

Bolton Board of Education
Monthly Business Meeting Minutes
March 13, 2014
Approved

The Bolton Board of Education held its regularly scheduled business meeting on March 13, 2014. The following board members were in attendance: Karen Bergin, Julie Begin, Kate Galle, Rich Hayes and Alison Romkey. Superintendent Kristin and BHS student representatives Zoe Ounpuu-Adams and Jacob Dayton were also present. Board members Matt Giuffre and Ron Rousseau were absent.

- A. Call to Order – Chair Karen Bergin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- B. Comments from the Audience – Resident Peter Phelon of 86 Country Club Road spoke on behalf of the Bolton Booster Club. A hand-out was provided with information on the investment initiatives over the last four years. Attention was called to the 2013 investments, which total over \$11,000, and include such items as Bolton Soccer Night, purchase of a storage container for BHS athletic equipment, BHS softball field dugouts and student fan buses for the boys' soccer state tournament games. Mr. Phelon also noted that the Booster Club has initiated a fields improvement project and created a master plan for recreational fields and facilities incorporating needs of both the schools and Town. With Booster Club funds becoming limited, the BOE was asked to look at financially supporting some of the upcoming needs such as a track for the Track and Field team. Properly funding athletics is a crucial component to prospective students and will only serve to increase our student population from Columbia and the Open Choice program.
- C. Celebration of Excellence – The following students and staff were recognized: BCS Third grade Student Achievers Garrett Bain, Abigail Gallacher and Riley Graves; BCS and BHS Eastern Region students Rachel Allsop, Allison Bradley, Taylor Connolly, Sarah Grottole, Julianna Larson, Ryan Lukas, Kaitlyn Armstrong, Laura Benitez, Hannah Bythrow, Maeve Christ, Bryan Duffy, Alexandra Norris, Zoe Ounpuu-Adams and Michael Welch. Much to the delight of the meeting attendees, the BHS Drama Club students presented the song “Downtown” from their recent production of Little Shop of Horrors. The Drama Club members are Kaitlyn Armstrong, Laura Benitez, Melissa Buckley, Hannah Bythrow, Philip Bythrow, Molly Caruso, Allesandra Cianci, Catie Coyle, Jacob Dayton, Bryan Duffy, Alexis Frame, Kenneth Goddu, Kristina Greene, Aaron Harmon, Shannon Harrington, Victoria Johnson, Abigail Leger, Amanda Maratta, Sierra Massey, Luciano Mastrangeli, Alyssa McDonnell, Christina McDonnell, Zachary Meyers, Alexandra Norris, Samantha Nyser, Paige Olivieri, Catherine Steele, Madelyn Teller, Samuel Wilcox, Brianna Williams, Emily Wimer, Evan Wimer and Megan Zelesky; advisors are Jennifer Carvalho and Abbey Sacco. Employee of the Month, Darryl Giard, BCS Assistant Principal, and Board of Education members were also recognized.
- D. Additions to Agenda – Superintendent Heckt requested that agenda items E.6.b and c be moved up.
- E. Routine Business Items
 - 1. Communications to Board Members – none presented

2. Approval of Minutes – February 11, 2014, February 27, 2014 and March 4, 2014 – a **motion** to accept the minutes as presented was made by Rich Hayes; 2nd by Kate Galle; MUP.
3. BHS Student Representatives Report – Zoe Ounpuu-Adams reported that the Boys and Girls Basketball teams and the BCR Hockey team all made the State tournament and the BCR Hockey team won their conference championship. Forty students attended the Ski Trip to Stow, Vermont in February. Seniors have completed their research projects for the senior demo and college selection is wrapping up. Jacob Dayton reported that Mrs. Teed and Mrs. Pynch took 30 students to the CT Youth Forum conference that was attended by over 300 students from all over the state. The BHS Drama Club presented Little Shop of Horrors and the Poetry Out Loud contest winners, Maddy Teller and Caroline Olmer participated in the state competition. Jacob also noted there will be a Blood Drive at BHS on Monday, March 17th sponsored by NHS.
4. Board of Education Committee Reports
 - a. Building and Grounds – Rich Hayes reported that on March 4th, he, Director of Operations Ray Boyd, Superintendent Heckt and several Town officials toured the BCS facility with a focus on the roof and masonry improvements that need to be made. Mr. Hayes also noted this was a good example of shared services.
 - b. Curriculum – Director of Instructional Technology and Curriculum, Sarah Malinoski provided information from the February 26th meeting which included positive feedback from staff on the technology PD day and the new math textbooks for 7/8 math and Algebra I for both 8th grade BHS students that will be presented next month for BOE review.
 - c. Community Relations – Superintendent Heckt reported that Sarah Malinoski and BHS Principal, Joe Maselli coordinated the various activities involving 8th Grade Open House at BHS for Bolton and Columbia students and parents, adding a separate parent component this year that was well received. Feedback on the quarterly newsletters has been positive and gives a good representation of what's going on in our schools. The next meeting will focus on communication improvements related to the Open Choice program.
 - d. Finance – Rich Hayes reported that the BOE budget is still frozen and provided information on the items that are running in deficit (SPED) and those that have shown a savings (Salaries, transportation and technology).
 - e. Policy – Rich Hayes reported the subcommittee met on 2/27 and presented three policies for review (5131.911 – Bullying; 9010 – Limits of Authority and 9121 – Board of Education Officers). Chair Karen Bergin noted that policy 5131.911 had some important changes and based on previous BOE communications and agreements, asked for a motion for approval. A **motion** to approve policy 5131.911 was presented by Rich Hayes; 2nd by Kate Galle; MUP. Policies 9010 and 9121 will continue to 2nd read next month.
 - f. Pupil Services – did not meet
5. Community Meeting Reports / Board of Education – Alison Romkey noted that the PTA met on March 6th. Superintendent Heckt provided an overview of the budget information she had shared at the meeting. Rich Hayes reported there was a meeting of the Tri-Boards (Boards of Selectmen, Finance and BOE) on March 6th and that

discussion focused on the 2014-2015 budget. Superintendent Heckt suggested that a new Tri-Board meeting date be requested at next week's Board of Finance meeting since representatives of the three boards will be present.

6. Superintendent of Schools Report

- a. Solar Presentation – BHS – BHS senior, Alex Fazzino and Encon Solar Residential Consultant, Tim Sadler provided hand-outs and presented updated information on the proposed solar implementation project at BHS. Bolton is pre-approved for PPA funding, but wasn't awarded the initial selection of the Small ZREC and Mr. Sadler suggested we pursue the Medium ZREC which has an application due date in April. After discussion on the various options, Superintendent Heckt shared that all options are being considered and any decision needs to involve input from the Town. Mr. Hayes asked how not committing might affect Alex's senior demo project. Alex said his goal was to bring awareness to the Town and school on the benefits of considering "green" applications and his goal was definitely met.
- b. Full Day Kindergarten Update – BCS Principal, Mary Grande introduced Kindergarten teachers Vanessa Ardry, Amy Rechen and Arin Rumovicz who presented information on a typical day in Kindergarten and the benefits they have seen from the full day program (e.g.; phonics, phonemic awareness and writing skills). This year's assessment scores were 20 points higher from past year's data.
- c. Amended Bolton Professional Learning and Evaluation Plan – BHS teacher Jennifer Carvalho provided an overview of the three areas with changes that are being recommended for BOE approval to allow submission to the CSDE (teachers goals, use of standardized test data and staff observation requirements). After some clarifying information from Superintendent Heckt, a **motion** to approve the changes was presented by Kate Galle; 2nd by Julie Begin; motion passed 4-0-1. Rich Hayes abstained.
- d. 2013-2014 School Calendar – Superintendent Heckt noted that the Project Grad parents were hoping that the BOE could commit to not changing the current June 20 graduation date. After discussion and clarification on how school days are counted and what the original last day of school was (June 12), it was decided that no commitment could be made at this time, but that the BOE would set a graduation date as soon as possible and would advise the group. Superintendent Heckt also provided information that she serves on the CREC Common Calendar Committee and that legislation requires a common calendar be developed by the 2015-2016 school year, however, the task force has asked that the date be pushed back to 2016-2017, but no legislative action has been taken on the request.
- e. 2014-2015 Early Release Times – Superintendent Heckt explained that currently, the half-day release times schedule is followed on all early release days for professional development, BCS teacher conferences, the day before Thanksgiving, the last day of school and when it is necessary for unplanned, early dismissals, primarily due to inclement weather. Approval to change those release times to begin earlier was requested by Superintendent Heckt. After discussion, it was decided that the request would be sent to the

Transportation Subcommittee for review and submission to the Board for approval.

- f. Technology Grant Update – Sarah Malinoski lent each Board member a Chromebook for a hands-on tutorial with information and pictures. Use of the Chromebooks will be set with strict user controls and will be piloted by a select group of junior students and staff members.
- g. 2014-2015 Budget Update – Copies of the BOE approved 2014-2015 Budget Books were given to BOE members and Superintendent Heckt called attention to last minute changes to information regarding Columbia student numbers and enrollment numbers in grades 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10. She stated that Bolton High School has received 18 course selection sheets from Horace Porter eighth graders. She also noted that copies of the budget book would be delivered to the Board of Finance, Town Administrator and Town Finance Director on Friday, March 14th, as required.

F. Unfinished Business – none

G. New Business

- 1. First Read Policies – 5131.911 (Bullying); 9010 (Limits of Authority) and 9121 (Board of Education Officers) – The policies were presented under item E.4.e.

H. Future Business – none

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

- 1. Non-Tenure Staff
- 2. Contract Matter

A **motion** to adjourn to Executive Session was presented by Rich Hayes; 2nd by Kate Galle at 8:15 PM. Members discussed the noted non-tenure staff and contract matter. The Executive Session ended by consensus at 8:35 PM. Rich Hayes presented a **motion** to approve the release of non-renewal letters to non-tenured staff; 2nd by Kate Galle; MUP.

J. Adjournment – Rich Hayes presented a **motion** to adjourn at 8:40; 2nd by Kate Galle; MUP.

Submitted by,

Lori Boyd, Board Clerk