



# Bourne Public Schools

## BOURNE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### Regular Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Wednesday, April 7, 2021

**TIME:** 6:30 PM

**PLACE:** Remote Access Meeting

#### ATTENDANCE

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

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT:** Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent; Melissa Ryan, Assistant Superintendent of Learning and Teaching; Jordan Geist, Director of Business Services; 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. PUBLIC INPUT

#### 3. REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

a. Superintendent's Report, Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent of Schools

- Updates on Reopening
  - Dr. Zhou talks about the excitement of the return to in-person learning for the Bournedale and Intermediate Schools.
  - Updates on BES and BIS return to in-person learning
    - 🌈 **BES** – Principal Liz Carpenito begins her update by talking about the big smiles on both the parents and students on the first day of in-person classes. The teachers have been phenomenal and have made the return to school flawless. She is very happy to have everyone back!
    - 🌈 **BIS** – Principal Jane Norton begins her presentation on the results of a family survey that was sent out. Mrs. Norton references the number of students returning and information on transportation needs. She is happy to announce that the YMCA has returned for both before and after care for students that need it.



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She talks about the many things that have created a welcoming and normal return to school for students and staff.

- Maureen Fuller asks the Principals to give a summary of what spaces they have had to create to accommodate the return of the other half of the population. Mrs. Norton states that they have used every available space and gives specifics about them, including areas for mask breaks. Mrs. Carpenito talks about the spaces that her school is utilizing differently. She notes that the Media Center now houses a larger 2<sup>nd</sup> grade classroom.
  - Chair Berry thanks the schools for the amazing job done with the pick up and drop off of students. She is very impressed. Dr. Zhou also agrees with Emily's sentiments and gives an example of staff assisting students at the Bournedale Elementary School.
- Current Planning for BMS and BHS return – Dr. Zhou reminds the Committee of the reasons for the delay in the return of older students. There were a few logistical and safety reasons but there has been a lot of planning and work involved to address them.
- 🌈 **BMS** – Principal Christine Borning shares a powerpoint presentation with the members. Mrs. Borning talks about the different areas they are working on. She thanks Mr. Dave Lindell, Assistant Principal, for all his tireless work and especially for being able to keep students on their same teams! She talks about the expectations of students and schedule adjustments in keeping with class sizes. Mrs. Borning gives additional information on what the return to in-person learning will be and includes information on transportation and traffic patterns.
  - 🌈 There will be an Orientation for 6<sup>th</sup> grade students that are entering the Middle School for the first time and is scheduled for April 12<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm. She also announces a Caregiver Q&A Meeting on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm for remote learners and 6:00 pm for in-person learners.
  - 🌈 **BHS** – Principal Amy Cetner talks about the upcoming return of students to in-person learning. She notes that the BHS schedule is the same as it was at the beginning of the school year and that the schedule was completed for students whether they were learning remotely or in-person. Mrs. Cetner thanks Mrs. Donna Cox for all the assistance she has given her along with recordkeeping of everything necessary for students to return to in-person learning. She also sends a big shoutout to Mrs. Tracey Francis for the many calls she has made to families.
  - 🌈 With regard to changes in location or spaces used, the BHS is expecting 8 to 10 individual classes that will need to be moved. With the streamlining of the course catalog done over the previous summer, it has allowed them to keep smaller class sizes. There is an information session scheduled during Academic Overtime on April 14<sup>th</sup> to meet with students to discuss “teaching students how to be students again”. Mrs. Cetner also worked with the Student Council to have a Spirit Week for when students return on April 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Chair Berry asks if any of the HS Representatives who are on the call this evening would like to comment on the return to school. School Representative Viveca Stucke, who is a fully remote student, took the SAT last weekend and says that it was odd for her to be in a classroom. Sophia Sederman felt that everyone, even though in different cohorts, were happy to be back and to see each other.
- Updates to the BPS Reopening Plan – Dr. Zhou shares the Plan with everyone. She details specifics of the plan updates that are highlighted in yellow. She notes that the term “hybrid” has been removed from the document and the travel advisory updates which is also highlighted.
- Another recommendation is that all classrooms have a window open or at least cracked at least an inch to increase air flow. All classrooms and offices are now equipped with air purifiers so that all spaces have a solid air flow.
- The Grab-N-Go meals will still be available for remote learners but only at the Bournedale Elementary School from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm. Meals are free for all students for the rest of the school year.



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- There is a slight change at the elementary level. If there is a positive case in a classroom, the entire classroom will be quarantined.
  - Co-Chair Paul McMaster asks a question about the travel advisory policy where it says students would be exempt from quarantine if vaccinated. Are the schools looking for proof of vaccination or is it an honor system and does this also apply to a child exposed to the virus? Kerri states that we are still working on that with our COVID lead, Ken Girouard, we do not expect it to fall under an honor system and would ask for documentation. Paul asks if that will be determined before April vacation and Dr. Zhou tells him yes.
- Latest Information from DESE re: MCAS, events, etc. – Dr. Zhou talks about the request to suspend MCAS this year. The Commissioner is allowing some concessions, one is that 11<sup>th</sup> graders will not be required take MCAS this year but competency determination will be used when a student has passed what the MCAS would be in, i.e., ELA, Math and Science. Secondly the window has been extended and the District will have until June 11<sup>th</sup> to get this testing done.
  - Chris Hyldburg was looking at the numbers provided and it looks like there are still a good number of homeschooled students. How does the MCAS affect homeschooled students? Kerri tells him that homeschooled students do not take the MCAS. He asks how they would be impacted if they do come back to school. Since they do not take the MCAS there would be minimal impact on them. Dr. Zhou states that remote only students will take the MCAS but guidance has not yet been provided on how they will.
  - Chair Berry asks if parents are able to opt out of MCAS testing. A student cannot opt out but parents do have some ways of keeping their students from taking the tests. Kerry does point out that the district would see repercussions if attendance is very low for the testing but this year DESE is waiving the attendance accountability.
  - Last year at this time, Betsy DeVos gave waivers to any state that wanted one. It is a federal mandate that we must test students; certain grades, certain subjects and when the test will be administered. Massachusetts school districts will request a waiver on MCAS testing but the new Secretary of Education is not at this time granting any waivers.
- Events – Dr. Zhou talks about the event link attached to the Agenda; the COVID graduation and ceremonies safety policy for your review. Principal Amy Cetner speaks to the events being planned for the graduating Seniors. More details to follow. Senior Class Advisors, Anne Marie Strode and Tracey Francis, are doing an incredible job in planning and making this a great year for our students.
- Principal Jane Norton says they would be remiss in not mentioning Jordan Geist and the maintenance and custodial staff as they have been incredibly helpful, flexible and have given much appreciated attention to our needs. They deserve so much credit for what they have done for the buildings!

## B. Chairperson's Report

### • Correspondence and Announcements

- Chair Berry received an email from local constituent Marjorie Burns regarding MCAS testing. She is encouraging the School Committee to send a resolution to the Governor and Commissioner. With the understanding that the Superintendents will be putting in a request for a waiver Emily is not sure if this request would be similar. Emily asks Chris Hyldburg about this, he states that he will do some research and look into the process so that members can discuss more at the next meeting.



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- MASC Day on the Hill - April 16, 2021 – This is a virtual event for School Committee members to get together for discussions. Registration is required and Emily states that she will attend. Chris, who has attended many of these events, recommends that anyone who can, should attend.
- MASC Emails – Emily states that she was not receiving notifications from MASC and had to re-register in order to get them. No one else on the Committee is having this issue.

## C. School Committee Sub Committee Reports

- Policy Sub-Committee – Report from April 5, 2021

- Erin Perry discusses the two primary items on the Agenda. One was the School Committee Student Recognition Award and the second was continued discussion on the Student Representation on the School Committee.
  - ✚ Student Recognition Award – members discussed details of the process used for selection. They are considering adding a civics engagement component. They also discussed possibly making this into two awards per year, one in December and one in May. A one page document will be created that will describe the parameters and processes of the award. Nominations can be made by any staff member in the District.
  - ✚ Student Representation Policy JIB – members specifically discussed the language around the student representative's ability to vote on the Committee. This would be a non-binding vote but would allow the student to have a voice and opinions on different matters. They talked about additional amendments they may add to the policy.
  - ✚ Emily adds that the reason student representatives would not be part of budget discussions is that it would include employment and anything to do with employment they can not vote on.
  - ✚ Policy JIB – will be added to the May Agenda, discussed and voted on.
    - Maureen Fuller asks if they anticipate that staff input will be a part of the selection of the award recipient, about how the nominating process will happen, and what conditions there may be on the award. Emily states that this will be a School Committee award and that staff may nominate students but will not have input into the selection.
    - Dr. Zhou explains that a nomination could be an easy seamless process, possibly through a Google Form. The intention of the award is to be inclusive and would be for something that encompasses our Vision, include creativity and innovation, and may have a civic action component. A student, students or a group of students would have to be eligible in order to be nominated and selected.

- Facilities and Budget Sub-Committee – Report from March 24, 2021

- Chris Hyldburg talks about the Bid process for the Emergency Envelope Repairs at the Bourne Middle School. There are a couple of points that he advises the Committee on. There were four bids received and Foll Waterproofing and Construction Company was selected. He notes that there is a very slim margin of dollars from the bid amount to the amount the Town approved for this project.
- The Facilities and Budget Sub-committee voted to approve the bid amount of \$369,900 to the Foll Waterproofing and Construction Company and Gale Industries in the amount \$73,350 for a total of \$443,250. The Town approved the project for \$450,000 which leaves a very slim margin of \$7,500.

- Curriculum Sub-Committee – Report from March 31, 2021

- Assistant Superintendent Melissa Ryan states that they reviewed what will be shared later this meeting.



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- SEPAC – Report from March 22, 2021
  - Dr. Ryan Place, Director of Special Education and Student Services, states this was their second SEPAC meeting. He talks about the presentation given by Amy Gordon of Second Nature Social Skills. The presentation was focused on executive functioning and social communications and using imbedded supports to teach those skills to all students.
  - The final meeting of this school year will be on May 25<sup>th</sup>. That meeting will include the election of Officers and a basic human rights presentation that SEPACs are mandated to do every year.

## D. Presentation on School Choice and Enrollment Projections

- Dr Zhou tells the Committee that after the presentation by Melissa Ryan a vote will be required on School Choice.
  - Melissa Ryan begins her presentation with an updated chart on enrollment at Bourne Public Schools. The chart shows a three-year look at enrollment per each grade level. Melissa discusses both current and future enrollments, averages of class size, school choice - both outgoing and incoming students, and homeschool students.
  - She states that Bournedale is the only school with an unsure number of students. This may be due to Kindergartners that will be moving to 1<sup>st</sup> grade that did not enroll this year but will be looking at entering this upcoming year.
    - Emily asks about projected enrollments figures and, for instance, does the BIS figure include students that are homeschooled and may be returning to in-person next school year. Mrs. Ryan states that the projected enrollment figure only includes in-person and remote only students.
    - In regards to the HS, the incoming figure will be lower as students may choose to attend a vocational school.

*Chris Hyldburg motions to approve School Choice for the next school year; Seconded by Maureen Fuller;*

- Maureen Fuller asks if it is Administration that will know when to cut off incoming students in a grade level. Mrs. Ryan states that Principals will determine and recommend acceptance of students. The Principals would make the recommendations but the Superintendent would make the final decision on whether to deny or give approval.
- Maureen asks when are parents or caregivers notified of whether they students are accepted or denied entry. This is an ongoing request by parents and right now is the time when they begin looking at enrollment figures.
- She asks if we have communications with Joint Base Cape Cod for move ins. Melissa has talked with them but they don't have much information to share at this time.
- Maureen is concerned that school choice students who enter can cause a fluxuation in class sizes if we have students moving in to Town. Melissa states that the Principals have a pretty good handle on enrollment and class sizes, especially this year with the COVID pandemic.
- Paul McMaster asks for more information on the projected enrollment at the Bournedale and does it require additional staff or support. Mrs. Ryan states that this number is again, hard to prove but it does include an additional Pre-School teacher. Paul asks whether she calls that a conservative or a liberal estimate. Principal Carpenito says it's more in the middle of the two, they have seen it both lower and higher.
- Emily asks if the district has checked with families that will return next year? For families that pre-registered and opted to homeschool, Melissa states that the district froze their registration and if they committed to return to school before July 1<sup>st</sup> that we would reinstate their application. In the next couple of weeks, we will be reaching out to homeschool families that have committed to only one year to see if they will be returning.



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- Chris Hyldburg asks what would happen if families that are homeschooled decide at the last minute to come back to in-person and we've already allotted school choice seats. Melissa suggests giving an update in June or over the summer. She says there is a lot of flexibility with the middle and high school students. Principal Norton says that we don't always fill the School Choice seats right away and that we keep an eye on that.
- Maureen worries about class sizes at the elementary level as there is much to do to get our students back on track for the loss of education last year. Emily states that we are only approving School Choice not the number of students.

*Roll call vote 7-0-0*

## E. Presentation on Student Assessments

- Mid-Year Benchmark Presentation by Melissa Ryan
  - Mrs. Ryan begins her presentation by recognizing the work of Kelly Cook, Lisa Dix, Teresa Vicente, Andrew Arki, BPS School Administrators and BPS teachers. She states that this data represents instruction from a hybrid model and that it is an inconsistent testing model, specifically that some students took the tests during their hybrid learning and some took the tests at home during remote learning.
  - Melissa talks about the different assessments, IRLA, Galileo, Imagine Learning and Writing. She gives specifics on the graphs of each test, per grade level, and how students were assessed and graded.
  - Teachers get this information in many different ways, by individual student and by the test. They have continued to refine this data for parents. Initially the raw data was sent to parents through PowerSchool which was very confusing to some so it was refined to make it easier for parents to understand. Melissa talks about the different test score levels used for students, Exceeding Expectations, Meeting Expectation, Partially Meeting Expectations and Not Meeting Expectations.
  - Melissa logs into her student's PowerSchool to show parents how to navigate to their student's test scores.

## F. Other Announcements

- SAEBRS – Social Academic Emotional Behavioral Risk Survey is explained to parents and SC Members. Mrs. Ryan states that they were only able to do this assessment once this year. Students are rated into two categories, students that have no risk and students that have some risk or are at high risk. She notes that 85% are no risk and 15% that should be looked at. It should be noted that students are rating themselves as at more risk.
- BHS 9-12 Youth Risk Behavior Survey – Melissa talks about this survey and states that this survey comes from the State. She shares the more noticeable data from this survey and notes that this is an anonymous survey so they do not know who the answers are linked to.
- She would like to call attention to the question about whether they felt sad for more than two weeks in a row that may or may not be as a result of the pandemic. 96% of students at the HS said yes.
- There are 10% of the HS population that considered suicide. This is alarming data for us. Counselors are working to identify and work with students with the help of a professor from Bridgewater State University who specializes in suicide prevention.
- Students are making consistent strides academically and showing great growth. Melissa notes that the slowest rate of growth right now is in mathematics.
- From the social emotional perspective, we are seeing issues of depression and mental health as a concern at the HS. Our students are rating themselves at higher risk and we are asking families to talk to their students. The data does support that the transition years have higher rates of mental health issues. Principals are working extra hard to assist the grades levels in the transition years.



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- One next step is for teachers to work on intervention plans for next year. End of Year assessments will be completed in May and we will be able to see the whole year's data.
- Melissa tells everyone that if they have questions outside of this meeting, to please reach out to her via email.
- Chair Berry talks about the mental health data. She asks if parents are made aware of this and can this data be made mandatory for parents to review this data. Counselors and others have reached out to families that they are concerned about this data. Melissa notes that this is the first time this data is being shared publicly. Emily asks what is the plan to share this data. Melissa states the HS is really on top of this and have had meetings to discuss next steps.
- Emily asks about the parents and how are they involved when it comes to the highest risk students. We have not shared this out yet and are planning several ways to bring this to the attention of parents.
- Paul McMaster says that he notes that students are progressing but in the data that he is seeing, he does not see this. He is seeing students at mid-year not meeting or partially meeting expectations. Melissa says this is due to many students not taking the early year assessments and more students taking the mid-year assessments, which makes this sort of a lop-sided assessment. This concerns of the data this school year is a significant reason for getting students back. There has been a decline in student engagement in this environment. She expects to see a more stable and comparable number at the end of the year.
- Paul asks why there were so many students at the beginning of the year that did not take it. In some cases, those assessments were happening before we went hybrid and many students may not have taken them during remote learning. Dr. Zhou states that in a normal year there would be more students taking the assessments.
- Emily asks if we will have the same presentation next year. Melissa says that yes, data will be presented at the end of the year and next year's data. Dr. Zhou points out that this data will be attached to a student's record so that teachers and parents can view it.
- Maureen Fuller thanks Melissa, Kelly and Lisa for their efforts and work in getting student's tested and the data compiled. This is important information to have so that next year we will know where students are at.
- Kelly Cook states that students can log in to their Galileo scores and that parents also have access.
- Paul asks how it is determined that a student needs an intervention. Melissa Ryan says that it is looked at holistically. She explains the steps and the interventions that are in place already.
- Paul asks if students took the test in the same condition, for example, all of them in school or all of them during remote learning. Melissa states that student did not take them in the same way. Paul asks if there was a comparison done for those that took it at home or in-person. Melissa states that they expect a better assessment at the end of the year because it will be a controlled assessment as students will all be in-person.
- Chris Hyldburg states that he has never seen data like this and that this helps the Committee understand what is happening with our students, especially during this pandemic year. He likes the social emotional aspect as we can see the whole child. He thanks Melissa, her team and staff for all they have done getting this information out and presented.
- Dr. Zhou tells them to following the links on this test

## 4. DISCUSSION ITEMS

### A. Discussion on School Calendar for the 2021-2022 School Year

- Melissa Ryan states that this calendar is comparable to what it was last year and meets all contractual requirements. She states that there is one minor change from the draft calendar presented in an earlier meeting which she talks about. Melissa reviews each month in detail on the Calendar.



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*Maureen Fuller motions to approves 2021-2022 School Calendar; Seconded by Ryan Bagdonas; Roll call vote 7-0-0*

## 5. ACTION ITEMS

c. Vote to approve SC Minutes: January 20, 2021

*Chris Hyldburg motions to approve the SC Minutes as presented; Seconded by Paul McMaster; Roll call vote 7-0-0*

d. Vote to approve Warrants and Payroll

*Paul McMaster motions to approve Warrants and Payroll; Seconded by Steve Strojny; Roll call vote 7-0-0*

## 6. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Future agenda items are discussed among Members and Administration

## 7. PAUL MCMASTER MOTIONS TO ADJOURN; SECONDED BY MAUREEN FULLER; ROLL CALL VOTE 7-0-0

Meeting ended at 8:40 PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Teresa Vicente  
Recording Secretary

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

Agenda Item	Document
	School Committee Meeting Agenda
3a	Commencement Guidance; Student Groups – School Events
3c	Copy of Policy JIB
3c	SEPAC Agenda
3d	Enrollment Data 2020-2021
3e	BPS Midyear Benchmark Presentation
4a	2021-2022 School Year Calendar





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5c	School Committee Minutes – January 20, 2021
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