

The Bolton Board of Education held its regularly scheduled business meeting on October 13, 2011. Karen Bergin called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. with the following board members in attendance, Paula Meyers, John Hambrook, Karen Alibrio, Joe Muro, Trace Maulucci and Matthew Giuffre. BHS Student representatives Jenna Luck and William Whedon were also present.

- B. Celebration of Excellence: Alain Jacques was recognized as the October Employee of the Month, BOE member John Hambrook was recognized for his 10 years of service to the Board of Education, BHS senior, Jenna Luck and 8<sup>th</sup> grade student Alexandra Florence were recognized as the October Bolton Student Achievers, and BCS and BHS students who were selected as Student Ambassadors for our Chinese visitors were also recognized.
- C. Comments from the Audience/Staff: Wendy Pagani encouraged the board to consider four 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classes for the 2012-2013 school year since there are currently four 1st grade classes and many students with special needs to be addressed. Joe Jankowski encouraged the board to consider rescinding any fees required of students and/or their families associated with extra-curricular activities such as the pay to play and/or transportation costs as a means of balancing the budget for the upcoming school year.
- D. Additions to the Agenda: there were none
- E. Routine Business
  - 1. Communications to Board Members: there were none
  - 2. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made by Paula Meyers, seconded by Matt Giuffre, John Hambrook abstained. MUP
  - 3. Board of Education Committee Reports:
    - a. Personnel – teachers are still in negotiations, there was no meeting
    - b. Policy – 1st read of Nondiscrimination, 0521(a), and School Attendance: Designated High School 5117(a).
    - c. Curriculum – Discussion centered around the Common Core Standards goal to bring U.S. scores closer to international counterparts in all areas but particularly math and science, how do we achieve that, how we will identify courses needing alignment to meet/exceed the CCS and fall in line with the 2020 vision and assessment tools, Chinese students have school 6 days a week – how do we compete with that. Other nations cover less material but in more depth – teaching to the test. The U.S. covers much more material with less focus on certain areas. Claudia Danna indicated we are on a good path to addressing the curriculum needs for meeting the CCS goals forthcoming. However, in light of all that still needs to be done to support this effort, it should be expected that the curriculum line item budget will need to be significantly higher next year.
    - d. Building and Grounds – no meeting
    - e. Finance – there was no meeting but Trace Maulucci did provide a brief summary of the current budget situation. Cindy Martin stated that several students in the 18-21 age group who were expected to be outplaced stayed in-house.
    - f. Transportation – no meeting
    - g. Pupil Services – a brief summary of the meeting was presented by Karen Bergin.

- h. Community Information/Development – Joe Muro expressed appreciation to Superintendent Smith for his efforts in the scheduled events for the Ribbon Cutting weekend including the Whiffenpoofs concert November 10.
4. Community Meeting Reports/Board of Education – Trace Maulucci attended the Community Safety meeting where the protocol for BCS and BHS was discussed. Kent Zelesky is the new BHS representative.
5. Report from BHS Student Representatives – Jenna Luck stated the time spent with our Chinese visitors was wonderful and couldn't have gone better. Seniors are beginning to receive college acceptance letters and submitting their proposals for the Senior demo requirement. The question of homework over vacations was addressed by both students after speaking with all grade levels on the subject. Overall, vacations are looked at as a need for time with family and to take a break from assigned homework but that vacations were a good time to work on project assignments. However, AP and honors students felt it was essential to continue to have assigned homework over vacations to keep up with the rigors of the course work. Billy Whedon commented on how much better science classes are now in the new classroom/labs; the girls volleyball team has already qualified for state tournament play with a record of 10-2; the girls cross-country team has a record of 11-2 and the boys record is 10-3, with both teams qualifying for tournament meets. The boys and girls soccer teams still have a chance to qualify for tournament play and the boy's team won their first game in a long while.
6. Administrators Report – Information on the number of I-Pads available to Pupil Services students and how they are being used was provided. The method of measuring students' success is still in the learning stages but certainly student observation and class interaction are important measurements.
7. Superintendent of Schools Report:
  - a. Flyers on Ribbon Cutting events will be mailed to certain community members in the next two weeks. Mr. Maselli is trying to locate the name of the local descendant of the family who donated the land that BHS is built on. We will send 10 tickets to the Whiffenpoofs concert to HW Porter. All BCS students in grades 4-8 and HW Porter students in grade 4- 8 will receive brochures on Chemistry week sponsored by the BCEF. Carrie Burba will be providing the students with apples from local farms in support of Farm week.
  - b. Character Counts will kick off in both schools next week. BCS will incorporate this as a year-long program in support of the positive school climate utilizing PBIS tools and incorporate the identified "character trait" into the students' daily lesson plans. BHS Student Council and staff have some very effective events planned in support of this and will share more on them next month.
  - c. BHS Science Department Presentation –BHS science teachers Jen Carvalho, Karen Cordero, Tom Dilworth and Joe Jankowski gave informative demonstrations in each of the four classrooms using the new equipment now available to them. The presentations were impressive as were the teachers' comments on the improved teaching methods and content now available to them (e.g. digital microscopes, response ware instruction, Vernier piece equipment allowing quantitative data gathering, etc.)
  - d. Safety Issues – Last month's bomb threat made to a local bank from a stranger that had entered BCS was a "wake up call" to our district on the needs of improved

security at BCS and a proposed initial cost of \$13,200 to install another layer of security doors in the front lobby has been obtained. Mrs. Bergin recommended that the Buildings and Grounds Committee address this immediately. It was suggested that we accomplish this using the quickest means possible but should advise the Town that we may exceed existing surplus spending and need to use some capital funds.

F. Unfinished and On-going Business:

1. The 2012-2013 Calendar based on the Common Calendar for the Greater Hartford Region was presented. This calendar offers a common PD and allows teachers from other towns to connect with each other. Feedback from web-site posting and distribution will be presented next month.
2. Veteran's Day Acknowledgement – Flyers will be mailed next week to all known Bolton resident Veterans inviting them to a BCS breakfast and "tribute" on November 10.

G. Trip Approvals – Information on the BHS Ski Trip to Stowe VT January 27-29 was presented and a motion to approve was made by Matt Giuffre and seconded by Karen Alibrio. MUP. Information on the community trip to China April 10-21 was presented and a motion to approve was made by Matt Giuffre and seconded by John Hambrook. Paula Meyers abstained. MUP.

H. Future Business – It was suggested that maybe we should look into better utilizing teachers with multiple certifications.

Motion to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. was presented from Matt Giuffre and seconded by John Hambrook. MUP

Respectfully submitted,

Lori H. Boyd  
Board Clerk