Bourne Public Schools

BOURNE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Regular Meeting Minutes

DATE: March 5, 2025
TIME: 6:30PM Regular Session
PLACE: Bourne High School Media Center, 75 Waterhouse Rd., Bourne, MA

ATTENDANCE

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Emily Berry; Donel Beals; Maureen Fuller; Kendellynn Gagne; Kari MacRae; Kerrie Scofield; Student Representative Zoe Noonan

SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT: Student Representative Addison Dion; Kathleen Quintal

OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT: Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent; Dr. Barbara Starkie, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching; Jordan Geist, Director of Business Services; Kristin Donahue, Director of Special Education and Student Services; Chris Oliver, Director of Technology

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. NATIONAL ANTHEM

Students from throughout the Bourne Public Schools sing the National Anthem.

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Francis Cichowski of Pocasset states that DEI is the cornerstone of a road leading to communism and those building this road are intent on destroying our families and the future generation of all Americans. He calls for an end to the madness and asks the school committee to join the majority in the country by following the President's demand to dump DEI, return to the values of our founders, and use funds for curriculum enhancements.

Kristen Brissette of Sagamore Beach, a journalist for The Boston Broadside, says she has emailed the chair and the superintendent but has not received a response and is hoping to receive one tonight. She asks if the committee has thought of the impact on the students and whether there is a plan going forward if federal funding is lost by not complying with the President's executive order to eliminate all DEI initiatives as Governor Healy and District Attorney Campbell have directed.

Michael Fraser, a part time resident of Bourne from Jefferson, NH, states that he has brought someone from the federal government to ensure he isn't locked up as was attempted last time he spoke at a meeting. He says the DEI narrative is in your face when walking into the school library and everywhere in schools. He adds that as a student he accepted gay peers even though sometimes there was harassment and that back then kids kept things private and had their own lives. He says these days doctors are brought in to tell teachers what to teach and push narratives and if they don't, union thugs will come after the teachers because they're afraid to speak out. Mr. Fraser says to let kids be kids and if they seek knowledge to let them do that on their own with no pressure from the committee. He states that he can now leave without anyone trying to put cuffs on him because he has a federal marshal outside to make sure his rights aren't violated.

Chair Berry clarifies that harrassment by any student is never accepted in Bourne schools.

5. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

- **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT,** *Emily Berry, School Committee Chair*
    - Correspondence- Chair Berry shares an email from Jason Fraser, chair of the Plympton School Committee and President and Legislative Chair of MASC, inviting her to join other school committee chairs to meet with State Representatives Fernandez and LaNatra to discuss budgetary stressors from this school year. She will be meeting with the group and will gather information from the committee on anything in particular that she should bring up at the meeting.
- **STUDENT SPOTLIGHT** - Exploring Science at BHS and Youth Art & Theatre Month- Zoe Noonan shares a presentation highlighting student achievements and activities at BHS and throughout the district including:
    - BHS Science Discovery Program: Ms. Noonan says BHS students went on an overnight field trip to the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole in February. She introduces BHS science teacher Jeff Farrington and students Caden Dougherty, Melanie Luecke, Skylar, Madelyn Rossignol, and Claire Koosa to share their experiences on the trip where they participated in activities such as dissections, exploring rare books, touring a frog breeding lab, setting up tanks, and drawing blood from a horseshoe crab.

- Youth Art & Theatre Month: Ms. Noonan shares that March is recognized as Youth Art Month, Youth Theatre Month, and Music in Our Schools Month and Dr. Zhou and Chair Berry present certificates to students that have been recognized for outstanding achievements at the METG Drama Festival, All Eastern Honors Ensemble, All Cape and Island Music Festival, MMEA Southeast District Senior and Junior Music Festivals, and New England Honor Band. Dr. Zhou recognizes the theater, music, and arts teachers for their commitment and dedication and says the number of honors received speaks to the quality of the programs and the quality of the students.

- **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT,** *Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent of Schools*
  - Special Topics including:
    - Strategic Planning Progress and next steps including Enrollment/facilities Long Range Master Plan- Dr. Zhou presents a strategic planning update. She shares methods used to gather input and form a Strategic Planning Steering Committee and says that the new five-year strategic plan will be presented next month for approval by the school committee. She asks for approval to conduct a comprehensive audit of facilities by the NESDEC called a "Best Educational Use of School Facilities Study" after which they would host a community forum to discuss the research. Dr. Zhou outlines enrollment considerations related to strategic planning including lower birth rates and housing challenges but adds that enrollment trends are expected to reverse. She shares the process for 8th grade enrollment and opportunities for students to explore BHS. Chair Berry speaks as a parent of students in the district and says she's proud of how much thought and time is put into this process because these are big decisions that are going to affect children across the district including those not even in school yet.
    - Dr. Maguire shares a presentation about BHS saying, if you haven't seen BHS lately, you haven't seen BHS. She shares news about improved MCAS scores, new advanced science equipment (MRI, CAT scan imaging, anatomy tablets) and technology spaces, clubs, competitive sports teams and arts programs, early college program with MMA, growing Innovation Pathway options, and strong school culture.
  - Teaching and Learning Update- Dr. Starkie says the March 21st early release professional development plans include elementary teachers meeting with Lori Cooney, a local AI guru, and secondary teachers meeting collaboratively on lesson plan development or doing curriculum mapping. She shares that summer enrichment will consist of 2 or 4 week courses running July 7-31 and programs will include kindergarten readiness, wellness, summer science, BIS Book Explorers, BMS and BHS musical theater, acting, and band workshops. She says phase one of Tiered Focus Monitoring for the EL program is complete and BPS fared well with this audit. She adds that phase one of Tiered Focus Monitoring for Title One is also complete and they are awaiting news on that audit. Donel Beals asks if scholarships are available for the summer enrichment programs and Dr. Starkie says they are not at this time but knows of local agencies that may be able to support students and interested parents can email her directly.
  - Student Services and Special Education Update-Kristin Donovan says the district has been exploring options for a new district physician and shares Dr. Carolyn Buckley as their recommendation for the position.

- Technology Update-Chris Oliver says he has heard the frustration and concerns of parents and caregiver about communication in the district and is happy to report they have signed a contract with ParentSquare which will serve as a one-stop shop from all district, school, and classroom communications. He hopes to soft launch the program in the spring and a have a full roll out at the beginning of the next school year.
- Budget and Facilities Update-Jordan Geist reports that the BMS chiller contract is out to bid, the sub contracts for the electrical came in earlier this week, and general contractor bids are due next week. He says he hopes to be able to ask for a vote to award the contract at the April meeting. He says the statement of interest for the BMS roof is complete and will be all set to go before the 3/25 due date. He adds that he will report on Q3 expenditures at the April meeting.
- Announcements & Correspondence:
  - Events: Calendar of Events; Live district calendar
  - Upcoming and Past Events Report
    - BHS-Christine Borning shares events happening at BHS including: Spring Meet the Coach Night, Best Buddies Spirit Week, Credit For Life for juniors, and Grade 10 MCAS
    - BMS-Mrs. Borning highlights BMS events including: Student vs. Staff basketball game, Cape Cod Junior Band workshop, Read Across America, Q2 B2B/Honor Roll student recognition event, Nature's Classroom Bingo Night, March Madness, and College and Career Connecting Learning events.
    - BIS-Dr. Starkie highlights events happening at BIS including: Read Across America Week, One Book One School events, Rock Your Socks Day, STEAMposium, and PTA Beach Party Dance.
    - BES-Dr. Starkie shares events taking place at BES including: World Downs Syndrome Rock Your Socks Day, Read Across America Week, PTA Family Fun Night with DJ Ooch, Q2 report cards, Irish step dancing performance, and Mad Scientist assembly.

- **SCHOOL COMMITTEE SUB COMMITTEE & DISTRICT COMMITTEE REPORTS**
  - Curriculum Sub Committee-Maureen Fuller reports that the subcommittee met yesterday and discussed the results of the Tiered Focus Monitoring and received updates from the Elementary and Secondary Literacy Committees and Math Committee.
  - Policy Sub Committee-Chair Berry says the subcommittee is meeting next week.
  - Budget and Facilities Sub Committee- Maureen Fuller says the subcommittee will be meeting next month.
  - SEPAC- Kerrie Scofield says SEPAC met earlier and talked with members of Best Buddies about the new high school club.
  - Cape Cod Collaborative- Maureen Fuller reports that the Collaborative met twice during February to go over the updated Articles of Agreement.
  - Strategic Planning Steering Committee- Donel Beals says the committee has started honing in on their Mission Statement and they are excited to share more information on the strategic plan at the April meeting.

- District Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee- Dr. Starkie says members of the committee have visited BES and BIS to get ideas from students about how to celebrate the diversity of the community and how to provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for all and they will also be meeting with BMS and BHS in the coming weeks.
- Technology Committee-Chris Oliver says the committee will be meeting on March 20th at 3:45.
- District School Wellness Advisory Committee (SWAC)- Jordan Geist says the next SWAC meeting is scheduled for March 10th.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Discussion on "Dear Colleague" letter dated February 14th and Joint Guidance from the Attorney General and Governor -
  - Chair Berry shares a statement from the school committee, prepared with help from their legal counsel, regarding federal executive orders that could potentially impact public education. She states that at this time the district has not received any new directives from the Massachusetts DESE instructing them to change any policies or procedures and currently there have been no changes to federal or state laws so as of now they will continue to follow Massachusetts state law according to advice provided by legal counsel as well as DESE and Massachusetts Attorney General's Office. She says that federal funds make up approximately 2.6% of the district's budget and while the district does benefit from some federal funding the funds do not come directly from the Department of Education, they are sent to Massachusetts DESE and allocated from there. She adds that the district remains committed to all students and providing a safe, positive, and effective learning environment remains the top priority.
  - Kari MacRae comments that she brought this discussion item to the table as she was seeing a lot in the news about schools potentially losing federal funding and grew concerned knowing they receive a fair chunk of federal money as well as federal grants. She adds that having this conversation was important since many in the community have reached out with the same concern and feel that Massachhusetts could be targeted after multiple lawsuits filed by Maura Healy against the Trump administration. She adds that it's hopefully reassuring to the community to hear that it's just an executive order right now and if it were to become a law the committee would follow whatever the law is. Chair Berry confirms that they are currently following the law and will have to continue to do so if things change, but the number one goal will always be to do what's best for children. Mrs. MacRae agrees and adds that she doesn't think the district has an issue with acceptance and belonging so does not believe the community would be affected if a directive were to come through that changed policies regarding those issues.
- Discussion on the Articles of Agreement for the Cape Cod Collaborative - Patrick Murphy, Business Manager for the Cape Cod Collaborative, explains that the collaborative works with school districts across the region to provide programming, services and professional development to meet the needs of every school districts' teachers and especially to meet the needs of children with severe special needs. He says they have the opportunity to bring Plymouth into the collaborative which has been talked about

for many years. Maureen Fuller adds that the only changes to the Articles of Agreement include adding Plymouth to the list of towns on page 5 as well as any language updates that have automatically been done since the last update. She outlines the timeline of the process and asks for a motion to approve the revised Articles of Agreement.

Kerrie Scofield motions to approve the Articles of Agreement of the Cape Cod Collaborative updated April 2025; Seconded by Kari MacRae; Voice vote passes 7-0-0

- Mr. Murphy thanks the school committee and asks for the Chair's approval signature. Chair Berry congratulates Hope Hascomb and they agree this addition is going to be great for kids across the region.

7. ACTION ITEMS

a. Vote to approve Warrants and Payroll

Kerrie Scofield motions to approve Warrants and Payroll; Seconded by Maureen Fuller; Roll call vote passes 6-0-0 (Student Representative Zoe Noonan not eligible to vote)

b. Vote to approve Dr. Carolyn Saluti as the District Physician for SY 25-26

Kerrie Scofield motions to approve Dr. Carolyn Saluti as District Physician; Seconded by Kendellynn Gagne; Voice vote passes 7-0-0

c. Vote to accept Innovation Pathways Planning Grant for Information/Cyber security Pathway - $35,000

Kerrie Scofield motions to accept the new Innovation Pathways Planning Grant for Information/Cyber security Pathway for $35,000; Seconded by Kari MacRae; Roll call vote passes 7-0-0

8. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

a. Superintendent's Evaluation (April)
b. Strategic Plan (April/May)

9. ADJOURN-*Maureen Fuller motions to adjourn; Seconded by Kendellynn Gagne; Roll call vote passes 7-0-0*

Bourne Public Schools

Regular Session ended at 8:15 PM

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

Agenda Item	Document
0	School Committee Agenda

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Jessica Moerman
Recording Secretary