

The Bolton Board of Education held its regularly scheduled business meeting on September 12, 2013. Chair Karen Bergin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The following board members were in attendance: Karen Bergin, Matthew Giuffre, John Hambrook, Rich Hayes, Trace Maulucci, Joe Muro and Ron Rousseau. Superintendent Kristin Heckt, and BHS Student Representatives Zoe Ounpuu-Adams and Jacob Dayton were also present.

- A. Call to Order – Chair Karen Bergin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- B. Celebration of Excellence – Music Director, Kathryn Desrosiers was recognized as the 2013-2014 Teacher of the Year for Bolton Public Schools. The following new staff members were also recognized: Sarah Malinoski, Director of Technology Instruction and Curriculum; Christine Dumas, BCS Administrative Assistant; Alexis Cavanaugh, BHS Social Studies teacher; Prospere Walter, BHS French teacher; Sarah Thomas, BCS SPED teacher; and Katie Coleman, BPS OT.
- C. Comments from the Audience – Kate Galle, representing the PTA, invited the BOE to the first PTA meeting scheduled for Monday, September 23rd at 6:30 in the BCS LMC. Superintendent Kristin Heckt will be speaking that evening.
- D. Additions to Agenda – Staffing update was added to E.6.
- E. Routine Business Items
 - 1. Communication to Board Members – none
 - 2. Approval of Minutes – August 22, 2013 – A **motion** to approve presented by Matt Giuffre, 2nd by Joe Muro; motion passed 5-0 with Rich Hayes and Joe Muro abstaining.
Approval of Minutes – August 29, 2013 – A **motion** to approve was presented by Matt Giuffre, 2nd by Joe Muro; MUP.
 - 3. Board of Education Committee Reports
 - a. Curriculum – John Hambrook reported the subcommittee met on September 4th and discussed Common Core, Smarter Balance, Teacher Evaluation, and technology at BPS.
 - b. Finance – there was no formal subcommittee meeting, but the latest financial reports were emailed to the Board. Updated information regarding potential energy cost savings was requested and will be forthcoming. Finance Director Kusal Huynh noted there were some ESY and other savings, but we are still waiting for information from the State before any figures can be modified. Superintendent Heckt responded that our current budgeting process must continue to remain on the conservative side.
 - 4. Community Meeting Reports / Board of Education – John Hambrook reported on the CREC meeting which is held on the 3rd Wednesday of each month.
 - 5. BHS Student Representatives Report – Zoe Ounpuu-Adams provided information on BHS sports programs and the “Bigs and Littles” outing that was hosted at BHS on August 26th. Jacob Dayton provided information on the Student Council ice

cream social hosted for freshmen orientation, PBIS introduction to students and the Drama Club presentation of the Laramie Project on September 26th. There is also a night soccer game at BHS on October 4th. The students were reminded to use the Fire House sign whenever it is available to advertise upcoming events.

6. Superintendent of Schools Report

- a. Opening of School Report by Administrators – BCS Assistant Principal, Darryl Giard, commended Ray Boyd and the custodial staff for the great job done in getting the building ready. Many staff had individual meet and greet days for their students prior to the first day of school. Feedback on full-day Kindergarten has been positive from parents, staff and students. New student orientation was well attended. Administrators have met with teachers on math and language arts curriculum changes. Fire and lock-down drills have been held. BCS is in year 3 of PBIS. BHS Principal, Joe Maselli also commended Ray Boyd and the custodial staff especially in light of the fact that ESY was held at BHS this year. Classes were held on day one, PBIS was introduced to the students in an interactive program and the Student Council ice cream social and “Bigs and Littles” were a huge success with the students.
- b. Enrollment Update – Superintendent Heckt shared that OPEN Choice is still looking for student placements, but we had declined to accept any after the first day of school. The State has requested a waiver from the federal government for the new CMT testing date. It appears favorable that the waiver will be granted. If so, school districts will have a choice of administering the current CMT or the new Smarter Balanced Assessment which is aligned with the Common Core State Standards. We would choose the new Smarter Balanced Assessment although it wouldn’t yet be set-up as the adaptive version. The State is anticipating a decline in scores as early as this year and are aware it will take time for the students and their knowledge to catch up to the new testing parameters. The Board will be advised as soon as answer is received.
- c. CMT/CAPT Results – Sarah Malinoski presented an overview on the testing noting that the science component for CAPT and CMT grades 5 and 8 will continue for at least a couple more years. Part of the New Teacher Evaluation will incorporate test scores and preparation of Student Learning Objectives (SLOs) for each class for PK-8 and at the department/content level for 9-12. There is concern on the part of the State for the potential impact the new testing shift will have on those evaluation objectives. The CSDE is still formulating information to be shared with districts in this regard. In response to pilot information shared by Rich Hayes, Superintendent Heckt stated that the CCSS, Smarter Balanced Assessments and Teacher Evaluation programs are still works in progress and the information gathered from the pilot districts, as well as non-pilot districts, has been considered by the State in all of the requirements/parameters that have been and will be published, but the ultimate goals of both the CCSS and New Teacher Evaluation are to teach aligned curriculum to be tested by an aligned exam whose results can be

used by teachers to set goals, including SLOs, that are aligned to the CCSS curriculum. In response to a technology readiness question from Kate Galle, Superintendent Heckt stated that BHS is 100% ready for the new testing and BCS is 50% ready which is why we have applied for a grant to fund half of the remaining 50% cost to be ready. The balance will have to be funded by the district and available options are being looked at to have the money available when needed. Keyboarding skills are being addressed at the lower elementary level to ensure our students will be ready for the required computer test taking.

BCS Assistant Principal, Darryl Giard, presented hand-out material on the CMT results to each Board member and discussed the comparative results. BCS did take a Smarter Balanced pilot test to gather real data on length of test time, students' ability to take a test using available technology (desktop, laptop, mouse, etc.). The tests were submitted to the State, but results are not being returned. There was an open discussion on the overall impact the CCSS alignment has already had on the district with topics such as the need for administrators to continually assure teachers that teaching to the CCSS is our focus even though we know test results will most likely decline for a few years. A question was posed as to what the broad picture of future test data might indicate, is there an expectation that district placement based on test results could shift from the current top district vs. the current lower districts, etc? Superintendent Heckt stated that it could change, but may not. It is hard to tell at this time. In addition, a question was posed about what are the shifts in the Common Core. There will be a presentation on this topic at the October Board meeting. Resident, Todd Stowell, asked for comment on the permanency of the CCSS and the Smarter Balanced Assessments and for clarification on the actual control we have. Superintendent Heckt stated that 45 states have officially adopted the CCSS and new Teacher Evaluation and it is here to stay for the time being until such time as the education pendulum or control at the national level changes things. Our control is how well we prepare our teachers to teach what is mandated and how well we evaluate their teaching, but there is no State funding for these mandates and the required technology to support them.

BHS Principal, Joe Maselli, presented hand-out material on the CAPT results to each Board member and discussed the results. The overall results were good, the AP results were exceptional. The CAPT science portion will continue to test 10 grade students, but the rest of the CAPT test will change to an 11th grade Smarter Balanced Assessment. BHS did not participate in any pilot testing. There was discussion on the CAPT and DRG scores and whether we should be concerned on where we fall. The overall consensus is that because we are such a small district, it only takes a small number to cause a dip or increase in our results and we shouldn't

be too concerned with these fluctuations. Mr. Maselli is very comfortable with our readiness for the new changes.

- d. Veterans Day Celebration – This 3rd annual celebration will be held on Friday, November 8, 2013 in the BCS gym and will begin around 9:30. The Town Offices will provide the mailing labels based on tax information for veterans as they have done in the past.
- e. Staffing Update – Superintendent Heckt advised the Board that a Special Education teacher position, hired at the beginning of the year as a .8 FTE, will be increased to a 1.0 FTE due to recent changes regarding student needs. A new K-12 World Language Coordinator stipend position has been approved by the BEA Stipend Committee. The responsibilities of this new position will be shifted from the current Humanities Coordinator to allow that position to fully focus on English, language arts and social studies.

F. Unfinished Business – none

G. New Business

- 1. Acceptance of Resignations – Superintendent Heckt presented resignations from PT IA, Lori Rich, and FT IA, Sue VanHoewyck. A **motion** to accept the resignations was presented by Matt Giuffre and 2nd by John Hambrook; MUP.
- 2. First Read – Policy 6142.101 – Student Nutrition and Physical Activity – Matt Giuffre noted the changes being presented are in language provided by the State and called attention to the change on page 2 of the policy.
- 3. Technology Plan – Sarah Malinoski presented preliminary information on the development of a new committee of teachers selected by Administrators that will meet four times a year to develop a short-term and long-term technology plan. The focus will be on technology needs for Common Core alignment and Smarter Balanced Assessment. This will involve assessment of the best use of our current inventory and any necessary teacher instruction for that, working with the State for available grant funding, future technology budget projections within the current constraints of available technology funding, etc. Board updates on this committee's progress will be filtered through the Curriculum Subcommittee.
- 4. Tri-Board Update – Chair Karen Bergin announced the meeting of the joint boards (Board of Selectmen, Board of Finance and Board of Education) will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall. A meeting was set for the BOE members to meet on Thursday, October 3, 2013 at 6:30 PM at the BOE Conference Room to formulate the BOE agenda items to be presented at that meeting.

H. Future Business – Agenda items not addressed.

I. Executive Session – A **motion** to adjourn to Executive Session was presented at 8:45 PM by Joe Muro, 2nd by Matt Giuffre; MUP.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Boyd
Board Clerk