

The Bolton Board of Education held its regularly scheduled business meeting on April 11, 2013. The following board members were in attendance: Karen Bergin, Matthew Giuffre, John Hambrook, Rich Hayes, and Trace Maulucci. Superintendent Kristin Heckt and BHS Student Representative Zoe Ounpuu-Adams were also present.

- A. Call to Order – BOE Chair Karen Bergin called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.
- B. Celebration of Excellence – The following staff and students were recognized: Employee of the Month – Mary Welsh; BHS Student Achiever – Kent Zelesky; BCS Student Achievers for Grade 2 – Silas Gourley, Hannah Osborne, Julianna Rose and Jacob Tobias.
- C. Comments from the Audience – Christina Morra-Tiu identified herself as a spokesperson for the Pre-K parents, stated they are unhappy that consideration is being given to moving the Pre-K program from BCS to BHS for next school year. Chair Karen Bergin thanked her for her comments and stated this topic will be spoken to later in the meeting.
- D. Additions to the Agenda – None
- E. Routine Business Items
  - 1. Communications to Board Members – Rich Hayes received a question from a parent as to where graduation will be held. Joe Maselli stated it will be in the BHS gym. That space is air conditioned, allows for the exact set-up as if it was outside but without duplicating the custodial staff efforts, allows for more seating of guests and the feedback from last years’ attendees was overwhelmingly positive. Chair Karen Bergin added that this has typically been a year-to-year decision although we all appreciate the tradition of outside graduation. Chair Karen Bergin received communications from parents on the Pre-K relocation concerns and BHS electives.
  - 2. Approval of Minutes – A **motion** to approve the March 14, 2013 minutes was presented by John Hambrook; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt Giuffre; motion passed 4-0; Rich Hayes abstained.
  - 3. Board of Education Committee Reports
    - a. Finance – Rich Hayes reported the subcommittee reviewed the monthly budget information noting both SPED and general budget deficits. The subcommittee is trying to identify future expenses (e.g. insurance escalations) and the potential impact those expenses will have on budget programs.
    - b. Pupil Services – Trace Maulucci reported the subcommittee met and discussed the current BCS Pre-K and BHS Bulldog Nursery programs in preparation for review with the BOE. Beth Goldsnider has been asked to provide them information on the anticipated needs for next years’ 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students.
    - c. Policy – Matt Giuffre reported the subcommittee met and will be embarking on a policy review in conjunction with information provided by Superintendent Heckt on various policy services from CABE and Shipman

and Goodwin. The subcommittee recommends pursuing the CAFE policy review option. This could not be started until the fall of 2013 due to previous CAFE commitments and has a cost of approximately \$1800. Superintendent Heckt asked the board to wait until next month for any decision so she can compile and share recently received information that may impact any decisions made.

4. Community Meeting Reports / Board of Education – Chair Karen Bergin attended two meetings with Pre-K parents. John Hambrook attended the Town Stakeholder’s meeting and stated they are looking at minimal financial impact long term projects focusing on the center of town with one item being a potential walking path from BCS to Toomey Lane. Rich Hayes commented on the presentation of Rachel’s Challenge.
5. BHS Student Representatives Report – Zoe Ounpuu-Adams reported the student trips to Spain, France and Italy are departing today and/or tomorrow. As a result of the Rachel’s Challenge presentation, there is a large banner in the Student Commons signed by all students in symbolism of following the “challenges”. The BHS Track Team won their first school meet and the other spring sport teams are off to a good start.
6. Administrators Reports – John Hambrook noted that the annual PTA Variety Show held at BCS was fabulous and Rich Hayes asked about the response to the BHS mailing. Joe Maselli noted it is still a work in progress and information will be available next month. There were no other comments on the reports presented.
7. Superintendent of Schools Report
  - a. 2012-2013 Budget Update – Superintendent Heckt reported the Boards of Finance and Selectman approved the BOE request for \$150,000 to cover unanticipated SPED costs. The request will be presented at a Town Meeting for approval to be held on Monday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Town Hall.
  - b. 2013-2014 Budget Update – The Board of Finance cut the BOE budget by \$350,000. Superintendent Heckt voiced great concern on the negative effect this large cut will have on our education system. Of the \$756,808 requested increase, \$469,817 and \$236,165 are necessary contractual or state mandate costs. The balance remaining from the \$350,000 cut does not cover these fixed, known costs. There were also minimal increase amounts included to support the Common Core curricular alignment and new teacher evaluation, both of which are also state mandates.
  - c. Pre-School Update – The BOE Curriculum Subcommittee recommended moving the BCS Pre-K program to BHS as it provides more conducive space to meet those students’ needs. It would also allow for BHS student participation in the ECE program through their available interaction with the Pre-K program. Superintendent Heckt, BOE members Karen Bergin and Rich Hayes and Director of Pupil Services Beth Goldsnider met with Pre-K parents on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and again on April 9<sup>th</sup>. Information was shared with those parents that at this point, any decision to move the current Pre-K program to BHS will be part of a larger discussion regarding the current

budget reduction of \$350,000 and the final budget as approved at referendum.

- d. Miscellaneous – Superintendent Heckt attended the four separate presentations of Rachel’s Challenge. Each of the programs were age appropriate for the K-5, 6-8 and 9-12 student assemblies , as was the one presented to the community. The focus of each program was to challenge all of the attendees to eliminate prejudice, dare to dream, choose your influences, use kind words and start a chain reaction. All of these challenges go hand-in-hand with our current BCS B.A.R.K. program and the newly introduced program initiatives at BHS. Both of these programs are in response to a CREC sponsored PBIS program to which we have chosen to voluntarily subscribe. Mrs. Heckt also offered her congratulations to the parents and students for their hard work in presenting a wonderful PTA Variety Show.
- G. New Business – Karen Bergin noted a thank you letter had been sent to former teacher Mike Armstrong for his generous donation of 10 oak classroom podiums.
  1. Rockville Vo-Ag Consulting Committee Appointment – The Rockville Regional Agricultural Education Center requested BOE approval of their nomination of Town resident Daniel Tierney to fill a vacancy on their Consulting Committee. Matt Giuffre presented a **motion** to approve the nomination; 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Hambrook; MUP.
  2. First Read – Policy 5145, Civil and Legal Rights and Responsibilities. Matt Giuffre explained this policy update is only to remove specific name references of former employees.
- H. Future Business – Matt Giuffre asked if the Curriculum Subcommittee can review the occurrences of and current guidelines for incoming 9<sup>th</sup> grade students switching to more challenging classes based on parent requests and the potential impact that may have on class structure from an academic, teaching and size standpoint. Additionally, request to communicate the process of student placement (e.g. data assessment and student readiness) to parents. Chair Karen Bergin agreed the Subcommittee can and probably should review this information as a result of the new Common Core and curriculum alignment changes.
- I. Executive Session
  1. Personnel – A **motion** to adjourn to Executive Session was presented by Rich Hayes; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Matt Giuffre; MUP.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Boyd  
Board Clerk