Bourne Public Schools

BOURNE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, November 3, 2021
TIME: 6:30 PM
PLACE: Bourne High School Media Center

ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Emily Berry; Erin Perry; Steven Strojny; Kari MacRae; Maureen Fuller; Ryan Bagdonas; Student Representative Viveca Stucke

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul McMaster

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT: Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent; Dr. Ryan Place, Director of Special Education and Student Services

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG

All stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. PUBLIC INPUT

Francis Chicowski, of Pocasset, makes a public comment regarding the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. Mr. Chicowski defines each term. He states that Diversity is racist because it is a system that offers opportunities based solely on race and that he prefers non-discriminatory selection methods. He states that Equality is Marxist as it is a system that endeavors to create equal outcomes instead of equal opportunities. He says that Inclusion sounds good as long as no one else's opportunities are limited. Mr. Chicowski states that entering an agreement with the Leadership Academy which

supplies the committee with direction, materials and support, removes constituents from the equation. He states that public relations is a 2 way street where officials are elected and do the voters bidding while keeping them informed. He goes on to state that John Guilfoil Public Relations promises to take the pressure off you, offering publicity and public speech writing, and you will no longer be pestered by constituents. Mr. Chicowski states that we want our education system back and that there should be a way to get clarity as to what you're doing and allow the constituents to decide what our children should be taught.

Kai Chen of Sagamore, a senior at Bourne High School, comments that he understands little of the situation but wants to provide his perspective and that central to this debate is the idea of what critical race theory is and many are concerned that it may ruin the education system and school system as we know it. Mr. Chen states that he does not feel it should be controversial to say that racism can be institutionalized and that it only makes sense that if individuals can be prejudiced within the political systems we create, that the institutions we create will have biases and imbalances that reflect those we have as people. Mr. Chen says that the Bourne population is overwhelmingly white and at times that can make us susceptible to biases and create an insular community in which we don't get exposed to diverse voices. He says that since we do not have a very large concentration of minority students at the school, if we want to create a school environment where we are respectful and accepting of others' experiences, we need to accept history as it is. Mr. Chen says that speaking from the perspective of one of very few non-white students in the school, he welcomes more discussion about the impacts of racism at an indiviaual and institional level, an accurate description of our American history, the real impacts of slavery, racial biases within laws like redlining and Jim Crow, and unequal economic opportunities with our educational system.

4. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

a. PRESENTATION, Green Communities Energy Reduction Plan (full plan)

- Carl Georgeson of the Selectmen's Energy Advisory Committee presents the Green Communities Energy Reduction Plan, part of an initiative to get Bourne designated as a green community. Mr. Georgeson says that there are currently 280 green communities in Massachusetts and that Bourne would like to become a member of the club which would allow the town to apply for green community funding. He says that once the application is approved the town will get a grant of $170k and will be able to apply for additional funding every year after that. Mr. Georgeson outlines the requirements to become a green community and explains the Energy Reduction Plan for Bourne. He says the school uses about 13.8% of total electricity and 35.5% of the total natural gas in the town and that they have identified a total of 65 projects that can be done to reduce energy with 6 that directly impact the schools with an energy savings of 8.5%.

Maureen Fuller motions to approve Bourne's Energy Reduction Plan; Seconded by Erin Perry

- Maureen Fuller asks when the application needs to be in and Mr. Georgeson says it needs to be in by the end of the year or they will need to wait another 6 months
- Ryan Bagdonas asks if there is a plan for specific steps that need to be taken to reach the 20%. Mr. Georgeson says the specific projects are listed on pages 21-23 of the Plan.
- Kari McRae asks if there is a way we can figure out why the newest school is the one consuming the most energy. Mr. Georgeson says they don't understand that and a full energy audit hasn't been done on the school. Margaret Song of Cape Light Compact says one of things that may be impacting this is increased ventilation and they would recommend doing a retro commissioning in the future but at this point health is number one and we can look at efficiency at a later date.
- Dr. Zhou says that the administration has not reviewed this full plan and asks whether, after a passing vote, the specific projects are locked in as listed or are we just agreeing to reach the 20%. Margaret Song answers that this does not lock in every specific project on the list, it's just showing a pathway to do that.
- Chair Berry says the vote will be tabled until the December meeting so the administration has a chance to look at the specific list.

b. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT, *Emily Berry, School Committee Chair*

- Chair Berry mentions a change to the agenda. She says she has asked Dr. Zhou to wait on her Superintendent Goals until the December meeting due to the full committee not being present as well as the addition of the Green Community presentation.
- Correspondence & Announcements
    - Chair Berry states that the role of the school committee is to provide the public with accurate information regarding what is happening in our schools. She says that as it has been stated in the past by the committee as well as the professional development vendor, critical race theory is not taught in Bourne schools as it is not intended or appropriate for the K-12 curriculum. She states the Culturally Responsive Practice Leadership Academy is being presented through the Massachusetts DESE and Blackprint Inc, is a state-approved consultant to the Dept of Education offers a wide array of topics and, similar to choosing appropriate text books, the only best topics for the K-12 district will be used. She says issues of Diversity, Equity and Inclusions are complex and the phrase Critical Race Theory is applied incorrectly as a way to generalize important learning topics and diminish their importance. Mrs. Berry states that this is a reckless and narrow practice which only seeks to divide us.
    - Chair Berry reads a Statement from DESE regarding accurate information on the Culturally Responsive Practice Leadership Academy.
    - Dr. Zhou clarifies that the district team is made up of only administrators and they are currently involved in 5 other academies through DESE as well. She says that the team has done 2 sessions so far and it has been high quality.
    - Chair Berry says that the Mass Association of School Committees Joint Conference is currently taking place through Saturday and she, Maureen, Ryan, Kari and Dr. Zhou are attending. She says they will report back on some of the sessions they participate in.

c. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT, *Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent of Schools*

- De-Brief on Storm Closure
  - Dr. Zhou says they did not expect a 3 day closure but there was a lot of clean up to do and she was glad to be able to open Wednesday for sporting events and students were thankful to be able to get the full season in. Dr. Zhou thanks DPW, custodians, maintenance, and first responders for all their efforts.
- Budget, Facilities and Performance Contracting Update
  - Dr. Zhou says performance contracting is still on track and they have put out an RFQ, a very formal specific process. She says they have a small committee of school and town folks reviewing 4 qualifying proposals, about 135 pages each, using a very detailed rubric to decide which group we're interested in. She says that after a proposal is accepted the company will come in and do a full energy audit of all municipal and school buildings and the committee will decide which projects to do. Dr. Zhou states that if we go forward in funding these projects it is guaranteed that the energy savings will offset what is spent on the capital improvements. She says they hope to meet to be ready by Spring town meeting with the goal of having some of the work done over the summer.
  - Dr. Zhou reports that they are already in the budget planning process and are still on target currently having building level meetings to see what needs are. She says we are in a good position this year with grants but wants to make sure these grants last and that we build sustainable systems.
  - Ryan Bagdonas says that she felt a little taken aback by the Green Communities presentation and that it would be great to hear from administration on that at the December meeting.
- COVID Testing Program Update
  - Dr. Place reports that 83 tests have been administered to students and staff through the Test and Stay and symptomatic program and there have been no positives from those tests. He says 23 students and 4 staff have tested positive so far this year but none have been through in-school transmission.
  - Chair Berry comments that she experienced the program with her own child and was impressed with how efficient the program is and acknowledges the great work of everyone involved.

d. Presentation - Program Spotlight: Bourne HS Innovation Pathways

- Ann-Marie Strode presents on the BHS Innovation Pathways that will be implemented next year. She says Innovation Pathways are paths that students can take that incorporate 5 elements: open to all students, specific coursework, enhanced student support, internship opportunities, and community partnerships. She says that the 2 pathways that will be offered are Business & Finance and Environmental & Life Sciences. Mrs. Strode explains the pathways were chosen by looking at current programming, what students' interests are and where they're headed after high school.
- Chair Berry asks when the program will be off and running. Mrs. Strode says her hope is they will have designation by the Spring and be able to implement the program in the Fall. Mrs. Berry asks if there are students that are ready to go once it is implemented. Mrs. Strode answers that there are Sophomores in her career readiness class that would be candidates.
- Dr. Zhou adds that Innovation Pathways is the newest iteration from the Dept. of Education to have hands-on college and career readiness and other districts have started to implement programs that are very solid. She says there are similarities to vocational schools but they are not in competition with each other.

- Mrs. Strode says that in selecting these pathways they focused on the high needs sectors of the blue economy.

e. Presentation - School Spotlight: Bournedale Elementary

- Liz Carpenito presents the Bournedale Elementary School Spotlight and talks about the WIN block. She explains that the WIN block provides flexible, targeted options to fit students' needs at their instructional level by placing students in groups to work on gaps in skills or areas of interest. She says groups are identified by benchmark data, teacher input, formative and informative assessment and adjustments can be made immediately for students placed in a group that seems too easy or too difficult. Mrs. Carpenito presents pictures and videos of some student groups and shares positive feedback from parent emails.

f. Presentation - Superintendent's Goals - WILL MOVE TO DECEMBER MEETING

g. School Committee Sub Committee & District Committee Reports

- Student Advisory
  - Vivica Stucke presents an update on pep rally and spirit week. She says these events offered a big sense of normalcy and were a great display of school spirit. Viveca presents pictures of the different themes of spirit week and the pep rally. She says the events were very successful and having the pep rally outdoors made it more of a carefree environment.
- Curriculum Sub-Comm.
  - Ryan Bagdonas says the Curriculum sub touched again on the major resource teams. She says there is a small team of elementary math teachers looking at a resource for elementary math. She says the middle school is also going to look at an anchor resource for ELA which Dr. Starckie said is something that has been missing for them. Ryan says they also discussed the status of WIN at each school and that, at the high school level WIN scheduling issues are being worked out.
- Policy Sub Committee
  - Erin Perry updates the committee on the Policy Sub meeting on 10/19. She says they reviewed all 9 resolutions of the the Mass Association of School Committees proposed resolution and had some questions on resolution #1 but otherwise agreed they were comfortable recommending the SC vote in favor of resolutions 2-9. She says they also discussed policies BEDH and BEHD-E, policies regarding public participation at school committee meetings and will continue that discussion at a future meeting noting that there is some conflict between the 2 policies and are looking at other policies in other communities. Mrs. Perry says they also continued discussion on the CHRI recommended policy and that Dr. Zhou is doing research on the appropriate way to incorporate it and it will likely be incorporated into policy on cori requirements ADDA. She says they continued discussions on job descriptions, specifically shared positions and Dr. Zhou is continuing this discussion with the town and will most likely wait until a new town administrator is on board.
- SEPAC
  - Dr. Place says they have a meeting coming up on 11/15 and they will have a student speaker presenting on his journey with special education.

h. Other announcements

- Dr. Zhou announced that the production of Alice in Wonderful is coming up at the high school on 11/12-14. Mrs. Cetner advises ordering tickets in advance and also announces there is transition event coming up for grades 7 and 8 to come to the high school and go through 8 workshop-style activities with high school students and staff to get some hands-on experience learning about the high school with an opportunity in the evening to come back with caregivers to share those opportunities with them.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

a. Discussion on proposed change to 21-22 calendar
   - Dr. Zhou explains that because of the storm canceling an early release day they would like to add an early release day for 11/17 allowing them to get all but one of the previously scheduled presenters back for professional development.

Steve Strojny motions to modify the calendar to add an 11/17 early release day; Seconded by Ryan Bagdonas; Voice vote passes 7-0-0

b. Discussion on MASC Resolutions [these resolutions linked in the agenda aren't the resolutions being discussed- is there a link to the correct resolutions?]
   - *Resolution 1: Dedicated Funding for School-Based Clinics and Services*. Erin Perry reads the resolution. She says this is the resolution the policy subcommittee had some questions on. She explains that the main question is what is the source of funding and whether our school district is responsible for funding. Maureen Fuller says she reached out to get answers to the questions but hasn't heard back. She notes that this might be good for the Framingham school district, the sponsor of the resolution, but it may not be suitable for our small district. Ryan Bagdonas says she feels that the resolution is not clear and if they are asking the state to establish dedicated funding, in a district like Bourne that the money could be spent in better ways. Steve Strojny says he gets nervous about funding programs with grants because when the grants run out the burden is on the district and he can't support this as it is not an appropriate proposal for our district.

Steve Strojny motions to table Resolution #1; Kari MacRae seconds

Maureen Fuller asks whether she, as the delegate, should even go to the conference and place a vote if the resolutions are tabled. Mr. Strojny goes on to say that he does not support any of these resolutions and does not feel that MASC should be lobbyists for our district. He says the MASC expects the schools to do more and more and he is not sure that's a great idea. He explains it is his intention to table all the resolutions in which case Mrs. Fuller should not attend the conference to vote. Mrs. Fuller asks if MASC is not lobbying for us then who is. Mr. Strojny explains that the district should advocate for Bourne's needs with state representatives and they should lobby on our behalf. Chair Berry asks whether in previous years the resolutions have been disregarded. She says there are important resolutions such as wifi for all that should not be disregarded. Mrs. Fuller states that she would rather vote no on the resolution than do nothing. Ryan Bagdonas agrees.

Steve Strojny withdraws his motion to table to the resolution; Kari MacRae withdraws her second
Steve Strojny motions to vote no on Resolution #1; Kari MacRae seconds; motions passes 7-0-0

- *Resolution 2: Homework Gap and Wi-Fi/Internet Access*. Erin Perry reads the resolution. There is no discussion on the resolution

Maureen Fuller motions to vote yes on Resolution #2; Erin Perry seconds; motions passes 6-1-0 with Kari MacRae opposing

- *Resolution 3: IDEA Full Funding Act.* Erin Perry reads the resolution. Chair Berry asks to clarify that they just want the full IDEA funding that is supposed to already be in place. Maureen Fuller says that is correct and Dr. Place adds that this would take a significant burden off our district. Kari MacRae asks whether they are trying to get IDEA to do what they said they were going to do. Dr. Place says it's also asking them to recognize the significant cost, especially going forward the next few years with the amount of students who are going to need the services. Maureen Fuller says this resolution instructs the Mass delegation to reintroduce it to Congress.

Ryan Bagdonas motions to vote yes on Resolution #3; Steve Strojny seconds; motions passes 7-0-0

- *Resolution 4: Recess.* Erin Perry reads the resolution. Ryan Bagdonas asks to confirm that the elementary students already have 20 minutes of recess. Dr. Zhou clarifies that they do but currently recess can not count towards structured learning time and this resolution will allow recess to be included in the 900 hours of required structured learning time.

Maureen Fuller motions to accept Resolution #4; Ryan Bagdonas seconds; motions passes 7-0-0

- *Resolution 5: Zero-Tolerance Policies.* Erin Perry reads the resolution. Steve Stronjy says he has a problem with this resolution because he feels discipline should be administered at the district level. He says this resolution dumps too much on the district and Bourne doesn't have the issues this resolution was designed to confront and it does nothing for us. Ryan Bagdonas asks to hear what the Policy Committee discussed on this resolution. Erin Perry answers that they came to the conclusion that Bourne does this anyway so they weren't uncomfortable with it since it won't result in changes in our district. Mrs. Perry explains that she would be more comfortable tabling this resolution than coming out against it. Maureen Fuller remarks that she is more comfortable with the resolution because it states "whenever possible" as sometimes students do need to be removed from the classroom but that sometimes it's done too quickly. Chair Berry says she agrees with Mr. Strojny that discipline should take place at the district level and the district sets the policy for behavior. Dr. Zhou agrees that this would not affect our district but says that a zero tolerance policy is not a good idea although she can see where they're going with it.

Steve Strojny motions to table Resolution #5; Kari MacRae seconds; motion passes 6-1-0 with Maureen Fuller opposing

- Maureen Fuller comments that she thinks they should be voting for or against the resolutions. She says she doesn't mind casting a vote for or against a resolution but would rather be able to cast a vote.

- *Resolution 6: Alternative to MCAS.* Erin Perry reads the resolution. Chair Berry states that this is a vote to analyze alternatives to the MCAS and she doesn't see anything wrong with allowing that. Kari MacRae asks to clarify whether this bill is really only to analyze options and that nothing else is intertwined. Ryan Bagadonas confirms.

Ryan Bagdonas motions to approve Resolution #6; Maureen Fuller seconds; motions passes 5-2-0 with Steve Strojny and Kari MacRae opposing

- *Resolution 7: School Committees and Receivership.* Erin Perry reads the resolution. Chair Berry says she doesn't understand what exactly they are asking for on this one. Steve Strojny explains that when a district is in such financial disarray that the state has to take over, a school committee is stripped of their authority and this resolution allows the school committee to maintain their authority. He says this doesn't make any sense since if a district goes into receivership the school committee is not doing their job and is substantially responsible for receivership. Dr. Zhou adds that there are 2 types of receivership, financial receivership and academic receivership and she believes the latter is more of what they're getting at but there isn't total clarity. Ryan Bagdonas says it's tough to say which side she falls on without seeing data on the outcomes of receiverships. Steve Strojny reads over the law which outlines a turnaround plan. He says he doesn't understand why they say there is no clear path out of receivership. He comments he doesn't think it's for our district to support this.

Steve Strojny motions to table Resolution #7; Kari MacRae seconds; motion passes 6-1-0 with Maureen Fuller opposing

- *Resolution 8: Electric School Buses.* Erin Perry reads the resolution. Steve Strojny says he opposes this just on the grounds of having MASC act as our lobbyist in Congress.

Ryan Bagdonas motions to approve Resolution #8; Erin Perry seconds; motions passes 5-2-0 with Steve Strojny and Kari MacRae opposing

- *Resolution 9: Prohibiting the Use of Native American Mascots.* Erin Perry reads the resolution. There is no discussion on the resolution.

Ryan Bagdonas motions to approve Resolution #9; Maureen Fuller seconds; motions passes 5-2-0 with Steve Strojny and Kari MacRae opposing

6. ACTION ITEMS

d. Vote to approve Warrants and Payroll

Steve Strojny motions to approve Warrants and Payroll; Kari MacRae seconds; motion passes 7-0-0

7. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There is no discussion on future agenda items.

8. ADJOURN-*STEVE STROJNY MOTIONS TO ADJOURN; ERIN PERRY SECONDS; MOTION APPROVED 7-0-0*

Meeting ended at 8:20 PM

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

Agenda Item	Document
0	School Committee Agenda
4a.	Green Communities Energy Reduction Plan
4b.	Statement from DESE
4d.	Innovation Pathways
4e.	Bournedale Elementary
4g.	Student Advisory
5b.	MASC Resolutions

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jessica Moerman
Recording Secretary