



SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Lisa Fiske- Heger, Chairperson
Tom Devin, Vice Chairperson
George Kokoros, Recording Secretary
Cyril Chafe
Kate Naughton
David Ringius
Joseph Sullivan, Mayor

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Monday, December 11, 2017
Flaherty Elementary School

REVISED MINUTES

School Committee Present: Cyril Chafe/Thomas Devin/Lisa Fiske Heger/George Kokoros/
Kate Naughton/David Ringius/Mayor Joseph Sullivan

Administration: Dr. Frank Hackett, Superintendent of Schools
Mr. James Lee, Interim Assistant Superintendent of Schools
Ms. Jennifer Fay, Director of Personnel and Student Services
Mr. Edward Cronin, Director of Finance and Operations

Student Representatives: Michael Baumgartner/Edmund Bousaleh

Recorder: Mary Ann Cuddahy

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Fiske Heger called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Ms. Fiske Heger shared that Flaherty welcomed all to the School Committee meeting and shared that the Flaherty students would leading them in the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. Grade 5 students, under the director of Ms. Smith, sang the National Anthem.

II. ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Consideration of Approval of Minutes: Open Session November 13, 2017

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Kokoros and seconded by Mr. Devin to approve the minutes for the Open Session of November 13, 2017.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

B. Communications and Commendations

i. BHS Dance Team – Ms. Fiske Heger welcomed the members of the BHS Dance Team and their coach to be recognized for their 1st place at the New England Cheer and Dance Competition in November, then qualified for the State Tournament and placed 1st there, as well. Coach Jamie Campbell introduced the Captains (listed below) and shared that on Thursday, December 14th, beginning at 6 p.m., there will be the annual Dancing with the Staff event. They have 5 competitions coming up in the winter season, as well as performing during the basketball season.

The following students are members of the BHS 17/18 Dance Team (*Indicates captain):

Emma Aborn, Amanda Akins, *Destinee Alix-Garth, Olivia Bonfiglioli, Abigail Burton, Anna Centerrino, Allison Clements, Irene Frechette, Isabelle Frechette, Olivia Gilbride, Emily Glynn, *Francesca Graceffa, Shayna Hanaphy, Aine Joyce, Catherine Joyce, Caroline Larkin, Shannon Marston, Courtney McGowan, Colleen Morahan, Mairead Morahan, *Tess Murphy, Kathryn Rowell, *Hailey Wadland, Alyssa Yeragotelis. Head Coach: Jamie Hale Campbell, Assistant Coach: Lindsay Coleman.

Ms. Fiske Heger congratulated them and wished them well. Mayor Sullivan congratulated Coach Campbell and the team for representing the town so well and shared that their town is proud of them, noting that it is a decade of excellence.

ii. Melanie Chiles, Norfolk County Science Teachers/Teacher of the Year –

Mr. Lee introduced Flaherty teacher, Melanie Chiles, to the Committee, sharing that he was proud to announce that Ms. Chiles was recently awarded the Norfolk County Science Teacher of the Year. Mr. Lee shared that Ms. Chiles teaches Grade 4 Science, Reading, ELA. She attended Rollins College and Eastern Nazarene College--M.Ed. She published an article in Science Scope Magazine, and she presented both at MassCUE conferences and MAST. Ms. Chiles was nominated for Massachusetts STEM teacher of the year in 2017. She is proud of implementing an after school Elementary Engineering Club. From 2015-2017 Ms. Chiles participated in the Wipro Science Education Fellowship through UMass Boston. Through this program she collaborated with colleagues to restructure her curriculum and implement the technology/engineering standards more effectively. Ms. Chiles presented about the 2016 MA STE standards throughout the district during elementary faculty meetings. Ms. Chiles is an amazing and inspirational teacher not only to her 4th grade students but also to colleagues throughout the district.

Ms. Chiles commented that she was shocked and very honored to have been given this award, proud to be part of Braintree and thanked those in attendance for recognizing her.

iii. BHS Athletic Accomplishments – Dr. Hackett acknowledged a listing of athletic accomplishments and congratulated the teams on their accomplishments.

iv. SEMMEA (Southeastern Massachusetts Music Educators Association) Auditions/Participants– Dr. Hackett shared that the Committee also had in their packets information on the students chosen to participate in the SEMMEA Junior and Senior Music Festival.

Senior SEMMEA Music Festival:

BHS Band: Rose Hansen - Bassoon - All-State Recommendation
BHS Orchestra: Bostony Braoudakis - Cello - All-State Recommendation
Samantha Le - Viola
Rositsa Mihaleva - Violin
Joseph Murray - Violin
Nok Ng - Violin
Cindy Tsang - Cello - All-State Recommendation
BHS Concert Choir: Colin Anderson - Tenor
Brendan McMullin - Tenor - All-State Recommendation
Matthew Shea - Bass

Junior SEMMEA Music Festival:

BHS Chorus: Delia Donovan - Soprano
Sage Heffernan - Alto

BHS Band: Karim Mouline - Tenor
Benjamin Hansen - Trombone
Meghan Kenny - Bass Clarinet

East MS Band: Rahul Prasad - Bassoon

South MS Chorus: Deeksha Kavalapara - Soprano
Brennan Loi - Bass

C. Trip Requests 2017-2018

1. South Middle School students (all grades) to ski at Mount Sunapee in Newbury, New Hampshire Saturday, February 10, 2018.

Consideration of Approval of South Middle School students (all grades) to ski at Mount Sunapee in Newbury, New Hampshire Saturday, February 10, 2018.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Devin to approve the trip request for South Middle School students (all grades) to ski at Mount Sunapee in Newbury, New Hampshire on Saturday, February 10, 2018.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

2. East Middle School students (all grades), two ski trips to Pat’s Peak, Henniker, New Hampshire Saturday, January 27, 2018 and Saturday, February 3, 2018.

Consideration of Approval of East Middle School students (all grades) to participate in two ski trips to Pat’s Peak, Henniker, New Hampshire on Saturday, January 27, 2018 and Saturday, February 3, 2018.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Devin to approve the trip request for East Middle School students (all grades), to participate in two ski trips to Pat’s Peak, Henniker, New Hampshire on Saturday, January 27, 2018 and Saturday, February 3, 2018.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

3. Braintree High School Girls Basketball Program to travel to Providence, Rhode Island on Sunday, January 28, 2018 to compete against LaSalle Academy.

Consideration of Approval of Braintree High School Girls Basketball Program to travel to Providence, Rhode Island on Sunday, January 28, 2018 to compete against LaSalle Academy.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Devin to approve the trip request for Braintree High School Girls Basketball Program to travel to Providence, Rhode Island on Sunday, January 28, 2018 to compete against LaSalle Academy.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

4. Braintree High Student Body to travel to Attitash Mountain, Friday, January 26, 2018 (leaving BHS at approximately 12:00 noon) and returning to Braintree, Saturday, January 27, 2018 by 7:30 p.m.

Consideration of Approval of the Braintree High Student Body travelling to Attitash Mountain, North Conway, NH on Friday, January 26, 2018 and returning to Braintree, Saturday, January 27, 2018 by 7:30 p.m.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Devin to approve the trip request for Braintree High Student Body travelling to Attitash Mountain, North Conway, NH on Friday, January 26, 2018 and returning to Braintree, Saturday, January 27, 2018 by 7:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

D. Gifts to Schools

1. South Middle School, gifts to schools totaling \$10,557.34

- a. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Ringius to accept as a gift to schools one check in the amount of \$9,921.00 and cash in the amount of \$636.34 totaling the amount of **\$10,557.34** from the October Festival of Motion to be used to support the mission and vision of the South Middle School.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

2. Monatiquot School Kindergarten Center; gifts to schools totaling \$1,208.21

- a. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Ms. Kokoros to accept as a gift to schools checks totaling \$105.00 and cash totaling \$855.00 for a total amount of **\$960.00** from the MSKC Parent Conference Raffle to be used in support of the mission and vision of the Monatiquot School Kindergarten Center.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

- b. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Kokoros to accept as a gift to schools one check in the amount of **\$248.21** from the MSKC Bertucci's Dining for Dollars fundraiser to be used in support of the mission and vision of the Monatiquot School Kindergarten Center.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

3. Braintree High School Alternative Education; gifts to schools totaling \$1,000.00

Mayor Sullivan expressed appreciation to Mr. Mullaney for his generous donation and added that Mr. Mullaney is very thankful for the efforts made in the alternative program, particularly for his grandson.

- a. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Kokoros to accept as a gift to schools one check in the amount of **\$1,000.00** from John Mullaney, Esq. to be used

in support of the Alternative Education Program and the students who attend the program at Braintree High School.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

4. Hollis Elementary School; gifts to schools totaling \$1,000.00

- a. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Kokoros to accept as a gift to schools one check in the amount of **\$1,000.00** from Hollis parents, Mark & Diane Pham, as a gift to schools to be used to purchase technology for the Hollis Elementary School.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

5. Bay State Textiles; gifts to schools totaling \$118.75

- a. VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Kokoros and seconded by Mr. Devin to accept as a gift to schools four checks in the amounts of \$16.50, \$27.25, \$16.75 and \$58.25 from Bay State Textiles as a gift to schools to be used as needed to support the mission and vision of the Braintree Public Schools.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

III. FROM FLAHERTY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, STAFF & STUDENTS

Ms. Fiske Heger announced that they would be taking items out of order (7:10 p.m.) and introduced Mrs. Soto and the students of the Flaherty School.

- Student Mary Grace O’Leary read her winning American Legion Essay Contest essay.
- Student Wills Brennan spoke about Mrs. Doucette’s class calendar
- Students Coleman Lee, Katie McDonough, Chloe Moschella, Anisha Techchandani and Greyson Warcup spoke about kindness and what it meant to them from their grade 1 kindness writing
- Second grade students Sean Brodigan, Mairead Connolly, Ekin Duman, Smanatha Frechon, Jack Gerry, Teaghan Hayes, Ishana Khurana, Alyse Muldoon, Shaelyn Muldoon, Sarvesh Purisai Rajagopalan, Arleen Rodriguez, Henry Spark, Sophia Turco and Lucy Wildeman all spoke about building character traits
- Fifth grade students Steven John, Catherine McPhee, Kailyn St. Ives shared essays they had written about a book
- Fourth grade students Demetrius Holley, Lucy O’Connell, Erin Savage and Ty Yuen read about the 4th graders Read-a-Loud program
- A slideshow was presented and students Matthew Dolan, Connor Finlay and Vanessa Le all shared why they love Flaherty School
- Flaherty Gives Back Program was introduced by Madison Killefer and Henry Sulce and a slideshow was presented to give the Committee and audience an understanding of Flaherty Gives Back. Flaherty Gives Back not only gives to Braintree but worldwide, visiting nursing homes, animal shelters, making cards, raising money for hurricane victims. Community Service projects were discussed

Ms. Fiske Heger, Mayor Sullivan and the Committee thanked Ms. Soto for organizing the presentations by the students and teachers and commended all for their efforts that went into a great, detailed presentation. Ms. Fiske Heger commented on the Flaherty Gives Back program, noting that it is a wonderful program and great lesson for the students. Ms. Fiske Heger noted the school and community spirit that was evident at Flaherty that evening.

IV. FROM SUPERINTENDENT AND STAFF

A. Consideration of Acknowledgement: Winter Coaches

Dr. Hackett shared with the School Committee that Athletic Director Mike Denise submitted his recommendations for the Winter Athletic Season 2017-2018, a copy of which was included in the Committee's packets. Dr. Hackett asked the Committee to acknowledge Mr. Denise's recommendations.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Devin to acknowledge the coaching recommendations for the Winter 2017-2018 Athletic Season by Mr. Denise.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

B. Student Services Update: METCO – Dr. Hackett announced this presentation had been postponed.

V. FROM THE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

A. Budget Subcommittee Update

Mr. Kokoros shared that the subcommittee met on November 30th, reviewing each budget area and working through the Capital Plan with Mr. Cronin. They are looking at historical versus current needs, as well as how to prioritize budget needs. He shared that the Committee met with Mr. Denise, Athletic Director, to look at the athletic budget. He shared that one of the subcommittee's goals is to look at the different departments budgets and bring in directors as needed. The next meeting is scheduled for January 4, 2018 at the Central office.

B. School Building Committee Update

Mr. Devin shared that the School Building Committee met that afternoon regarding the East Middle School project. He shared that they interviewed three companies for the CM position (construction management), for the East project the week prior and would be making a motion of their recommendation.

Mayor Sullivan thanked Mr. Devin for his work on this committee and noted that the project will begin next summer with the goal to have it completed in two years. Mayor Sullivan also noted that he and the Superintendent will be with the MSBA for the South Middle School proposal where they expect to get approval with the Feasibility Study. He feels both projects have good momentum.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mayor Sullivan to accept the recommendation of the Braintree School Building Committee to award the Construction Management preconstruction position to the Shawmut Construction Company for a cost of \$178,549.00.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

C. Policy Subcommittee

Ms. Naughton shared that the Policy Subcommittee met on November 30th and that there were a number of Policies being brought to the Committee for First Readings. She asked all members to review the policies in their packets and that these policies would be brought back to the Committee for the January 8th meeting for a vote at that time.

i. Consideration of First Reading

- i. BBBA: School Committee Member Qualifications/Oath
- ii. BDA: School Committee Organizational Meeting
- iii. BDB: School Committee Officers
- iv. FF: Naming Facilities
- v. FFA: Memorials

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Ringius and seconded by Mr. Kokoros to acknowledge the Consideration of First Reading of Policies BBBA, BDA, BDB, FF and FFA.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

ii. Consideration of Approval

Ms. Naughton shared that the following policies (BIA and KE) were up for approval at that meeting. Ms. Naughton read both policies BIA: New School Committee Member Orientation and KE: Public Complaints prior to the vote by Committee members.

i. BIA: New School Committee Member Orientation

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Kokoros to approved Policy BIA: New School Committee Member Orientation.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

ii. KE: Public Complaints

Mayor Sullivan commented that he would like the word “complaints” changed. He felt a better word would be “concerns.” Mayor Sullivan added that he knows this has been guided by the Massachusetts Association of School Committees. He also commented on another part of the policy regarding anonymous complaints, acknowledging that it is hard to get back to somebody if they don’t sign the letter. Mayor Sullivan inquired if this would have any impact on whistleblower complaints brought by someone who sees a wrong but is fearful of retaliation. He added that he understands and agrees with the intent of the policy, agrees with format and reiterated his concern with the word “complaint” and those that feel they need to speak out and want to do it in a way that they are not identified.

Mr. Ringius also commented on “anonymous complaints”, agreeing with the Mayor that he understands the intent of the policy but has concerns with how this section is written, indicating that an anonymous complaint would be disregarded. He feels this part of the policy is very concrete.

Dr. Hackett added that the policy should be made gender neutral and that he is in agreement with the Mayor, and would recommend that the word complaint be replaced with concern. Dr. Hackett added the issue regarding an “anonymous complaint” is specific to school personnel, adding that without a signed name to the complaint, there would be nothing he could do with that letter; could not contact the person making the complaint to resolve it. By contract, an employee has the right to know that a complaint has been made against them and have an opportunity to respond to that complaint. When something comes in about a member of school personnel anonymously, the Superintendent cannot contact person who wrote it. He acknowledged that the wording “probably dismiss” is too strong of wording for anonymous complaints regarding school personnel.

Mr. Kokoros asked if there is an opportunity to get more information anonymously, possibly through an anonymous email box or phone line. Dr. Hackett shared that he would be a hesitant to do that but would certainly talk more about it at a policy subcommittee meeting. He added it is not an issue receiving complaints or concerns sent to his office. The issue is addressing the concerns when they are provided anonymously since they cannot be investigated by speaking to the individual lodging the concern. It was suggested that anonymous concerns will be handled by the Superintendent.

Mayor Sullivan added that he would be comfortable to amend the statement that anonymous concerns would be handled by the superintendent.

Ms. Fiske Heger summarized that the amendments to the policy would be: Change complaint to concern, will include that anonymous concerns will be handled by superintendent and change his to his/her, making it gender neutral.

Michael Baumgartner asked when a complaint is brought to the committee itself after going through the proper channels, do they have a tendency to send it back to the subcommittees or will the Superintendent/school administrator handle it? Ms. Fiske Heger reiterated that there is a process of steps that it would go through as noted in the policy. He also asked at what point a complaint get puts in writing. Dr. Hackett commented he would encourage that all complaints be put in writing.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Ringius to approved Policy KE: Public Complaints as amended.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

D. Recognition

Ms. Fiske Heger shared with the audience and Committee that their meeting on December 11th would be Mr. Ringius’, the School Committee’s senior member, last School Committee meeting as he was moving on as a member of the Braintree Town Council. Ms. Fiske Heger presented a plaque from the School Committee, acknowledging Mr. Ringius’ contributions to the Braintree Public Schools.

Mr. Ringius shared that he feels he is closing a big chapter in his life, having served 10 years on the School Committee. He shared that when he started he had just passed the bar; getting his first real job and felt he had grown while a member of the School Committee, adding that the one constant in his adult life has been the School Committee, every other Monday night. He shared that he has served with a lot of great people who have accomplished much together and acknowledged the work has been

fulfilling. He acknowledged the work about taking care of children, and believes the School Committee is the most important board in any community. Mr. Ringius stated that he looks forward to supporting the Committee as they continue their great work.

Mayor Sullivan commented that he looks forward to working with Mr. Ringius on the Council and continuing to work with him. He added that he has enjoyed watching him grow and fully understanding the importance of his work on the School Committee. He highlighted Mr. Ringius' work as Chair and being able to use his legal background for policy development and in handling difficulty issues. Mayor Sullivan thanked him for his decade of excellent service to the schools.

Ms. Naughton, Mr. Devin and Mr. Kokoros all thanked Mr. Ringius individually for his service, support, leadership and friendship in his many roles on while School Committee. They all commended Mr. Ringius on the great work done and wished him the best on the Council. Ms. Fiske Heger thanked him for his leadership and friendship and highlighted all that he did, including bringing on Dr. Hackett as Superintendent.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Ringius wished his daughter, Autumn, a very Happy Birthday.

Ms. Fiske Heger announced the next School Committee meeting will be January 8th at Ross Elementary School, and January 22nd at Colbert Administration Building.

VII. ADJOURN

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Kokoros to adjourn.

ROLL CALL: AYES –7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Time Adjourned: 8:24 p.m.

Documents Provided to School Committee:

- 11/13/2017 Minutes for Approval
- Commendations – BHS Dance Team Recognition
- Commendations – Melanie Chiles Information
- Commendations – Listing of Athletic Accomplishments
- Commendations – Listing of SEMMEA Student Names
- Trip Request Summary and Request Letters/information
- Gift to Schools Summary
- Winter Coaching Recommendations
- METCO Overview
- Copies of all Policies listed on agenda (BBBA, BDA, BDB, FF, FFA, BIA and KE)

REVISED MINUTES APPROVED BY SCHOOL COMMITTEE 7/30/2018

Correction to School Committee Present Section



George Kokoros
Recording Secretary