Bourne Public Schools

BOURNE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, October 7, 2020
TIME: 6:30 PM
PLACE: Bourne High School Media Center

ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Emily Berry; Paul McMaster; Erin Perry; Steven Strojny; Chris Hyldburg; Maureen Fuller; Ryan Bagdonas

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT: Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent; Melissa Ryan, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching

OPEN SESSION

All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Berry calls the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

- Chair Berry tells the public that if they have questions they can use the chat feature to post it so that it can be addressed at the end of the meeting. She states that the participant must include their first and last name in the chat post in order for their question to be considered. If we are unable to answer your question this evening, you can send it in an email to her, other committee members and/or members of the administration.

2. APPROVE WARRANTS AND PAYROLL

3. PUBLIC INPUT

- Chat question: A remote attendee is not able to hear sound. Dr. Zhou and Mrs. Ryan explain the procedures to participate via Zoom and BourneTV as this meeting is being broadcast live.
- Chat question: The remote attendee would like to speak about the Anti Racism Resolution. Emily says that this item is on the Agenda and we will have public discussion later.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

a. Superintendent's Report, Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Zhou is excited to report that the schools are ready to move to our next phase. Students in Cohort A will begin hybrid learning next week. She thanks everyone, everyone, involved in getting us to this phase. Kerri talks about the changes to the re-opening plan. Most important for students and parents/caregivers, is to look out for a mailing this week detailing the specifics of returning to school. Dr. Zhou speaks to the specifics in this documentation, especially the transportation aspect.
- Melissa Ryan, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching, presents the updates to the BPS Reopening Plan. The document has not been made public at this time. Melissa speaks to the specific changes and updates made to it.
- It is important to note the updates include what happens when there is a request to transition from remote to hybrid, and that there might be times that the school can not transition them to the same class.
- She talks about the importance of the support of our parents in regards to getting students to class. We ask our parents to support the technology aspect not the content of the class and to allow their student to work independently. If you need to communicate with a teacher it is requested that you email them.
- Melissa points to the daily screening page in the document of which we are asking parents to do before sending the student to school. By sending your child to school everyday you are acknowledging that they do not display any of the symptoms. This becomes your consent.
- She talks about the chromebooks or other student devices. It is requested that every student bring their device with them to school each day. We are also asking our parents to put a cover on the devices.
- Students are expected to have all immunizations up to date including getting the Flu vaccine by December 31st. She notes that our nurses do a tremendous job documenting and updating our students' medical records. In opting not to get vaccinated, if an outbreak occurs, we would ask that your child not to come school.
- Melissa encourages parents of special needs students to review this document once it is made public and to look at three documents, a letter from the Dept. of Education, a document detailing compensurate services and a consent form for teletherapy via zoom.
- Thank you to Sue Downing for everything that she has done to coordinate our transportation. Melissa talks about the change to transportation. If you have not requested for your child to use the bus right now then you must understand we can not add students due to requirements on capacity for buses, etc. Throughout the year we will be asking families to join, the next request will be made mid to late November. This will take time to coordinate. Our biggest concern is on Tuesday, students will be at the bus stop but are not on the list. due to capacity concerns, there are no extra seats on a bus. We are trying to avoid this situation. Communication has been sent to all students detailing their transportaion information. If you have not received an email, please contact your child's school.
- Also added to this document is that students will receive breakfast and lunch at no cost to families and will be available to students until December 31st. We encourage our students to get breakfast and lunch meals at their school.
- The most significant items in this document are the COVID response graphics, this is of what happens when someone is exposed to or shows symptoms of COVID and the steps to follow. We follow the state's guidance which states that if you travel to a high risk state, upon your return to Massachusetts, you will be required to quarantine for 14 days or provide a negative test result taken within the last 72 hours.

    - Chair Berry recommends that parents look for the updated document once it is made public. Dr. Zhou talks about the graphics and the difference between the two, when you are exposed and when you are only feeling symptoms. She tells the Committee that each school has protocols in place if a student or staff member is exposed or positive. There was much design and planning put into this across the District. What parents and caregives have done is allow their children's independence throughout remote learning. She believes we will probably be in this paradigm for the whole school

year. What principals and teachers are all saying that the students are doing a tremendous job. We thank the parents for their support and we are very proud of what students are doing during independent learning and self advocacy.

- Emily says there is a question about what impacts a student can receive when transitioning from hybrid to remote. Melissa Ryan states that we can accommodate this easier than if it was the reverse. A student would immediately be able to log in remotely and participate in class. Once the quarantine requirement is lifted, the student would be able return to the cohort group they were in before.
- Emily asks If a family did not receive a letter with information about their family's bus needs then they opted to bring their child to school. When will this information be sent? Mrs. Ryan states that the bus information will be sent as of today and you should have it no later than Friday this week. She reminds everyone of the traffic patterns put in place on campus last year and we hope that there will be a smooth drop-off.
- Emily reminds everyone that if they are not receiving emails to check their spam folder and to add bourneps.org to their safe email lists.
- Paul McMaster asks for clarification on travel, if it's a family member traveling to a different state, returns and his household may possibly be exposed, what is done in that situation? Melissa states that the student would be allowed back to school under the guidance of self-screening. Families that have differnet parent arrangements, such as a parent who lives out of state, would not prohibit the student from returning as long as they are screening for symptoms.
- Erin Perry asks what has been done so far or is planned with our younger students transitioning back to school? Mrs. Ryan says that there have been transitioning events this week. All the schools will be sending information and partipating in an orientation in some way in order to inform parents of school and bus specific protocols. She says the teachers have done a tremendous job preparing our students for the transition.
- A participant in the audience tells the Committee that she sends a huge Thank You to Sue Downing for taking care of our transportation needs and for all the work she does. Sue is in the building and still working this evening!

- Dr. Zhou informs the Committee that they have ratified the recent Memorandum of Agreement with the BEA. The link to the document is provided on the Agenda and will be available on the website.

- Equity and Inclusion Committee – Kerry tells the members that the sub-committee's main goal is to look closely at student equity and racial justice, in particular.
- Mrs. Ryan talks about the Curriculum sub-committee meeting they had today. During these times, this is one area that is rising in discussion because of what is happening in our society. Melissa talks about tying this to the curriculum since we will need to implement updates to align with the Dept. of Education's change in standards. Climate and the culture in our schools will be something that will help in addressing equity. Our goal is to educate children in order to make them global citizens that have the responsibility to make our world a better place.
- Dr. Zhou states that in this time of COVID, we need to make sure that all learners can succeed and that we are including all our students.

B. Chairperson's Report, Paul McMaster, School Committee Vice-Chair

- Anti-Racism Resolution – Mr. McMaster reports that the Mass Association of School Committees (MASC) has asked all school committees in the state to pass this resolution. Paul reads the Resolution to everyone and asks for discussion after the reading.
- Emily says that this resolution has been read and voted upon by all school committees across the cape.

- Steven Strojny states that he has some concerns about this document. He talks about parts of the document that concern him. He thinks the spirit is good here but to him he believes it is clearly beyond the school committee's pervue in adopting the Black Lives Matter movement and he can not support it.
- Chris Hyldburg talks about the various resolutions over the years that the District has been asked to endorse or resolve. He thinks it's time and the spirit is well meaning and deserved and believes that some districts have made adjustments to their resolution. He is also concerned about the last paragraph and hopes we are able to craft it a little better for Bourne.
- Maureen Fuller acknowleges their point of view but cannot acknowledge that this is just a political movement. It has become an issue because it has not been addressed in a matter that has brought about any change for diverse groups. She supports this resolution.
- Chair Berry agrees with Maureen. She feels that this is important to the nation not just the town of Bourne. She supports this resolution.
- Ryan Bagdonas talks about the line that Chris and Steven are concerned about. Ryan doesn't feel that the line makes it political and didn't take it that way. She doesn't believe it is about Bourne and supports this resolution.
- Dr. Zhou gives more information on the resolution and that it is from the entire MASC which is asking each school district to vote aye or nay. It is a broad resolution that is not specific to Bourne but to the whole of Massachusetts.
- Paul says he understands how Steven and Chris feel about that statement, but he doesn't believe that the inclusion of that statement necessarily means your concern for that statement but to acknowledge the statement as a fact.
- Erin Perry sees taking it up for a vote not as a BPS policy but to be able to incorporate aspects of it into our current policies.
- Teacher Sharon Moore comments on the MASC statement and that many districts find it to be generic as it doesn't mention other minority groups such as Native American or Latinx. She doesn't believe that the BLM movement is a political issue but a human rights issue. She thinks this is a good starting point and that we should be doing more in the community for our kids.

Ryan Bagdonas motions to support the MASC resolution; Seconded by Erin Perry; Roll call vote: 6-1-0

- Response to DESE Letter – Chair Berry speaks about the letter the Committee received in September. The letter states that we needed to put all of our students back to hybrid because the community is in the green (or gray) risk category for several consecutive weeks. She reminds everyone of Plans that were created, fine tuned, voted on and approved by us over the summer before students and staff could return to school.
- Emily reads the letter in response to DESE. The letter caused many questions and concern from community members. She assures everyone that the administration, School Committee members, teachers, staff, have been working non-stop to get our students back in the building and learning. She reads our response letter to the DESE. We did receive an email from DESE thanking us for the quick response.
- Kerri states that DESE has sent out surveys and that it's unfortunate they didn't do that before this letter was sent out. Emily states that when we began creating our reopening plans it was in early August. There have been a lot of changes since then, she knows we are on the right path as we wait for the next phase to begin.

C. School Committee Sub Committee Reports

- Policy – report on 10/6/20 meeting – Erin Perry states that some of the items on their agenda have already been discussed tonight. The Committee did touch on future agenda items and took a preliminary look at the guidelines on public comments which they plan to continue discussing at a future meeting.
- Facilities and Budget – no report
- Curriculum – report on 10/7/20 meeting – Melissa Ryan announces that Anne Marie Strode and Kelly Cook are presenting at the DESE's Civics Literacy Conference tomorrow evening. They are presenting on the Civics

Engagement Action model that we use as part of the new standards. It is an honor to be asked to share our model across the state, this is a significant recognition of our work. Thank you Mrs. Strode and Mrs. Cook!

- Melissa Ryan tells everyone that the Curriculum Committee's focus was on getting us up to date on everything that is happening. There was much discussion about the different aspects of the reopening plan and an assessment calendar was shared with all. She states that the next teacher inservice is November 3rd.

D. New Superintendent Induction Program Entry Plan Presentation

- Dr. Zhou presents her induction entry plan to the School Committee. She notes that members can approve/accept the plan and can also add items if they think something should be included. Kerri talks about the different parts of it and explains the timeline included in her plan. Sometime after the new year, what she has found will be presented to the Committee when the entry findings are announced.

  - Chair Berry asks if this plan is a public document and will it be posted on our BPS website? Kerri confirms that it will be posted. She believes Kerri's plan would help her too as she is a newer member to the group.
  - Maureen Fuller asks how often is Kerri meeting with the mentor they met over the summer? Maureen LaCroix is her mentor and a former Superintendent of Bedford. She says that she joins this group to communicate at least 3 times a week. Maureen LaCroix helped her put together her entry plan.
  - Chris asks what is her expectation of the School Committee as it pertains to setting an evaluation for you. What is the timing on that? Kerri plans to get her goals to them in November and in line with the School Improvement Plan.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Continued discussion on Facilities

- FY'21 Capital Requests – Jordan Geist, Director of Business Services is not in attendance tonight and therefore this discussion will be continued to the next meeting.

6. ACTION ITEMS

a. Vote to approve the SC minutes of: Executive session: August 12, 2020 and August 31, 2020
Regular session July, 22, 2020

Paul McMaster motions to approve the Minutes as a written; Seconded by Chris Hyldburg; Roll call vote: 7-0-0

b. Vote on Warrants and Payroll

Paul McMaster motions to approve the Warrant and Payroll; Seconded by Steven Strojny; Roll call vote: 7-0-0

c. Vote to designate Chairperson to sign warrants and payroll for the SY 2020-2021

Steven Strojny motions to approve the Chairperson to sign Warrants and Payroll for the 2020-2021 School Year; Seconded by Chris Hyldburg; Roll call vote: 7-0-0

7. STEVEN STROJNY MOTIONS TO ADJOURN; SECONDED BY PAUL MCMASTER; ROLL CALL VOTE 7-0-0

Meeting ended at 8:30 PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Teresa Vicente
Recording Secretary

List of documents and exhibits used (GL c.30A, sect 22(a))

Agenda Item	Document
	School Committee Meeting Agenda
	BEA Reopening MOA
	DESE Response Letter
	MASC Anti Racism and COVID-19 Resolution
	Entry Plan - Bourne
	School Committee Minutes - Exec: August 12, August 31, 2020; Reg: July 29, 2020