

The Bolton Board of Education held its regularly scheduled business meeting on March 8, 2012. Karen Bergin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM with the following board members in attendance: John Hambrook, Trace Maulucci, Joe Muro, Rich Hayes and Matthew Giuffre. BHS Student Representative William Whedon was also present.

- B. Celebration of Excellence: The following staff and students were recognized: March Employees of the Month – Sarah Accorsi, Kathryn Connors and Heather Ranson; BCS March Student Achiever - Gavin McGill; BCS Girls Basketball Team - Jessica Larsh, Rose Zimmerman, Elena Harvey, Shelby Pedersen, Nicole Vining, Alex Florence, Jordan D'Amico, Ally Nyser, Kylie Schmidt, Cailin Whitehead, Christina Langton, Sydney Marshall, Julia Hinckley and Sydney Ledoux; BCS and BHS Eastern Region students: Kate Armstrong, Ian Butterfield, Like Mastrangeli, Lexi Norris, Laura Benitez, Melissa Buckley, Philip Bythrow, Cayley Chase, Maeve Christ, Lexi Frame, Victoria Johnson, Taylor Kerr, Jonathan Hermann, Rachel Chambers, Noah Hawks-Ladds, Ally Cianci, Michael Welch and Maggie McGeary. The BOE members were recognized as March is also Board of Education Recognition month.
- C. Comments from the Audience – none
- D. Additions to the Agenda – Item E.7.c was moved to the first item for discussion in this section.
- E. Routine Business Items

1. Communications to Board Members – The BOE received a communication from the Board of Selectman requesting a meeting on March 13 at 6:15 PM at the Town Hall for continued discussion of shared services.
2. Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2012 – Motion to approve the minutes from John Hambrook, 2nd from Joe Muro; MUP
3. Board of Education Committee Reports
 - a. Personnel – Rich Hayes, Karen Bergin, Ron Rousseau and Matt Giuffre met with members of the custodial staff to discuss shared services.
 - b. Policy – John Hambrook reported they met to discuss 1st read on policies, Computer System Expectations, Acceptable Use Policy 6141.323(c) and Instruction Tests and Student Work (unnumbered).
 - c. Curriculum – John Hambrook reported they met to discuss course specific learning goals, mentoring program, software program for professional development, summer curriculum writing and the technology plan which will be submitted for final signatures the end of March.
 - d. Building and Grounds – Rich Hayes reported there was a meeting with representatives from PBC, Ray Boyd, Ron Rousseau and Paul Smith to discuss the remaining punch list items and the delay in furniture ordering. The Chair of the PBC is addressing this issue of furniture and will hopefully resolve it without the need for arbitration. The BOE will be informed of the progress.
 - e. Finance – met and there are not significant changes to report.
 - f. Transportation – no report
 - g. Pupil Services – met to discuss some changes necessary with the likely increase of PK enrollment.
 - h. Community Information/Development – no report

4. Community Meeting Reports/ Board of Education – John Hambrook reported that CREC will meet next week and he will attend. The International Bazaar and World Music Night is March 22 at 7:00 PM in the BHS Student Commons.
5. Report from BHS Student Representatives – Bill Whedon reported the “Lock-in for Heat” raised over \$200 for the Bolton/Columbia fuel banks; selected BHS students will attend the Science Symposium at UCONN this month; the semi-formal is March 10 with a “jungle” theme; students will go to Yankee stadium; BCL Hockey Team is in the State Tournament; and the 2013 Spain trip sign-up already has over 30 students interested.
6. Administrators Reports – There were no comments on the reports.
7. Superintendent of Schools Report
 - a. Columbia Update – There will most likely be 25 new freshmen from Columbia in the fall and the BOE should consider it a continuing priority to maintain our current positive relationship with Columbia for future enrollment.
 - b. Insurance Update – The self-insurance partnership with Columbia is still not finalized but is hopeful. Scenarios were presented with current information from Anthem, anticipated information from Anthem, and self-insurance information.
 - c. Bulldog Nursery Program – BOE members and staff had a tour and student presentation on the “learning lab” for the Bulldog Nursery program. Wendy Scott and Paul Smith explained the intended fees, use of those funds and how this program can be run with no additional cost to the town. Further discussion will be held at the finance meetings.
 - d. SB24, Section 11 – Small District Consolidation – discussion on the proposed penalty to small districts for exceeding the state average of per student education costs; 10% first year, 20% second year. Current state average is \$14K. Mr. Smith stated he does not support this proposal and urged all BOE members to attend the meeting at CABE on March 14 for discussion on this subject. It was also mentioned that the March issue of *Connecticut Magazine* rated Bolton very well in the Small Towns education and other categories.

F. Unfinished and On-Going Business

1. Second Read Policies – John Hambrook presented the following policies for approval: 5141.25(a) Food Allergy Management Plan and Guidelines and 6142.101(a) Student Nutrition and Physical Activity (School Wellness Policy), Policy 5131.91(a) Bullying and 1316(a) Conduct on School Property. Trace Maulucci 2nd – MUP.
2. Second Read Textbooks – John Hambrook presented the proposed new textbook for Spanish II for approval. Trace Maulucci 2nd – MUP.
3. BOE Sub-Committees – Chair Karen Bergin asked Board members to communicate to Board Clerk Lori Boyd which committees they are serving on.

G. New Business

1. First Read Policies - John Hambrook identified the policies presented for review: Computer System Expectations, Acceptable Use Policy 6141.323(c) and Instruction Tests and Student Work (unnumbered). Discussion on what defines a portfolio, who maintains them, and that the goal is to ensure students have access to previous work/tests as a study tool while still providing teachers the needed paperwork for portfolio needs. Potential for using scanned documents sent to students via email was also discussed.

2. Approval of 2012-2013 Budget – Paul Smith presented the proposed 2012-2013 Budget. The town lock-in of oil prices changed the last presented 2.9% budget to 2.93%. The process of budget approval and timelines was discussed. Options for additions to the budget were handed out and discussed. After the discussions, John Hambrook made a motion to approve the addition of full-day Kindergarten to the budget; 2nd by Joe Muro; opposed by Rich Hayes and Matt Giuffre, motion passed. A recommendation was made to reduce the Pay-to-Play fees by 20%. There was discussion on what the fees cover, what could potential Student Activity fund surplus be used for, the intent of the Student Activity fund and its sub-accounts, and how student needs for financial assistance are identified, Matt Giuffre made a motion to reduce the Pay-to-Play fees by 20%, 2nd by Rich Hayes, opposed by John Hambrook and Karen Bergin, motion passed. There was discussion on the lack of information from Anthem regarding final “not to exceed” figures which should be available by the end of March, what the impact on insurance costs will be if the proposed self-insurance partnership with Columbia goes forward, and what is the most accurate number to present to the town in the BOE budget. A motion was presented by Karen Bergin to include an 8.46% insurance increase in the budget, 2nd by Trace Maulucci. MUP. There was discussion on anticipated Pre-K numbers for the fall, Speech and Language needs, public hearing on the budget is on April 26 and that is the final date any budget adjustments can be made prior to the referendum. A motion to present a 4.03% budget was put forth by John Hambrook, 2nd by Trace Maulucci, opposed by Rich Hayes, motion passed.
- H. Executive Session – Karen Bergin asked for a motion to adjourn into Executive Session, presented by Joe Muro, 2nd by Matt Giuffre at 8:30 PM to discuss letters of non-renewal to non-tenured teachers. Executive Session ended at 8:55 with a motion from Rich Hayes to approve the release of the letters, 2nd by John Hambrook. MUP.
- I. New Business – Joe Muro requested the Policy Subcommittee review how field trip days are being noted for student attendance and Rich Hayes asked about the frequency of reviewing the BOE By Laws. Both items will be added to the next Policy Subcommittee agenda.
- J. Meeting Review
- K. Adjournment - Motion to adjourn at 9:00 PM was presented by Rich Hayes, 2nd by Joe Muro, MUP.
- Respectfully submitted,

Lori Boyd
Board Clerk