

Brunswick School Board  
**MINUTES**  
Wednesday, March 11, 2020  
6:30 p.m.  
Council Chambers  
Town Hall  
85 Union Street

School Board Members Present: Joy Prescott, Vice Chair; Beth Bisson; Teresa Gillis; Celina Harrison; Mandy Merrill; Sarah Singer (arrived 6:35p.m); Elizabeth Sokoloff; William Thompson (arrived 7:00p.m); Maddie Wayne and Tyler Patterson, BHS Student Liaisons

School Board Members Absent: James Grant, Chair

Staff Members Present: Paul Perzanoski, Superintendent; Shawn Lambert, Assistant Superintendent; Kelly Wentworth, Business Manager; Shanna Crofton, Director of Curriculum, Assessment, Instruction, and Professional Development; Troy Henninger, BHS Principal; Tim Gagnon, BHS Assistant Principal; Jeff Ramich, BHS Athletic Director; Mandy Lewis, BJHS Principal; Gabriel Schuft, BJHS Assistant Principal; Heather Blanchard, HBS Principal; Michael Harris, HBS Assistant Principal; Ann Young, Coffin Assistant Principal; Chris McCarthy, REAL School Principal; Scott Smith, Facilities, Grounds, and Food Service Director; Michelle Caron, Transportation Director; Brian Pressley, BHS Teacher; Ashley Albert, BHS Teacher; Michelle Joyce, HBS Teacher; Linda Morris, HBS Nurse; Janet Rivard, Coffin Nurse; Tammy Field, Region 10 Technical High School Bookkeeper; Sue Alexander, Administrative Secretary; and others

Guests: Alyssa Goodwin, MD; Andrea Loeffler, MD; Allen Lampert, Director of Merrymeeting Adult Ed; John Stivers, Region 10 Technical High School Assistant Director; Julia Henze, Finance Director; community members; and members of the press.

**Call to Order/Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call**

Ms. Prescott called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., led the Pledge of Allegiance and asked for a roll call.

**Adjustment to the Agenda**

Move item 21. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Superintendent Search into an executive session for the purpose of negotiation

**Consent Agenda Action**

Items on the Consent Agenda passed unanimously without objection.

\*20. Consideration of Approval of the Minutes of February 12, 2020

Consideration of Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2020

**Presentation by BHS Players**

Cast members Josh Pratt, Rachel Dumont, Molly Palese, Rowan Joyce, Lukas Welzel, Jack Lowell, and Sean Lyne of BHS Players performed a song from the upcoming production of *The Addams Family*.

**Executive Session**

21. Consideration of Executive Session with Possible Action

Vote to enter executive session pursuant to 1 MRSA 405(6) (A) for the purpose of negotiations.

Motion to enter executive session.

Motion: Gillis            Second: Merrill            Vote: Unanimous of the Board members present  
Approved to enter executive session.

The Board entered executive session at 6:38 p.m.  
The Board reconvened in public session at 6:43 p.m.

22. Possible Action from Executive Session

Motion to authorize the Chair to enter into negotiations with a candidate for the Superintendent position in keeping with the terms discussed in executive session.

Motion: Singer            Second: Sokoloff            Vote: Unanimous of the Board members present  
Motion approved.

**Old Business**

Budget Presentations

a. Region Ten Technical High School - Kelly Wentworth

Mrs. Wentworth presented Region Ten Technical High School's 2020-2021 budget. Total overall increase for Brunswick is 2.3%.

b. Merrymeeting Adult Education – Allen Lampert

Merrymeeting Adult Ed Director, Allen Lampert presented their 2020-2021 budget. The budget requests for next year are less than this year due to expenses for scholarships, a driver ed car, and computer upgrades that were completed this year. When Merrymeeting consolidated, the budget share was determined by the 2010 census which was incorporated gradually to 38% coming from Brunswick, 36 % from SAD 75, and 26% from RSU 1.

23. Discussion and Possible Action Regarding Pre-K Program

A presentation was given to the Board regarding the pre-K program and possible program options for next year's public pre-K. We will use an application system with a lottery being considered if more students apply than available slots, and we would include CDS referrals first if we do have to use a lottery system.

With majority consensus from Board members present, the Board supports Brunswick School Department continuing the Early Childhood Council meetings to pursue appropriate future year partnerships with private sector providers to accommodate over-enrollment.

Motion to have two pre-K classes as full day, five days a week; and two pre-K classes as full day, M-W, T-Th, with every other Friday. (serving 90 students)

Motion: Thompson            Second: Singer            Vote: 6-0-2 (Singer and Sokoloff abstained)  
Motion approved.

**Communications/Correspondence**

Board members received correspondence regarding COVID-19, public pre-K, and the Kate Furbish Elementary School mascot.

## Public Participation

Michelle Joyce addressed the Board concerning the impact that the COVID-19 Contingency Plan and social-distancing would have on the BHS Players if they cannot do their show. It would be financially devastating to the program.

## Superintendent's Report

### a. Building and Equipment:

- Brunswick Parks and Recreation – use of schools
- Town of Brunswick – use of BJHS gym
- Portland Symphony Orchestra – use of Crooker Theater
- Aspire Program - use of HBS
- Merrymeeting Adult Education – use of BHS
- Girl Scouts of America – use of schools
- Boy Scouts of America – use of Coffin gym
- Midcoast Literacy - use of HBS
- Arts Are Elementary – use of Hawthorne
- Brunswick Community Education Foundation – use of BJHS Library
- Bath Area Family YMCA – use of BHS Cafeteria
- Miss Maine Scholarship Program – use of HBS
- Brunswick Democratic Town Committee – use of Hawthorne
- BHS Class of 1970 – use of BHS
- Civil Air Patrol – use of BHS

### b. Resignation

- Keri Spaulding, Night Custodian, BJHS, 2½ years of service

Resignation at the end of the 2019-20 school year:

- Elizabeth Bradley, 0.5 Math Teacher, BHS
- Helen Tetu, Nurse, BJHS

Thank them for their service.

### c. New Staff

- Andrea Swain, Ed Tech, BJHS
- Kerry MacDonald, school bus driver

### d. COVID-19 Contingency Planning

A draft of a preliminary contingency plan was given to Board members for their review. The letter will go out to parents tomorrow and discusses what would happen if we had to close schools, including distance learning and providing breakfast and lunch for our free-and-reduced lunch students. There is a recommendation to suspend out-of-state and out-of-country travel plans for school sponsored trips, with in-state trips handled on a case-by-case basis. There is also information to parents if they think their child or family member may have been exposed to the virus. Our nurses and medical advisor met today and are here tonight to answer any questions the Board may have.

Dr. Alyssa Goodwin and Dr. Andrea Loeffler addressed the Board regarding the coronavirus. They emphasized the importance of proper hygiene and social distancing. Their suggestion was to suspend large community gatherings in our schools including rentals of our buildings.

Board members made some suggestions for changes to the letter going out to the community tomorrow.

24. Motion that Brunswick School Department stops all community gatherings in the schools and give the Superintendent the direction to speak with health care providers and apply their recommendations to any upcoming events.

Amended Motion: Brunswick School Department stops all community gatherings in the schools and give the Superintendent the direction to speak with health care providers and apply their recommendations to any upcoming events; and to also restrict gatherings to less than 50 people with the caveat that information is changing daily and empower the Superintendent to change the Board's decision with information.

Motion: Harrison Second: Merrill Vote: Unanimous of the Board members present  
Amended Motion approved.

- e. Budget Report and Further Discussion on 2021 Budget – K. Wentworth

The Board members have the expenditure report through February 29, 2020. We remain in a freeze for the current budget year.

Mrs. Wentworth presented reductions from the proposed budget that was presented at the March 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. All administrative requests on Tier 2 and Tier 3 and \$663,698 from Tier 1 have been removed from the proposed budget, for a total reduction of \$1,595,066. This brings the total proposed budget to \$44,289,160 for a 5.87% tax impact. Included in this figure is the net debt service from Kate Furbish and the BHS track renovation which totals \$1,402,282 and represents 3.05% tax impact. The proposed budget at the next meeting will show a reduction in state subsidy which will reflect the change in the public pre-K model for next year which is for 90 students instead of 120.

A public forum on the 2020-2021 budget is scheduled for March 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. at Town Hall and another special meeting will be held on March 25<sup>th</sup> if needed. The final proposed budget will be presented to the Town Council on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Board Chair's Report**

- a. Student Liaison Report – M. Wayne & T. Patterson  
Tabled

### **Committee Reports**

- a. Policy & Planning Committee – W. Thompson  
Tabled
- b. Personnel & Negotiations Committee – J. Grant  
Tabled
- c. Facilities & Maintenance Committee – S. Singer  
Tabled
- d. Building Committee – S. Singer  
Tabled
- e. Playground Sub-Committee – S. Lambert  
Tabled

**New Business****25. Acceptance of School Revolving Renovation Fund Eligibility Certificates**

Mrs. Wentworth gave a presentation to the Board regarding the State of Maine's School Revolving Renovation School Fund which provides loans to School Departments to finance projects in which a portion of the loan is forgiven with the remaining balance paid back over five years at a zero percent interest rate. We applied for \$915,834 for repairs at Coffin Elementary School and Brunswick Junior High School.

We received confirmation that we were awarded \$296,096 for replacement of indoor air quality in the gym at Coffin School (project 1431). Of this total, \$112,517 would be forgiven leaving a repayment of \$183,849.

We received confirmation that we were awarded \$160,790 for projects at BJHS which includes \$34,554 to bring stair rails to ADA compliance (project 1432), \$83,054 for abatement of hazmat asbestos in the cafeteria (project 1433), \$10,335 to replace illuminated exit signs (project 1436), and \$25,834 to build a fire-rated enclosure for the kiln (project 1437). Project 1434 was also approved for a security vestibule but we are not recommending acceptance as only \$7,013 was approved for the \$100,782 project. The total awarded to BJHS which we are recommending acceptance is \$153,777 of which \$58,266 would be forgiven leaving a repayment of \$95,511.

Mrs. Wentworth explained the assumptions, constraints, and timeline.

Motion to accept certificates for projects 1431 at Coffin Elementary School, and projects 1432, 1433, 1436, and 1437 at Brunswick Junior High School.

Motion: Singer      Second: Thompson      Vote: Unanimous of those Board members presents

Accepted School Revolving Renovation Fund Certificates 1432, 1432, 1433, 1436, and 1437 for these projects. This will go to the Town Council for approval at their meeting on March 16.

**Calendar/Announcements**


A walkthrough of Kate Furbish Elementary is scheduled for March 19<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m.

**Future Agenda Items**

None

**Adjournment**

By unanimous consent the meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

  
 Paul K. Perzanoski, Secretary  
 Brunswick School Board