

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

- A. Call to Order – Karen Bergin called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.
- B. Celebration of Excellence – The following students and staff were recognized. Employee of the Month, Linda Armstrong, BHS LMC Instructional Assistant; Patricia Lewis Writing Award winners: Olivia Bokshan – Kindergarten; Daniel Coman – Grade 1; Molly Martin – Grade 2; Samantha Sondik – Grade 3; Katrina Erwin – Grade 4; Erica Dean – Grade 6; Eric Bycholski – Grade 7; Hanah Scala – Grade 8 and Adrian Caraballo – Grade 11; BCS CAS Scholar Leaders – Kristin Cook and Justin Wiles.; BOE Student Representative William Whedon; BHS Class of 2013 Salutatorian Caitlin Eaton-Robb and Valedictorian Samantha Rosicke; and resigning/retiring employees Claudia Danna, Director of Curriculum and Instruction; Thomas Dilworth, BHS Science Teacher and Karen Roth BCS Office Administrative Assistant.
- C. Comments from the Audience – Resident and Kindergarten student parent Denay Johnston commented she hopes the BOE will consider not increasing the student/teacher ratio for next year’s first grade. She also noted she hopes that Bolton will offer a full-day Kindergarten program next year as she feels children will be behind if not.
- D. Additions to Agenda - Superintendent Heckt requested that items G1 and G2 be moved up in the Agenda and the board agreed.
- E. Routine Business Items
 1. Communications to Board Members – Rich Hayes requested that a budget communication between Karen Bergin and Trace Maulucci be put on next month’s agenda for discussion. A Memorial Day communication shared with Chair Bergin has been resolved.
 2. Approval of Minutes – A **motion** was presented by John Hambrook to approve the May 9, 2014 minutes, 2nd by Matt Giuffre; MUP.
 3. Board of Education Committee Reports
 - a. Community and Partner Relations – Joe Muro reported the subcommittee met and is scheduled for another meeting next week. Development of a quarterly newsletter is being looked into as are sample survey questions for Columbia residents.
 - b. Curriculum – John Hambrook reported the subcommittee met and had discussions with Superintendent Heckt on the Pre-K program and a recommendation to keep it at BCS with possible reconfiguration of classrooms. Mrs. Heckt and PPS Director Beth Goldsnider stated there are currently 12 Pre-K students and that combined with the SPED needs of 1st and 2nd grades was driving force to keeping the Pre-K program at BCS.

- c. Finance – Joe Muro reported on the monthly financial information. Mrs. Heckt confirmed that the amount to be returned to the Town isn't determined or sent until all of the 2012-2013 bills are paid. Finance Director Kusal Huynh didn't expect any surprises in billing/payments yet to be received and/or issued.
 - d. Personnel – Chair Bergin stated this will be reported on in Executive Session.
 - e. Policy – Matt Giuffre reported the subcommittee will be reviewing the policies in depth including bylaws. The subcommittee recommended using CABE for a Policy Audit Review at an approximate cost of \$1800. Rich Hayes presented a motion to approve the recommended use of the CABE policy services, 2nd by Matt Giuffre; MUP. BOE Bylaws will be added to future retreat agenda and . Options for other legal policy updates and policy maintenance will continue to be looked at.
4. Community Meeting Reports / Board of Education – John Hambrook attended a Stakeholders meeting and recapped the current proposal for improvements to the Town Green and access to surrounding town buildings. A power point presentation is available at the Town website and the preliminary recommendations were funded through a grant. Potential for student senior activities/project(s) may exist. Rich Hayes shared information that some residents feel the Cistern issue is holding back town growth and tax base increase and because of potential overall budget impact felt it was important that the board be aware of residents' concerns. Chair Bergin shared there has been no progress in scheduling a tri-board meeting but it continues to be looked at.
 5. BHS Student Representatives Report – Student Rep Bill Whedon provided information on cross country state qualifier Sam Nyser and golf qualifier Chandler Oliver. Senior celebration was held Friday night and graduation practice begins next week. Chair Bergin thanked Bill for his two year commitment to the board. Zoe Ounpuu-Adams provided information on underclassmen awards. Bigs and Littles met on May 28th and had a tour of the building and met the teaching staff. Zoe also introduced Jacob Dayton who will be the new Student Rep to the board replacing Bill Whedon.
 6. Administrators Report – Joe Maselli clarified that a recent Peer Support field trip was reported on under English because an English teacher was the chaperone.
 7. Superintendent of Schools Report
 - a. Lunch Price Approval – Superintendent Heckt requested approval for the proposed lunch price increases. BCS would go from \$2.35 to \$2.45 and BHS would go from \$2.35 to \$2.50. After a brief discussion, Rich Hayes presented a **motion** to approve the increases as requested, 2nd by John Hambrook; MUP.
 - b. Summer Schedule of Meetings / Retreat – The July and August meetings will be held in the BOE Conference Room and will be on July 11th and August 22nd. A building walk through will be scheduled for board members and the Superintendent before school opens.
 - c. Tablet Presentation – Joe Maselli provided information on the tablet program; where it's been, where it's going. There are some

reconfigurations scheduled for the summer to help alleviate some bumps experienced during the school year. There was discussion on the tablet program and how overall, technology requires constant review and assessment and continued use of tablets in classrooms is no exception. Administration will be looking into how best to use “older” tablets that are no longer capable of supporting current technology requirements. Will have a better idea of what classes could benefit once the master schedule for next year is set. Will also be looking at other alternatives (Android, IO, Apple, bring your own) and the pros and cons of all of it. Costs to date will be forwarded to the Superintendent.

- d. 2013-2014 Budget Update – Superintendent Heckt presented a proposed list of BOE cuts to bring the budget in line with the required \$442,500 in BOE budget reductions. She prefaced review of the list with a statement that the proposed reductions in no way shape or form represents what’s right and best for students and continued to thank her team of administrators and office staff for their diligent work in coming up with recommendations that had the least student impact. Teachers, Administrators and Custodians were thanked for their out of contract insurance discussions resulting in savings that ultimately saved jobs. There was a lengthy discussion which included clarifications of shifting and/or not replacing vacated positions, BHS course offering changes in science and math and the student impact, realignment of BCS and BHS daily schedules, reduction of IA class support, keeping class size growth at BCS to a minimum, suggested changes to Science 9 in relation to science in grades 7 and 8 and the potential impact on CAPT results and new Teacher Evaluations, eliminating 3rd grade foreign language and BCS sports, the impact of reductions on the appeal to Columbia students and new Bolton residents, lack of interest in shared recreational sports, increase pay to play and BHS parking passes and possibly reduce BCS sports schedule, or limit BCS sports to one season. After discussion, it was suggested that the Superintendent bring other options for the board to consider. A **motion** was presented by Ron Rousseau that the Superintendent come back with \$50K in other reduction options for board consideration, 2nd by Matt Giuffre; after discussion on the motion, the vote was 3-3 (Karen Bergin, John Hambrook and Joe Muro voted no); motion did not pass. John Hambrook presented a **motion** to accept the Superintendent recommended reductions; 2nd by Karen Bergin; vote 2-4 (Joe Muro, Rich Hayes, Matt Giuffre and Ron Rousseau voted no); motion did not pass. After additional discussion on the role of the BOE and Superintendent as regards actual budget reductions and the negative impact on the school not being able to move forward if the BOE held back a vote on those recommendations, a **motion** to accept the reductions recommended by Superintendent Heckt excluding the reduction of middle school sports was presented by Matt Giuffre, 2nd by Rich Hayes; MUP.

F. Unfinished Business

G. New Business

1. Africa Trip Approval, July 2014 - Science teacher Karen Cordero presented itinerary information on a proposed trip to South Africa for students in July, 2014, as well as information on her travels there last summer and that she has attained a Tracker Certification of level one. The maximum number of students for the proposed trip would be 16 with 3 chaperones. Mr. Turgeon has already volunteered if the trip is approved. If 16 students don't sign up Mrs. Cordero would like to offer available spaces to the community. The travels would be to a mosquito free zone and it would be during the dry season (winter) so there should be no concern for bugs or diseases carried by them. Guides do carry rifles but haven't needed to use them in the past 18 years. The cost is approximated at \$4400 which includes travel insurance. The final cost will be dependent on actual air fare. After additional discussion on safety and accommodations, a **motion** was presented by John Hambrook to approve the request for the trip, 2nd by Joe Muro; MUP.
2. BHS Band Director Katy Desrosiers requested permission for a two night field trip to a Music Festival, in Virginia Beach, VA during April vacation next year. Band and choir students would have an opportunity to perform in front of adjudicators for competition judging and/or feedback. A similar trip was taken 4 years ago and she would like to take approximately 70 students by motor coach for an approximate cost of \$575-\$590. A **motion** was presented by John Hambrook to approve the requested trip, 2nd by Matt Giuffre; MUP.

H. Future Business

- I. Executive Session - A **motion** to adjourn to Executive Session was presented by Karen Bergin, 2nd by John Hambrook at 10:05 PM.

After discussion on Non-Affiliated negotiations of personnel, rescind non-renewal of non-tenure teachers, Superintendent's evaluation and board goals, the Board came out of Executive Session by consensus at 11:50 PM. John Hambrook motioned to approve the Administrative Assistants contract pending ratification by the bargaining unit, 2nd by Matt Giuffre; MUP.

- J. Adjournment – **Motion** to adjourn the meeting was presented at 11:50PM by Matt Giuffre, 2nd by John Hambrook; MUP.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Boyd
Board Clerk