Bourne Public Schools

BOURNE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, August 5, 2020
TIME: 6:30 PM
PLACE: Remote Access Meeting

ATTENDANCE

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

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT: Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent; Melissa Ryan, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; Jordan Geist, Director of Business Services; Craig Davidson, Director of Special Education and Student Services

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

OPEN SESSION

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Superintendent brief of reopening Bourne Schools

(a) Bourne re-opening plan overview

(i) Process and date recap

- Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent of Schools, begins with a slide presentation.
- She talks about the three recommendations from the Reopening Task Force Steering Committee. The three recommendations are to begin school in a remote model, assign a target date for hybrid and in-person learning, and prioritize safety and an equitable learning enviroment to include partnerships with community organizations.
- Dr. Zhou reminds all of the feasibility study that was discussed at the last School Committee meeting. She details the information yielded by this committee for both the parents or caregivers and staff. Kerri stresses that schools and student learning will not be the same as it used to be.

- High needs, EL, and PK students will return in an in-person model. Some of these students may have remote learning issues which would be addressed in this model.
- Social emotional needs of students and their families is a priority for us as is safety for students and teachers in each learning model.

(ii) Any new considerations for Federal and State mandates/information

- Dr. Zhou highlights the Federal and State guidelines document list

(iii) Discussion about specifics in the plan:

- Dr. Zhou discusses the specifics of the learning models.
- She describes the Remote Learning model and speaks about the general requirements of this plan. Kerri points out the specifics of this plan by grade span and what each school will have in place. In this model, all students will be assessed to ensure success in the school year. Another point she makes is that students will have multiple, scheduled connections with educators each day and throughout the week.
- One of the most important aspects of our services will be parent engagement. Ongoing communication with families will be critical to the start of the school year.
- Kerri describes the specifics of the hybrid learning scenario. She expects to go into more detail in future meetings as information is always getting updated. Mondays will be always be remote learning days. Students in this model will attend four days a week, every other week. Off weeks they will have remote learning. This model again prioritizes safety.

(b) Moving forward/next steps:

(i) Information needed from parents and staff

- Dr. Zhou discusses the family enrollment survey which will let us know parent's decision on which learning model they choose for their students.

(ii) Timelines

- The final plan must be submitted to DESE by August 10th.
- She expects that the enrollment information will be submitted by August 12th to allow time for scheduling, transportation needs and other details.
- The start of school is expected to be September 16, 2020 per the SY20-21 School Calendar voted on at the last meeting.

(c) Public comment and Q & A on Reopening Planning:

- Chair Hyldburg talks about the four priorities the School Committee would like to focus on. One is high needs students; the SC provides as many resources as they can to empower the administration. Secondly, is a mask to mask collaboration for remote learners. Third is to provide the prescription and metrics on the transition to hybrid. Lastly, is the COVID-19 protocols for facilities and buildings so they are suitable for in-person learning.
- Erin Perry asks Dr. Zhou to talk a little more about progress or discussions that may have occurred to assist working parents. Kerri notes that there has been talk of partnering with the YMCA which is currently our after school care provider. As part of the survey to parents, we will be asking parents about their childcare needs. BES Principal Carpenito follows up on this. Kerri notes that the YMCA will provide vouchers for families with financial issues.
- Emily Berry ask if there has been any discussion on how teachers will assess students when they return to either the remote or hybrid model. Dr. Zhou talks about the program we piloted last year, Imagine

Learning, which has an assessment capability. We will be using this feature this year as soon as school begins. Assistant Superintendent Melissa Ryan talks about the discussions that are ongoing with the curriculum directors and principals regarding an assessment schedule. She states that they are working with the grade span schools to set up these assessments. In addition to Imagine Learning, there is ARC, a reading program, and MTSS a social emotional tool which is already a part of our curriculum. Emily asks if teachers will have to go back and teach what students may have missed in the spring. Mrs. Ryan responds and says that when testing data is used this way it would inform the instruction. Melissa expects that there may be adjustments made to the standards in the future to provide for this.

- Paul McMaster commends the staff for the work involved. He asks when the metrics are decided and the decision is made to move from remote to hybrid is it just the school administration that makes these decisions or would it include town officials and how transparent will this process be. Dr. Zhou answers that the Steering Committee has members from the School Committee, the Aassociation, the administrative team and town officials. We will develop our metrics but metrics are also being developed at the State level.
- Erin asks if we have reached out or engaged with students to get their feedback. Kerri states that some students did join the parent focus groups and that we are anticipating having student focus groups.

- Chat questions:
  - When the district transitions to hybrid will we have the option to keep our kids strictly remote? Kerri states that on the survey that will be sent out, parents will be asked which model they prefer for their student's learning. She notes that for the first half of the year, if your choice is remote only, you will not be able to switch to the hybrid model as schedules etc. would have already been decided.
  - Is the expectation that students will be online 7 hours a day? The quick answer is no, after all the research and learning involved, it is not best practice to have a student in front of a computer for that many hours. She notes that there will be a portion of the school day that will be live interactions.
  - Will students who are not being bused be in classrooms with students that are not being bused? Kerri states that this has not been a consideration yet.
  - Can you clarify what grades would qualify for the 2nd wave of hybrid learning and when will we know this. At this time, we can not answer who will be in what waves. To clarify, our high needs and younger students would be the priority in the first selection.
  - When students are in their remote week would the learning be from the same teacher or will it be someone else? Kerri states that we are hiring teachers to be remote learning teachers. There will also be a set of teachers that would support that remote learning. There will be more discussion on this and will be put out to parents in more detail.
  - Will parents be getting a Q & A by email? Parents can submit questions by email and there will also be a forum along with an FAQ that may answer a lot of parent questions.
  - What will a day of school in a classroom look like for a 6th grader? Will a student stay in a classroom the whole day in the hybrid model? In addition, what about recess and lunch?
    - BMS Principal Christine Borning states that students will be in their primary classroom for most of the day. Students will have some opportunity to be out of the classroom. There will be a full offering of specials.
    - Intermediate School Principal Jane Norton states that the Intermediate school will look a lot like the middle school scheduling. The regular school day would include mask breaks and specialists would go into the classroom. There will be some movement during the day.
    - Principal Liz Carpenito states that because of the much younger students they are considering sectioning off parts of the Bournedale school and designate them by grade level.
    - Principal Amy Cetner states that at the High School things will be different. She expects longer blocks to limit the transitioning of students to the next class. She gives examples of what a student's day would look like.

- How will grading look this time, pass/fail or actual grades? Mrs. Ryan states that at the start of the school year the expectation is that they will be graded based on the traditional grading system. Report card grades and expectations will be very similar to what was traditionally experienced in years prior.
- Will teachers be teaching both in-person and remotely at the same time? Teachers will not "engage" with students both in class and remotely. More information to follow on this.
- When we are in a hybrid model, will high needs student be prioritized for full in-person learning? Director of Special Education Craig Davison states that they are currently working out what this would look like within our schools. The plan is for them to return to a full in-person model regardless of cohort group.
- If you have multiple children at different schools can we request that they go different weeks? Yes, that is part of the parent survey that will be sent out.
- Has there been any discussion about extra-curriculars for the Middle and High schools? Mrs. Cetner states that there has been no change with the MIAA guidelines. Assistant Principal Ken Girourd is a member of the COVID-19 MIAA Committee and is working with other professionals. She notes that there are many clubs and activities that were remote in the spring and will continue to offer students these opportunities.
- With the mention of students having 2-4 connections with staff daily, what repercussions do families face if they are not able to attend those meetings? Dr. Zhou says there will be discussions with families to address this if there is an issue with them not attending. It is important to note that the Dept of Ed has put new requirements on us and these in-person remote meetings would be how we take attendance per our attendance policies.
- If a student's assessment data shows them to be one grade level behind, will they be instructed at that grade level? Kerri states that we would not be holding them back but would provide all the supports necessary. Melissa Ryan states that we will always provide students instruction at the level that they need. She states that she doesn't believe students have lost a year of instruction. We will be responding to each individual's needs.
- Will teachers be teaching with supplies such as paper and pencil for in-person learning students or will everything be done on the Chromebooks?
    - Mrs. Carpenito talks about binders that will be created for the younger students whether they are remote or in-person learning. Binders will be sent home with students to have for their remote setting. Kerri states that there will be hands-on instruction available. Emily Berry asks since we are starting remote will each student get a binder and how would it be distributed. Mrs. Carpenito states once we know the timeline and schedules, materials will be available for students whether parents pick them up or mailed to families.
    - Mrs. Cetner thanks the work the teachers have done over the summer. They have worked continuously to get tool kits with course work, etc. to students to continue their learning and course work.
- What is the strategy to getting students who struggle with remote learning or had a negative experience to re-engage? Dr. Zhou says responding to feedback in order re-engage students. She believes it is imperative to move to a hybrid model as soon as possible as some students really struggle with remote learning.
- With online learning sessions being planned with twins in mind and will be in separate classes, overlap will be difficult especially with elementary age students. Kerri states that they will be working with families directly. There will be a similar learning experience but individualized learning with students.
- How much time per day should caregivers plan to spend facilitating or overseeing their child's learning engagement?
    - Principal Borning at the Middle School says that they are still working on scheduling. They are looking at connection points with teachers and hope that students will have some independence in their remote learning. She states there will be at least 3 classes that students must log in and engage with their teacher.
    - Principal Norton believes that this is our second try at remote learning and that we have learned a lot from the spring and the hope is that we would be better positioned this school year.

- Melissa Ryan states that all students are required to engage in a certain amount of hours. The Dept of Ed and the Commissioner have been very clear on the required hours of learning. The key to this is communication with students and their families. Melissa notes that one thing they will not be able to do is have the traditional Back to School nights.

- Have you been able to obtain clear masks to help with communications when students return? Yes, thank you Jordan and the administrative team.
- Can you clarify what number of touch points to all students that teachers need to be held to in a remote learning scenario? Not at this time.
- Will teachers be teaching remotely from home or their classrooms? It would be the best to work from their classroom for better collaboration but it is being worked through at this time.
- How do we let you know our preference for remote, hybrid or in-person for our child? A survery will be available Friday or Monday for parents to complete; a parent forum will be scheduled also.
- Will Middle and High School students ride the same bus? Jordan Geist says they will continue to collect information from the survey in order to anticipate ridership.
- Mr. Davidson notes that not all students will qualify as high needs on their IEPs. There are strict guidelines on who can qualify for high needs which will be in the documentation which will be released to families. Any questions can be emailed to him directly or to the student service directors.
- What are the quantine guidelines for students, staff and others if they test positive for COVID-19? Jordan Geist has placed the guidelines on the website. There are ten different complete scenarios covering what happens when a staff member or student is positive. He gives a quick answer on the different scenarios but stresses that it is very descriptive.
- What will the beginning of the school year look like? The Commissioner has stated that we must begin in a remote model, then transition our high needs students to in-person learning, then within a certain time frame move into a hybrid model.
- Will children be assigned a cohort? The plan is to assign an equitable cohort with their peers.
- Will there be staggered start times for BES and BIS? We are anticipating staggered start times due to transportation and parent drop off.

Paul McMaster motions to begin the school year on September 16,2020 and within an 8 week period move to a hybrid model; Seconded by Maureen Fuller; Roll call vote 7-0-0

Dr. Zhou advised the public that BPS is exceeding all safety guidelines from the State.

2. School Committee Reorganization

(a) Nominations for officers

- Chair Hyldburg asks Dr. Zhou to begin nominations.

Chair Hyldburg motions to nominate Emily Berry as Chair of the SC; seconded by Maureen Fuller;
Roll call vote: 7-0-0

Maureen Fuller motions to nominate Paul McMaster as Vice-Chair of the SC; seconded by Chris Hyldburg;
Roll call vote: 7-0-0

Maureen Fuller to nominate Erin Perry to Secretary to the SC; seconded by Paul McMaster;
Roll call vote: 7-0-0

(b) Sub-Committee organizations

- Chair Emily Berry begins nominations.

Facilities and Buildings: Chris Hyldburg, Steven Strojny
Curriculum: Ryan Bagdonas, Paul McMaster, Emily Berry
Policy: Erin Perry, Maureen Fuller
Cape Cod Collaborative: Maureen Fuller
SWAC: Ryan Bagdonas

Next meeting scheduled for an August 12th workshop – public meeting, place to be determined
Next regular meeting is September 2nd – remote meeting at 6:30 pm

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Motion to adjourn: Chris Hyldburg motions to adjourn; seconded by Paul McMaster; Roll call vote: 7-0-0

Meeting ended at 8:46 PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Teresa Vicente
Recording Secretary

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

Agenda Item	Document
0	Agenda
1	Feasibility Study for Reopening School