkey received communication from a parent concerned on the BHS lights being out at entries A and B.
 - 2. Approval of Minutes – October 9, 2014 and November 3, 2014 – Alison Romkey presented a **motion** to approve the minutes as presented; 2nd by Ron Rousseau; motion passed with one abstention from Kate Galle.
 - 3. BHS Student Representatives Report – Elena Harvey reported the fall sports have concluded with the exception of a few more football games. Both the girls and boys soccer teams made State Tournament play and Trevor Chambers won the Cross Country State Competition; the Student Council is continuing their weekend leaf raking project for residents in need; Student Council members Audrey Dean and Elena Harvey will be facilitating programs at the Student Council Leadership conference. Jacob Dayton reported that the Student Council collected approximately 300 bags of canned good that were delivered to the Bolton Food Pantry and that the BHS classes are continuing a food drive for the Hockanum Valley Food Pantry. The Drama Club has chosen “The 25th Annual Putnam (Tolland) County Spelling Bee” for their winter musical presentation in February. He also added that the students are appreciative of Dean of Students, Mrs. Christine Johnson’s availability to them.
 - 4. Board of Education Committee Reports

- a. Building and Grounds – Rich Hayes reported he, Ray Boyd and Superintendent Heckt met with invited guest Town Administrator Joyce Stille to discuss bonding options as they pertain to the BCS roof, sidewalks, driveway and parapet wall repairs. Ray Boyd was able to obtain an additional two (2) year warranty to extend beyond the remaining five (5) years of the current warranty for the portion of the BCS roof that is 14 years old which will allow for replacement of the entire roof at the 20 year mark at which time the entire roof will be eligible for state reimbursement and put it on the same warranty timetable. This could facilitate removing the BCS roof project from the bonding package, allowing for other necessary repairs sooner. Joyce Stille will bring all of the information provided to her on the bonding options to the Board of Selectman for consideration. There was additional discussion on the current bonding items for both the Town and BOE portions of the Referendum and it was agreed that the Superintendent's office will provide information to the Board on costs associated with restrooms, concession stand and press box facilities for potential inclusion in the fields' improvement piece of the Town Referendum. It is anticipated the BOS will not take action on the bonding package before January 1st. The committee is still waiting for additional contractor feedback on the parapet wall repair, but it was agreed that roof repair specs will need to be inclusive of protection of the parapet wall in the course of roof repair workmanship. CAPA items were identified for submission at the next CAPA meeting and more specific information will be available at the December BOE meeting.
 - b. Community Partnerships – Ron Rousseau reported the bus schedules for CHOICE students have been modified to afford them morning breakfast and after school homework club participation. There was also discussion on continued efforts of improving the overall Bolton-Columbia partnership.
 - c. Curriculum – no report.
 - d. Finance – Alison Romkey reported a request for additional text books due to increased enrollment; a transfer of funds to cover the salary of the Speech and Language teacher and that SPED is still running the anticipated \$50K deficit.
 - e. Personnel – Chair Bergin reported the teachers' contract has been approved and will be presented at a Town meeting for approval on Tuesday, December 2nd at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall. All are encouraged to attend.
 - f. Policy – Kate Galle reported the committee is reviewing the 9000 series policies for alignment with CABA recommendations.
5. Community Meeting Reports / Board of Education – Kate Galle reported the PTA held their first meeting on October 20th. It was well attended and Superintendent Heckt was the speaker. Career Day is set for May 14th and work on the annual PTA Variety Show has begun. Chair Bergin reported there was a meeting with Board of Selectmen regarding a discussion on the BOE projects for referendum

and shared services on October 9th and the Joint Boards met on October 27th. Chair Bergin also recognized the diligent work of Sarah Malinoski and the Technology Committee for their presentation to the Board, Kusal Huynh for the budget/grants breakdown and to Rich Hayes, Ray Boyd, Dave Humiston, Superintendent Heckt and the Fields Committee members for their ongoing efforts towards the Town Referendum items.

6. Superintendent of Schools Report
 - a. BCS Roof Update – See item E.4.a., above. Action on this item was tabled pending BOS response.
 - b. Town Referendum Consideration – BCS Driveway and Sidewalk Repairs – See item E.4.a. above – Action on this item was tabled pending BOS response.
 - c. BHS Fields – Superintendent shared the current, proposed improvement plans with additional information noted in item E.4.a. above. Action on this item was tabled pending BOS response.
 - d. BHS Tennis Courts STEAP Grant Application – Superintendent Heckt shared the current plans for the tennis court improvements and provided the positive staff feedback in anticipation of those improvements. The tennis courts are not part of the Town Referendum bonding package and an application for a non-matching STEAP grant will be submitted by the Town for the tennis court improvements. The Booster Club has donated \$5K towards the project. The Town will be informed if they have been awarded the grant before the Referendum package is due. Kate Galle presented a **motion** that the BOE endorse the Town application for the STEAP Grant for the renovation and expansion of the tennis courts at BHS; 2nd by Alison Romkey; MUP.
 - e. 2015-2016 School Calendar – First Read – Superintendent Heckt presented the proposed 2015-2016 School Calendar noting it has been reviewed with the BEA for feedback. Superintendent Heckt shared that on CRECs Regional School Calendar Veterans Day is a school day. State statute requires all school districts to comply with their Regional District Calendar for the 2016-2017 school year and are urged to do so for the 2015-2016 school year. Each district has five days they can choose to use out of compliance with the Regional Calendar. The Superintendent spoke to all four bargaining units about having school on Veterans Day next year. The teachers were interested in having school on Veterans Day and agreed with the Superintendent's perspective that having school that day would provide a continuity of instruction for students in November which is a very choppy month. Further, if school is held on Veterans Day all students are required to learn about Veterans Day in school on that day. In addition, an offer was made to replace Veterans Day as a paid holiday with a Floating Holiday with the other three bargaining units. The Instructional Assistants Bargaining Unit was not agreeable to the change, the Custodian Bargaining Unit would be agreeable to discussion of the Veterans' Day holiday during negotiations and the Administrative Assistants Bargaining Unit did not meet on the subject.

- F. Unfinished Business – none
- G. New Business
 - 1. First Read Policies 9124 (Board Clerk) and 9222 (Resignation/Removal from Office/Censure) – The Board was asked to review the policies for approval next month.
- H. Future Business – Chair Bergin also reiterated the Town Meeting for approval of the teachers' contract on December 2nd at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall.
- J. Adjournment – Kate Galle presented a **motion** to adjourn; 2nd by Ron Rousseau; MUP. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Boyd
Board Clerk