



# Bourne Public Schools

## BOURNE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

### Regular Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Wednesday, July 29, 2020

**TIME:** 9:12 PM

**PLACE:** Remote Access Meeting

#### ATTENDANCE

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

**SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**OTHER ATTENDEES PRESENT:** Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent; Melissa Ryan, Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning; Jordan Geist, Director of Business Services; Craig Davidson, Director of Special Education and Student Services

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hyldburg calls the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS

#### OPEN SESSION

#### PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

**A motion is made by Steven Strojny to amend the Agenda to include a statement from Superintendent Zhou regarding graduation; Seconded by Paul McMaster; Roll call vote 7-0-0**

Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent of Schools

- Dr. Zhou speaks about the cancellation of graduation ceremonies. She states that through a strong recommendation from our local authorities and our health agent it was decided it was in the best interest of our students and families to cancel in-person graduation scheduled for Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Parent Jeremy Dodson states that he is outside of the High school with students and parents that are super disappointed. He speaks about the last several months and how students were looking forward to attending graduation with both social distancing and face coverings. Dr. Zhou states that she does



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understand his sentiments but then updates him with factual information. She notes that members of the Town Administration are on this meeting tonight to assist in answering questions.

- A parent comments on the state recommendations and that they do not understand the decision making. Emily Berry states that she was just notified about this decision and that this was not a School Committee decision.
- Town Administrator Anthony Schiavi makes a statement regarding tough decisions being made during the pandemic and that all decisions made are based on data.
- Heath Agent Terri Guarino explains the uptick in COVID cases and reasoning behind the decision to cancel in-person graduation. Paul McMaster asks if this decision originated from school administration. Dr. Zhou states that it was a collective decision and that the risk to students, families and community was too high.
- Another parent is concerned about what is being shared and what is not being shared and asks for more information. Dr. Zhou states she understands the concern but there is no more information that can be shared.

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## 1. Superintendent brief of reopening Bourne Schools

### (a) BPS Feasibility Study

- Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou, Superintendent of Schools, begins with a slide presentation. She talks through each slide and gives some background information of the past several months. Kerri talks about the sub-committees, specific data collected and the creation of Focus Groups to assist in the re-opening process going forward.
- Jordan Geist, Director of Business Services, talks about the guidance coming from the Facilities Sub-committee. He details what he is in the process of procuring for the buildings and what we have on hand right now. He updates the Committee on what is available for staff and students in the schools. Jordan talks about sanitation and air quality plans. He thanks everyone that was on this committee.
- Dr. Zhou talks to the Committee on our technology needs. She states that come September every student will have a Chromebook and a hot spot will be available for those families in need of internet services. She talks about making single sign-on available for students.
- Safety is the number one priority. Mandatory mask wearing will be in place for all grades not just the state mandated grade 2-12. Kerri speaks about giving student mask breaks during the day.
- Assistant Superintendent Melissa Ryan talks about the changes being looked at for remote learning and new guidance from the Dept of Education. Both in-person and remote learning will look very different this coming year. She says that we are hearing there needs to be a firm schedule in place for student logins regarding remote learning. There are future meetings scheduled with staff and school administrations targeting both remote learning and transitioning to in-person learning. Melissa details teacher needs including professional development in place for both modes of instruction.
- Special Education Director Craig Davidson discusses the need for in-person learning for our high needs population. He has been working with staff on what will work and on the transition to in-person learning for these high need students.
- Kerri speaks about the staff survey that was taken regarding the transition to in-person learning. She shares the summary charts of each survey question. Staff are concerned about safety and are committed to creating the best possible learning experience for students. Staffing levels would need to increase in order to provide this. Funding for staffing is still a question across the state. The next slide provides links to the state guidance and considerations.
- She points out that there are major needs for some families, such as food insecurities, social emotional needs and child care for returning staff.
- Dr. Zhou talks about the timeline of specific plans in place for the next few weeks. She notes that many of the timelines are dependent on negotiations with staff as this would be a change in working conditions. They have partnered with the BEA.



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- The three different scenarios we are planning for are full in-person with safety measures, a hybrid model and remote learning. The remote learning model will be much different from what it was in the spring. A survey will be sent out to parents to choose which scenario is best for their family. A strong recommendation would be for Bourne to go with the hybrid model when you take into consideration space, safety needs of students and funding needs.
  - Chair Hyldborg thanks the staff and administration for all the work they have put into this and especially Melissa Ryan for the response to the technology needs. He states that the responsibility of the School Committee is to have healthy discussions about these plans.
  - Chris asks about the ARC investment and how it is blending with these plans. Dr. Zhou talks about what would need to be sent home to students for this reading platform. Remote learning is also a part of and available through this program. Melissa Ryan states that ARC has been tremendous to work with especially regarding professional development.
  - Maureen Fuller asks if this program will be available to the Intermediate school (BIS). Melissa states that it is possible and is exploring ARC for BIS.
- Chat questions:
  - During remote learning will there be live streaming with teachers? Dr. Zhou says that yes, students will be able to interact with teachers when they are remote at home. This is something that will have to be negotiated with teachers.
  - There are chat questions regarding back to school nights and other events. Mrs. Ryan explains how tough it would be logistically. There has been discussion regarding teachers connecting individually with families that would be deeper than what they would receive on a traditional back to school night. Teachers are exploring ways to make this connection, specifically to assess who will be supporting their student with remote learning.
  - Chris states there are additional questions regarding graduation but he will not go into additional comments.
  - Will staff be able to receive results of parent/teacher surveys via email? Kerri states that they are available in this slide set right now and will be sent out to staff and families via email.
  - There was a question about synchronous learning. Kerri states there will be both synchronous learning and asynchronous learning and that they will be very careful on how it is rolled out.
  - Does the School Committee plan to work with the teachers' unions? Chair says yes, it was discussed during Executive Session and the plan is to talk with the Union to work through issues.
  - Do any of the Members think we should reopen fully? Chris's answer is yes. He says that all of them want schools to reopen fully. The School Committee's role is to find out how and when to get to that point.
  - Will all children on IEPs be considered high needs and if not, how will it be decided who is considered high needs and be full time? Mr. Davidson states that the State recognizes students with high needs as requiring 75% or more of their school day education outside of the main stream classroom. Also, qualifiers are students in DCF custody, McKinney-Vento or homeless, and EL learners. Craig states that we are working with the District to finalize who would be full time learning students. Students on IEPs who do not qualify for full time would fall within the hybrid model.
  - Would students be a full week in-person and full week remote in the hybrid model? Dr. Zhou states that of the three hybrid models explored the choice is the one with highest amount of safety in mind. Monday for all remote, Tuesday through Friday for Cohort A and the following week, Monday remote and Cohort B for the rest of the week. Mondays would be envisioned as time for teachers to connect with students as it would be a remote day. We plan to ask families if they would like to have their children attend the same cohort. The plan in the future is to include Mondays as in-person learning.
  - Maureen Fuller asks if the teacher would be teaching the same academics for the opposite cohort. Kerri states that this will be worked out by the Curriculum Sub-Committee.
  - Chris states that there are a lot of questions about the challenges that families are facing surrounding scheduling. Are the schedules going to be consistent for families with multiple children in schools? Kerri



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states that they assume that families would want this but they plan to ask when it comes to classroom selections. Scheduling is important when it comes to remote learning because attendance will become a major part of remote learning and we want our students to be active and participating.

- Chris asks to confirm that students PK to 12 will be wearing masks. Kerri confirms that and says the only exception would be children with medical exemptions. Kerri states that there will be mask breaks and that the guidance says a minimum of two breaks a day. She states that they are looking at augmenting our outdoor spaces to create outdoor classrooms to assist with mask breaks. Mr. Davidson tells the Committee that they are looking at students with medical exemptions for non-mask wearing.
- How many nurses will be available in the schools? Craig states that there are currently 4 nurses, meaning one in each building. They are looking at substitute nurses to make sure we have a nurse always in the building.
- How is it handled if a nurse is exposed to COVID and has to be out for 10-14 days? Craig states that they work with many agencies in the area to get nursing coverage. Kerri states that the State has waived some nursing requirements due to the covid situation in order to get them in the schools.
- Due to a variety of questions, Chair Hyldborg asks those attending this meeting to go to the School Committee's link on the website, pull up the Agenda and click on one of the hyperlinks: "Courses that have additional Safety Recommendations".
- There is a question about whether the reduction of school days also means a reduction on learning time. Dr. Zhou speaks to the specific number of days and minutes of learning prior to the Commissioner's change. She states that days reduced also equates to a reduction of minutes of learning in a day. The Commissioner would allow the reduction of learning time, especially when it comes to transportation and other factors that could affect time in the school. The plan is to have staggered start times in order to get students to school safely.
- Emily Berry follows up by stating the reduction in hours equates to approximately 5 hours a day. She asks how the District plans to ensure that students who are learning remotely are getting 5 hours a day of school. Kerri states that this is something that will be looked at closely and that no plans have been confirmed yet. Emily also asks if teachers are not teaching the same lesson to remote and in-person students at the same time, who will be teaching the other group? Dr. Zhou states that this is being worked out through negotiations. Kerri gives examples of how this can be done and answers will be sent to parents when all details are worked out.
- Ryan Bagdonas is concerned that students who zip through their remote learning day may not receive those 5 hours of learning a day. She hopes that parents will see more personalization between students and teachers in the fall. Kerri states that the Monday would be the day that teachers will use to assist students that may need help.
- Maureen Fuller follows up and speaks of the high hopes she has for the 10 days of professional development scheduled for teachers. She hopes that teachers will be allowed to learn how to deal with these issues and spend it with others to develop these skills and be able to work collegially.
- A question was asked by Erin Perry but internet service was not able to catch the question. Melissa Ryan tells her that we are in the process of offering families free internet service along with Chromebooks.
- Mr. Davidson responds to a question of what plans are in place if a student or staff tests positive for covid. He states that they are in the process of creating an isolation room but the specifics still have to be worked out. There are protocols which will be in place when we return to school.

## b. Considerations for Federal and State mandates/information

- Links to the guidance documents are on the website

## c. Discuss State mandated plans



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## d. Preliminary Re-opening Calendar

Dr. Kerri Anne Quinlan-Zhou

- Dr. Zhou details all of the updates made to the calendar for next school year. After some discussion there are two adjustments to the calendar that Melissa Ryan is making on real time.
  - Ryan asks about the additional PD day on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The Commissioner stated that we could not begin school before September 16<sup>th</sup>.
  - There are additional questions and discussions about some of the scheduled days.

**Steven Strojny motions to approve the Preliminary Reopening Calendar; Seconded by Paul McMaster; Roll call vote 7-0-0**

## 2. Public Comment

- Dr. Zhou responds to a question by Emily Berry. She responds that the Commissioner would be the one to make decisions regarding covid infections and school closures.

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Chair Hyldborg announces that he doesn't expect a change in the meeting format of future meetings unless there is a change in state mandates. He states that we all have to do this together in order to beat this.

*Motion to adjourn: Steven Strojny motions to adjourn; seconded by Paul McMaster; Roll call vote: 7-0-0*

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Meeting ended at 9:00 PM

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Teresa Vicente  
Recording Secretary

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

| Agenda Item | Document  |
|-------------|---|
| 0           | Agenda  |
| 1           | Feasibility Study for Reopening School and Preliminary Planning |
| 1           | 2020-2021 Draft School Year Calendar                            |