

Brunswick School Board
MINUTES
Wednesday, November 13, 2019
7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Town Hall
85 Union Street

School Board Members Present: James Grant, Chair; Benjamin Tucker, Vice Chair; Teresa Gillis; Celina Harrison; Mandy Merrill; Joy Prescott; Sarah Singer; Elizabeth Sokoloff

School Board Members Absent: William Thompson; Maddie Wayne and Tyler Patterson, BHS Student Liaisons

Staff Members Present: Paul Perzanoski, Superintendent; Shawn Lambert, Assistant Superintendent; Kelly Wentworth, Business Manager; Heather Blanchard, HBS Principal; Heather Martin, HBS Librarian; Rick Wilson, BHS Teacher; and Brian Pressley, BHS Teacher

Guests: Community members; and members of the press.

Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call

Mr. Grant called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a roll call.

Adjustment to the Agenda

Be sure to use corrected agenda as there will be a HBS library presentation.

Consent Agenda Action

Items on the Consent Agenda passed unanimously without objection.

*84. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of October 9, 2019

Old Business

None

Communications/Correspondence

None

Public Participation

None

Superintendent's Report

- a. Brunswick Community Partner Connections Survey – R. Wilson
Mr. Wilson will be sending out a brief Google survey to locate parents or community member who are interested in providing extended learning opportunities or classroom enhancements for students.
- b. HBS Library Programs – H. Martin
Ms. Martin gave a presentation to the Board on the many wonderful things that happen in the HBS Library.

c. Building and Equipment:

- Brunswick Parks and Recreation – use of schools
- Aspire Program - use of HBS
- Merrymeeting Adult Education – use of BHS
- Girl Scouts of America – use of schools
- Girls on the Run - use of HBS
- Arts Are Elementary – use of Hawthorne
- Gujarati Community – use of HBS
- Stowe Community Group – use of HBS
- Midcoast Maine Basketball – use of BHS
- Town of Brunswick – use of BJHS
- Sage Swingers Square and Round Dance Club – use of BJHS Gym
- Community for Coffin – use of Coffin Cafeteria

d. Resignation

- Meaghan O’Leary, Secretary, BJHS

e. Resignation for the Purpose of Retirement:

- Holly Greene, Grade 5 Teacher (at the end of the school year)

f. New Support Staff

- Newton Silva, ESOL Resource Assistant
- Heather Meehan, ESOL Resource Assistant

g. Business Manager Report – K. Wentworth

The Board members have the October 31st expenditure report. Essential spending only is currently in affect. A listing of the Student Activity Funds that were held by the district as of June 30th was given to the Board members. We are currently working with the various booster groups throughout the district to create their own 501(c)(3) and to manage their own funds.

Ms. Wentworth and Mrs. Caron, the transportation director, have been working together on a second-round grant for two propane buses from the Volkswagen Settlement Grant. Mrs. Caron gave a report on the grant and advantages and cost of propane buses. The cost of a propane bus is approximately \$105,000 and if approved, the reimbursement from the grant would be \$78,120 which would leave a cost to the district of \$26,880 per propane bus. The cost of propane is approximately \$1.05 per gallon versus the cost of diesel which is \$2.42 per gallon and gasoline is \$2.25 per gallon. There is also a possibility that they may reactivate a federal rebate alternative fuel tax credit. If so, we would receive \$0.36 per gallon on used propane for the year which would give us a savings of approximately \$1,200-\$2,500. If we purchase propane buses, Dead River would install a filling facility, an 18,000 gallon tank, for us in Industrial Park and would give us a 3-year fixed price. Cliff Chase from O’Connor Sales (which is where we purchase our buses) reported on the safety of propane buses. He also went over the Total Cost of Ownership report that was given to the Board members.

h. Homeless Population – S. Lambert

In June of last year we had 74 students who qualified as homeless through the McKinney-Vento Act. Of those 74 students, 20 qualified again and are still with us this year; 21 actually found permanent housing in Brunswick so are no longer under McKinney-Vento; 23 withdrew from Brunswick, however there are a few that withdrew but are still attending Brunswick schools under a Superintendent’s Agreement; and 10 graduated. This year we have 69 students who qualify as homeless through the McKinney-Vento Act. There are a couple students on this list who no longer qualify, however once a student qualifies through McKinney-Vento they cannot be taken off the list until all the students are re-evaluated which is usually done here in August.

- i. 2020-21 School Calendar
We have started building the 2020-2021 school calendar. A meeting has been scheduled in December to meet with RSU 5, SAD 75 and Region Ten. Labor Day falls very late in 2020 so it is quite possible that school will begin before Labor Day next year.
- j. Snow Day Analysis
A copy of the snow day analysis from 1996 to present was given to Board members for their information and use.

Board Chair's Report

- a. Student Liaison Report – M. Wayne & T. Patterson
Student liaisons are not present tonight.
- b. Superintendent Search
At this time we have had about 12 people request to be on the search committee. Those applications close on November 22nd and a final decision of the search committee members will be made by early December.

Committee Reports

- a. MSMA Fall Conference and Delegate Assembly Report – W. Thompson / J. Grant
Conference was well attended. Mr. Thompson is absent so delegate assembly report will wait until next meeting.
- b. Budget & Finance Committee – B. Tucker
The committee discussed the budget procedure they would like to follow next year. They received an update on the Kate Furbish School construction. The next meeting will be December 11 at 5:30pm.
- c. Policy & Planning Committee – B. Thompson
Mr. Thompson not present tonight.
- d. Curriculum & Program Development Committee – C. Harrison
The committee reviewed an honors algebra class at the high school. They were given an update on the current K-5 math review. The Curriculum Coordinator is conducting a curriculum audit of all curricula which may take two years to complete.
- e. Student Services Committee – M. Merrill
The committee met on November 6 and received an update on the REAL School from Chris McCarthy. They also received a brief Special Education update. A resource utilization study will be conducted this year to review the district's Special Education programs and services. Their next meeting is scheduled for January 15 at 9:30am.
- f. Elementary School Building Committee – S. Singer
The committee met on November 7. They received a review of construction activities including an update on window testing. They reviewed the contractor's payment requisitions and financial statements; a contingency amount of \$956,037 will be kept for the remainder of the project. The project is 73.36% complete but have only used 18% of the contingency fund at this time. They also received a Discovery Classroom update. The next meeting is December 19 at 6:00pm.
 - 1. Public Art Sub-Committee – E. Sokoloff
The committee met on October 16. The RFQ was sent out looking for art work for the Kate Furbish School. The committee discussed guidelines for assessing the proposals received. As of today we have received four proposals. The next meeting will be November 20 at 6:00pm.

New Business85. Discussion and Possible Action on School Board Compensation

There has been discussion at the Town Council meetings regarding increasing their compensation and the Town Manager asked that the School Board also discuss this. The compensation for both Boards has not been increased in decades, so the Town Council has decided to increase compensation from \$2,000 to \$4,000 for each member, \$4,500 for the Vice Chair, and \$5,000 for the Chairperson. Currently the stipend for School Board members is \$1,500, so the increase for School Board members could be \$3,000 for each member, \$3,500 for the Vice Chair, and \$4,000 for the Chairperson. The Chair and Vice Chair both agree that the Chair and Vice Chair should not receive more than all Board members, they should all receive the same stipend.

Motion that the Board supports an increase in their stipend and will gather more information to present to the Town Council.

Motion: Tucker Second: Merrill Vote: 7-1 (Prescott opposed)

Motion carries.

86. Consideration of Emergency Management Plan

The district currently has an Emergency Management Plan which is approximately 100 pages combined into one document. Mr. Lambert gave a report on the proposed plan which is mostly a change in format. The proposed plan is divided into sections making it easier to use.

Motion to accept the updated Emergency Management Plan.

Motion: Sokoloff Second: Harrison Vote: Unanimous of the Board member present.

87. Consideration of Brunswick Comprehensive 10-Year Plan

The Town will be conducting a comprehensive 10-year plan. The last one was done in 2008 and we had two Board members that did take part.

Does the School Board want to be represented in this process?

By unanimous consent of the Board members present they would like to have Board representation during this process.

As part of the data gathering there was a survey that went out in 2005 and questions that were used then have been included in the Board packet tonight. The Board will have to decide if they want to use the same questions or revise them. A draft of 2019-2029 BSD goals was also given to the Board for their review.

88. Removal of November 27 School Board Workshop

With no objection of Board members present the November 27 School Board Workshop has been removed.

89. Consideration of the Superintendent's Nomination of Teachers for 2019-2020 School Year

Vote to elect the following teachers for the 2019-20 school year:

Ruth Mueller, 0.8 ESOL Teacher

Katherine West, Special Education Teacher, REAL

Motion: Tucker Second: Harrison Vote: Unanimous of the Board members present

Calendar/Announcements

On November 16 the Emergency Action Network is partnering with Big Top Deli and they have generously offered to give all proceeds from that day to benefit TEAN.

Congratulations to Beth Bisson who was elected to represent District 2 on the School Board starting officially in January.

Congratulations to Mandy Merrill and Elizabeth Sokoloff as they were elected for another term on the School Board.

Fundraising meeting will be held tomorrow at Hawthorne at 5:30pm for the parent groups and the arts groups; 6:30pm for the athletic boosters.

Movie sequel to *Screenagers* will be shown on Thursday, December 5th at 7:00pm at BHS

Night of music and jazz will be held on Saturday, December 7th at BHS


BHS Players will perform *Shakespeare in Hollywood* on November 21, 22, and 23 at BHS

Future Agenda Items

None

Adjournment

By unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.



Paul K. Perzanoski, Secretary
Brunswick School Board