

MINUTES
MEETING OF THE BRAINTREE SCHOOL COMMITTEE

Monday, April 25, 2016

7:00 PM

Colbert School

School Committee Present: Cyril Chafe/Thomas Devin/Lisa Fiske Heger/George Kokoros/Kate Naughton/David Ringius/Mayor Joseph Sullivan

Administration: Superintendent of Schools – Dr. Frank Hackett
Assistant Superintendent of Schools – Ms. Jennifer Fay-Beers
Business Manager – Mr. Ed Cronin

Student Representatives: Edmund Bousaleh, Erin McGinn, Sarah Murphy

Recorder: Mary Ann Cuddahy

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Fiske Heger called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Ms. Fiske Heger thanked Mrs. Soto for hosting the school committee meeting, for the refreshments and the Flaherty School T-shirts designed by a first grader and key chains. Mr. Kokoros arrived at 7:10 p.m.

II. ROUTINE MATTERS

A. Approval of Minutes: Open Sessions March 21, 2016, March 28, 2016 and April 4, 2016.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Chafe to approve the minutes for the Open Session of March 21, 2016, March 28, 2016 and April 4, 2016.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/Ms. Naughton/
Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

B. Communications and Commendations:

1. SEPAC Meeting Minutes – February 25, 2016
2. BHS Activity Bulletin – April 25 – 29, 2016
3. BHS National Honor Society Inductees

Dr. Hackett pointed out to the School Committee members that the listing of names were at their seats. He congratulated the students and stated that the National Honor Society Inductees are a strong group of students and he wanted to make sure that the committee had all of their names (82 students in total). It was a well-attended ceremony.

4. BHS Science Fair Winners

Dr. Hackett congratulated the science fair participants and expressed his appreciation for being a judge at the Science Fair. Ms. Fay-Beers acknowledged the participants and read the Honorable mentions, as well as winners. They are as follows:

Honorable Mention: Matt Pugsley, Emily Eleuteri, Katie Gozzo, Andrew Kanen, Erin Bryan, John McDonnell and Kelly Chen.

3rd Place:

- Mackenzie Anderson - The Effect of Legumes on the Height of Nearby Plants
- Ben Bailey – The Science of Parkour and Free-running

2nd Place: Ashely Tsang – Building Tsunami-Resistant Structures

1st Place: Sean Morin – What is the Best Type of Sun Protection?

5. Cast and Crew – ‘Annie’ - East Middle School

Dr. Hackett recognized the cast and crew of “Annie” at East Middle School for putting on a tremendous performance. The entire cast was phenomenal. Dr. Hackett stated it was one of the best middle school productions he had ever seen. Dr. Hackett passed along his congratulations to the entire cast and crew.

6. 2016 Community Inclusion Award Recipients

Ms. Fiske Heger, as the liaison to SEPAC, stated that she had the honor of announcing the upcoming Community Inclusion Awards, on behalf of Kristen Zechello to be held on Thursday, May 26th to honor members of our community that have furthered the ideals of inclusion. The following members of our community were awarded:

- **Bill Berman** – Bill is a passionate coach and instructor whose talent for including everyone and sharing his love of sports and being flexible with his teaching style makes him a shining example for all kids and adults!
- **Nick Sarno** – Nick is a Braintree High School senior who is a natural leader, advocate and “includer” of all young people he encounters in many ways in Braintree. Nick gives of himself in the community non-stop and with great enthusiasm!
- **Luca Silvestro** – Luca is a four year old student at the Braintree Integrated Preschool who, and along with his parents Lisa and Mike, sets a powerful example for all families in the community on what it means to include everyone!
- **Allison Young** – Allison is an extraordinary 5th grader at Flaherty Elementary School who has written two books, championed inclusion in

her school and is a wonderful student leader and role model for inclusion with peers!

In addition, author, inspirational speaker, advocate and motivational coach, Jamey Breen will speak at the event. Mr. Breen is the author of "Keep It Rolling" and has inspired so many with his words of keeping it positive!

Ms. Heger mentioned that it is a wonderful event and that the entire 5th grade class from the Flaherty School won it a couple years ago, as well as Mr. Ringius from School Committee for his role as a karate instructor. Flaherty student Allison Young and her family were in the audience and were recognized. Allison was congratulated and invited up to speak to the committee. She told the members that she has written 2 books, just finished her 3rd book and is working on her 4th. She works with the autistic population at Flaherty on Friday with some of her friends and when she grows up she would like to teach autistic students. Dr. Hackett mentioned that her books are for sale and asked for her to get the School Committee her website for her books.

CONSIDERATION OF APPROVALS

A. Appointment of South Shore Educational Collaborative Representative 2016/2017

Dr. Hackett explained that under Mass State law it is required that all Educational Collaboratives have an oversight Board of Directors. The SSEC uses the participating school district's superintendents as their representatives for their board members. Dr. Hackett is pleased to serve as the representative for the BSP if the committee is in agreement to appoint him.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Kokoros to appoint Dr. Hackett as the representative to the South Shore Educational Collaborative for the 2016-2017 school year.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/Ms. Naughton/
Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

B. Camp Bournedale Trip – Highlands/Liberty/Ross – June 9 & 10, 2016

Dr. Pelletier spoke to the committee on the Camp Bournedale trip and gave a quick overview. Highlands, Ross and Liberty have been going to Camp Bournedale for approximately 20 years. It is a two day, one night trip. The children participate in a number of science based, hands-on activities. There are adult chaperones, all of whom are CORI checked, the 5th grade teachers. The trip is paid for by the students/families and if they cannot afford it, then it is paid for by the PTO's. It is a wonderful experience for the children. The camps are separated by schools and the principals go down the first night and serve ice cream, stay through the magic show and make sure everyone is settled before they head out. They have free time, as well. They can fish, play basketball.

Mr. Kokoros commented that it is a fantastic program. His children have all gone and his wife chaperoned one year. Mr. Kokoros said he looks forward to supporting it.

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Kokoros and seconded by Mr. Devin to approve the Camp Bournedale trip for Highlands, Liberty & Ross.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/Ms. Naughton/
Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

NAYES – 1

Mr. Chafe

C. BHS Sophomore Student Council Trip – Canobie Lake Park – June 3, 2016

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Ringius and seconded by Mr. Devin to approve the Canobie Lake Park trip, June 3, 2016.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 6

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/Ms. Naughton/
Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

III. PRESENTATION

A. Flaherty 2015-2016 School Improvement Plan, Principal Stacey Soto

Ms. Soto welcomed the committee and audience members to the Flaherty School, home of the Flaherty Falcons with their motto “Watch us Soar!” She highlighted the members of the School Council being made up of teachers, a community rep and parents.

School Goals: The school goals include to always improve our performance in all subject areas as it will be every year. Improve through differentiating instruction with a focus on utilizing technology in the new wireless environment to meet the needs of all students in all classrooms. Flaherty supports MSKC kindergarteners and keeps communication between them and Flaherty open. The school also works to make sure advanced learners are being planned for to meet their needs. Flaherty offers many different ways to team teach and they have been using their specialists to go into the classroom to team teach, as well.

Ms. Soto shared a cartoon that does not represent Flaherty at all. The cartoon showed a store front saying “one size fits all”. At Flaherty, one size does not fit all due to their efforts in differentiating instruction.

Curriculum: All teachers are working on differentiating instruction through faculty meetings and PD opportunities. Teachers also have opportunities to observe each other teaching. Flaherty encourages an open mind set with children and believes that all students can learn and some may just need more time. Flaherty utilizes netbooks, Chrome Books and iPad carts every day all day long, and the teachers and students have all embraced them. Ms. Soto emphasized that we need to teach kids, no matter what they are learning, that they may not know “it yet” but they will get it through hard work, support and more time. There is a big difference in the students’ belief system when they use the word “yet” and not the word “can’t”.

Curriculum – Flaherty uses a Collaborative Team Teaching model. Teachers are piloting team teaching, a co-teaching model and a push-in model. Making it a collaborative effort as learning in isolation isn’t always the best. MSKC: MSKC arrival and dismissal works very well. Kids know where to go, the paraprofessional is wonderful and 5th graders help in the AM and PM.

Response to Intervention (RTI): Looks different in different schools, subjects and grades. It is implemented in all grades. Groupings are always flexible, can go by skill, mastery, and are used across the entire grade level. All hands are on deck; specialists, paras and classroom teachers.

(CCT) Child Center Team – Teachers recommend students for this based on need. The CCT is where we brainstorm all different issues to help the student who is part of CCT – it can be academic, emotional or social issues. Included in the CCT are the school psychologists, BCBA, classroom teachers, paras, specialists. Evaluate every 6 weeks.

PARCC Results: Flaherty is a Level 1 school, having received a score of 91. Devoted staff here is really where it comes from – they believe in the children and the children then believe in themselves. Between the teachers and families, kids are well supported and they have a great work ethic.

Flaherty PTO: PTO is extremely active and involved. Flaherty is very fortunate with the fundraising this year, and this year was the 12th annual road race. As well this year had first ever Disney raffle which profited over \$20,000.

Ms. Soto, ended her presentation by reading a quote that means a lot to her: “Teachers who love teaching, teach children who love learning”. Ms. Soto also introduced and thanked Debbie Toma, teacher rep and Gail Hulke, Administrative Assistant for supporting her.

Mrs. Fiske-Heger thanked Ms. Soto. Mayor Sullivan congratulated Ms. Soto on her leadership of the school. He mentioned the long history and that it was once called the Lakeside School. He congratulated her on the work that she and others are doing for the kids here at Flaherty School. He asked Ms. Soto to talk/elaborate a bit about the CCT program at Flaherty, and how the team comes together. The classroom teacher emails Ms. Soto the name of any student they are concerned about, and they have to tell the parents they are recommending the child. It is basically a brainstorming discussion with the CCT group regarding the student and whether they are struggling academically, emotionally, socially. There is paperwork that gets filled out and the team meets before school.

Mayor Sullivan also touched on the ELL students at Flaherty and the percentage at Flaherty, pointing out that there are about 25-28 students, or approximately 8% of the school. He recognized that it is a challenge and one that we embrace and need to be sensitive to and sensible about.

Mr. Ringius commented that, like the Mayor, he has a special connection to the Flaherty School. He had great memories sitting on the classroom floor of Ms. Toma’s classroom and reading to the students. One of the things that he questioned is that Flaherty has always struggled with the space issue. Ms. Soto explained that they have been very creative. “We have moved everyone around and lots of inclusion helps alleviate the space issue.” The biggest issue is the “cafegymatorium” and the multiple uses of that space.

Mr. Kokoros also thanked Mrs. Soto and mentioned that he always likes to hear about the garden and thanked her for including that in her presentation.

IV. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

A. Consideration of Gifts to Schools

Hollis Elementary School

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Ms. Naughton and seconded by Mr. Devin to accept as a gift to schools a check in the amount of \$49.00 from the Hollis PTO to be used to purchase a cork board for the school.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Highlands Elementary School

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Kokoros and seconded by Mayor Sullivan to accept as a gift to schools a check in the amount of \$50.00 in memory of Barbara Swain, a volunteer at Highlands School who recently passed away.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Highlands Elementary School

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Ringius to accept as a gift to schools a check in the amount of \$77.08 from the Highlands PTO to purchase supplies for the school.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Monatiquot School Kindergarten Center

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Ringius and seconded by Mr. Devin to accept as a gift to schools a check in the amount of \$536.46 from the Best Book Fair, Cookbook Fundraiser and Bertucci's Fundraiser to be used at MSKC.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Monatiquot School Kindergarten Center

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Kokoros to accept as a gift to schools checks totaling \$3,305.55 from the Best Book Book Fair Fundraiser to be used at MSKC.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Ross Elementary School

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Kokoros and seconded by Mr. Devin to accept as a gift to schools a check in the amount of \$1,500.00 from Harvard Pilgrim Health Care to be used by the Ross School to purchase a subscription to BrainPop.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Braintree High School

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mr. Devin and seconded by Mr. Kokoros to accept as a gift to schools a check in the amount of \$1,700.00 from the Quincy Credit Union to be used for the BHS Credit for Life.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

B. Personnel Updates

By the request of Dr. Hackett, the personnel updates have been tabled to another date. He explained that we are in the process of hiring many new staff and feels it would be better to give a comprehensive report in June.

V. CITIZEN PARTICIPATION

Sarah Murphy spoke to the committee about her recent school trip to Spain. She shared that she spoke mostly Spanish for 10 days straight and had a great time. The committee congratulated Sarah and thanked her for her report.

Future Meeting dates: May 9, BHS @ 7:00 p.m., May 23rd @ 7:00 pm at Liberty School and June 13th @ 7:00 p.m. at the Hollis School.

VI. ADJOURN

VOTED UNANIMOUSLY: Upon a motion by Mayor Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Devin to adjourn.

ROLL CALL: AYES – 7

Mr. Chafe/Mr. Devin/ Ms. Fiske Heger/Mr. Kokoros/
Ms. Naughton/Mr. Ringius/Mayor Sullivan

Time: 7:50 P.M.

George Kokoros
Recording Secretary