

The Bolton Board of Education held its regularly scheduled business meeting on February 13, 2013. The following board members were in attendance: Karen Bergin, John Hambrook, Rich Hayes, Trace Maulucci, Joe Muro and Ron Rousseau. Superintendent Kristin Heckt and BHS Student Representative Zoe Ounpuu-Adams were also present. Board Member Matthew Giuffre and Student Representative Bill Whedon were unable to attend.

- A. Call to Order – Chair Karen Bergin called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.
- B. Celebration of Excellence – The following staff and students were recognized: Employees of the Month, Amy Bahre, Jamie Calve, Terri De Cormier, Marysse Lacasse, Suzanne Lindblom and Doris Mead, BCS Grade 4 Student Achiever Savannah Jeffrey, BCS Geography Bee winner Kyle Dube (Grade 7), BCS Spelling Bee Winner Jacob Dufour (Grade 6) and BHS Poetry Out Loud winner Mary Sumislaski.
- C. Comments From the Audience - Kate Galle, PTA President, commended the board for including Full Day Kindergarten in the approved 2013-2014 budget. She also expressed concern on behalf of the PTA Executive Board based on feedback from parents on the proposed additional Professional Development (PD) days in the 2013-2014 School Year Calendar and the hardship this could place on families with two working parents in arranging necessary afterschool child care. Superintendent Heckt stated the school is working with the Bolton Recreation Department in developing low cost afterschool programs for PK-8 students to help alleviate this hardship, BHS students that have afterschool commitments will have supervised study hall, on a sign-up basis, on those days and that Columbia students will also have transportation available to them. Mrs. Heckt also indicated that additional PD days will continue to be part of future years' school calendars. Early Dismissal is the best solution to providing the needed time without incurring teacher contract/costs implications. The Superintendent's office received 50 responses to the web-site calendar survey and of those 50, 36 preferred the early dismissal, 11 preferred the delayed opening and 3 did not approve of either option. Mrs. Galle added that the PTA is supportive and aware of the necessity of these additional days and offered to work with the school in educating families on the reasons for them.
- D. Additions to Agenda – Rich Hayes requested the topic of school health benefits and premium increases as related to the current provider be added to a future agenda for purposes of ensuring we are getting the best product for the best price.
- E. Routine Business Items
 - 1. Communications to Board Members – Ron Rousseau received a phone call from a parent with concerns on current use of tablets and their effectiveness. Superintendent Heckt stated she was told the initial feedback report to the board was very positive from both staff and students using the tablets and she has asked Curriculum Director Claudia Danna and BHS Principal Joe Maselli to visit other districts using tablets to gather information on their use and measurement tools on effectiveness with the plan to report back to the board in the spring on their findings. As of this month, BHS will only support tablets using the Wi-Fi connection and will no longer pay for any supportive data plan. Karen Bergin reiterated that questions received by board members on curriculum, academics

and associated topics should be referred to the Superintendent's Office for follow-up.

2. Approval of Minutes – **Motion** to approve the January 10, 2013 Business Meeting Minutes was presented by John Hambrook, 2nd by Joe Mure; MUP. **Motion** to approve the January 17, January 24 (6:00 PM), January 24 (8:00 PM) and January 31, 2013 Budget Workshop and Special Meeting Minutes was presented by John Hambrook, 2nd by Trace Maulucci; MUP.
3. Board of Education Committee Reports
 - a. Curriculum – John Hambrook reported the committee met and moved forward for board review and approval a new textbooks for K-6 Envisions math program.
 - b. Finance – Trace Maulucci reported the committee did not meet due to the snow but did provide information that the current budget is running a deficit in excess of \$100K due to unanticipated SPED and associated transportation costs. The meeting will be rescheduled.
 - c. Policy – John Hambrook reported the committee met and will be reviewing the Bylaws section in conjunction with information received from CAFE.
 - d. Pupil Services – Karen Bergin reported the committee met and Pupil Services Director Beth Goldsnider provided information on potential transportation cost savings, programming needs and meetings with PPS teams in both buildings.
Chair Karen Bergin stated that new subcommittee assignments take effect immediately. Each committee can only have a maximum of 2 members assigned and attending or it becomes a quorum. The board was asked to let her know if they have any questions.
4. Community Meeting Reports / Board of Education – John Hambrook reported he attended the CREC Legislative Breakfast and there is continued discussion but no final decision on potential increased district reimbursements if population of Choice students exceeds 4%. State Representative Pam Sawyer has put forth an act to delay the implementation of the new teacher evaluation. CAPA meetings were held on January 18 and 28 at the Town Hall. Future dates of the BOE/BOF joint budget meetings will be published as soon as they are set. The 2013-2014 budget is due to the BOF on March 15, 2013.
5. BHS Student Representatives Report – Zoe Ounpuu-Adams provided an update on BHS activities; the Girls Basketball team has qualified for State Tournament play, the Political Assembly trip to Washington, DC is the weekend of February 15th, the Drama Club is presenting Godspell from February 28th through March 2nd, several band and chorus students performed in the All State competition and the Poetry Out Loud competition had increased participants this year under the continued advisory of Joyce Teed. Karen Bergin asked Zoe if she thought she and Bill Whedon would consider becoming more involved as Student Reps to the Board in providing input and feedback on agenda topics as they relate to students. While this will take a little more preparation time for meetings, Zoe was enthusiastic at the suggestion and will talk to Bill and report back.
6. Administrators Reports – The board requested feedback from the Washington DC trip. Karen Bergin provided an update on the lice outbreak in that historically we haven't seen these huge numbers but that other districts are also experiencing it. Mary Grande reported on the lockdown drill at BCS. Pre and post-lockdown letters were sent home to families this time and the information was well received

by parents and students. Kristin Heckt provided information on the BHS lockdown and that State Troopers were at both buildings during the drills and gave good reports.

7. Superintendent's Report

- a. Strategic School Profiles 2010-2011 – Superintendent Heckt presented these for board review. The report is compiled by the State from various other report data. The building principals reviewed the information and did not note any inaccurate information. Karen Bergin asked this be added to next month's agenda for board comment.
- b. 2013 CIRMA Risk Management Achievement Award Recipient – Kristin Heckt informed the board of this recent award presented to the Bolton School District with particular mention of Ray Boyd and exceptional, safe maintenance of the school buildings. Kristin thanked Ray and his staff for their snow removal efforts during the blizzard weekend and Ray added that they had huge help from the Town and Parks personnel. Board members were invited to attend a luncheon at BCS on Friday afternoon for the custodial, Town and Parks personnel.
- c. 2013-2014 School Calendar – Superintendent Heckt presented the 2013-2014 School Calendar for approval with a note that the April vacation had been moved back a week to fall in line with Columbia's vacation week. John Hambrook presented a motion to approve the 2013-2014 School Calendar as presented, 2nd by Joe Muro; MUP. The results from the calendar survey will be posted to the web-site along with the approved calendar.
- d. 2013-2014 Budget Update – Superintendent Heckt met with Joyce Stille, Ovation and Columbia Representatives on February 5th to reopen conversations on benefits collaboration. Columbia will have more information next month on their direction. Kristin provided information that the last budget workshop shared a \$183K deficit comprised of SPED costs that does not include anticipated additional SPED expenditures of \$19-38K. These costs are not in the current 2013-2014 Budget. There was discussion on how best to approach and better plan for these costs. The goal is to bring as many outplaced students back into the district as possible and to review/revise student programs for cost effectiveness. There was additional discussion on the process of requesting necessary additional BOE funds and if the Board of Finance has control on how they disburse them, concern over regular education allocations taking a hit for excessive SPED costs and the process of requesting potential revisions to the Town Charter. Karen Bergin will confirm town meeting lead time with Joyce Stille and will begin forwarding copies of Board of Finance email communications to board members. A **motion** was presented by John Hambrook to approve a request to the Board of Finance for \$218,250 dependant on the most recent information Kristin Heckt has to support the final needed amount; 2nd by Trace Maulucci. Karen Bergin, Trace Maulucci, John Hambrook and Joe Muro voted in favor; Rich Hayes abstained and Ron Rousseau voted against. Motion passed 4-1-1.

F. Unfinished and On-Going Business

1. BOE Subcommittees – Previously addressed. Assignments take effect immediately.

G. New Business

1. Kristin Heckt presented a letter of retirement from BHS Science Teacher Tom Dilworth and asked the board for their acceptance. John Hambrook presented a **motion** to accept the retirement, 2nd by Joe Muro; MUP. Kristin also presented a letter of retirement from custodial staff member Jimmy Simons; John Hambrook presented a **motion** to accept the retirement, 2nd by Rich Hayes; MUP.
2. First Read Textbooks – Envisions Math Grades K-6 – Kristin Heckt noted that the 2nd and 3rd grade Envisions Math program books were on display and that all other grade levels were available in the BOE for the next few weeks for board review. Curriculum Director Claudia Danna shared that this program is recommended by the State of Connecticut, is in the top 5 nationwide, is fully integrated with the Common Core standards and is aligned with the math program being used at our Columbia partner Horace Porter School. In response to some general discussion on implementing this new program, Kristin offered that remediation is built into the program as are higher challenges and various assessment tools and the program is also available online. All grade levels will receive early year assessments to quickly determine where each student falls within the curriculum.
3. Request for Town Charter Revision – There was a lengthy discussion involving whether the board will move forward with a Town Charter revision request, the 5 year requirement of a Board of Selectmen committee to seek feedback on Charter revision needs from other town boards (last done in July, 2009), where does the overall financial responsibility to educate children fall, the need to clarify the process of financial requests, future budget process to include placeholders or not, allowance of the Board of Education to retain 1% of unspent budget dollars with Board of Finance approval. Karen Bergin will request to be placed on the Board of Finance agenda for next Thursday's meeting at 7:00 PM in the Municipal Building to define the process of budgeting and/or financial requests. Board members were asked to attend that meeting if at all possible.

H. Future Business – Rich Hayes will report on a lighting issue he wanted the board to be aware of after the next Building and Grounds and PBC meetings.

1. Content of Minutes – will be discussed at the next scheduled board retreat.

I. Meeting Review – no comments

J. Executive Session – John Hambrook presented a **motion** to move into Executive Session, 2nd by Joe Muro at 8:50 PM. After discussion of student issues, the board came out of Executive Session by consensus at 9:40 PM.

K. Adjournment – Joe Muro **motioned** to adjourn at 9:42, 2nd by Trace Maulucci; MUP.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Boyd
Board Clerk