

Draft

BIDDEFORD SCHOOL DEPARTMENT
March 22, 2011
REGULAR SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
7:00 p.m. – City Hall Council Chambers

Minutes

Roll Call: Mayor Twomey, Roberta Bernier, Alexandra Clarke, Tony Michaud, Nathan Mills, Laura Seaver and Joseph Drew. **Also in Attendance:** Sarah-Jane Poli and Jeff Porter. **Excused:** Peggy Bean, Tammy Fleurent and Sean O'Neil

1. **Pledge of Allegiance:** Mayor Twomey led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. **Adjustments to the Agenda:** None
3. **Consideration of Minutes:** 3/8/11
Mrs. Bernier moved and Mrs. Seaver seconded, unanimous vote, to accept the minutes of 3/8/11.
4. **Public Participation:**
 - Pat Bolin, Band Director at BHS, spoke about the BHS Jazz Combo and Jazz Ensemble who performed at the State Jazz Festival in Mt. Desert Island this weekend. All were invited to attend the free Jazz-a-la-Mode Concert at BMS cafeteria on April 7th at 6:30 p.m.
 - Mary Ann Noyes, Ward 4, suggested closing JFK School as cost savings for the budget.
 - Carrie Kennedy, BHS student, spoke regarding the impact to students when stipends are cut.
 - Ron Peaker, Ward 1, angry at the board; feels they have failed to give the school over site.
 - Ken Hutchins, Ward 2, indicated he agreed with Mr. Peaker. He is also upset about \$39,000 being spent for a 2nd company to address air quality issues at BHS.
 - Emma James, BHS student, does not feel the school board has failed the students at all.
 - Katie Delcourt, BHS student, supports the arts in school and hopes they do not get cut.
 - Helen Desjardins, citizen and BHS staff member, defended teachers and was insulted by remarks made by Mr. Peaker and Mr. Hutchins.
5. **Old Business:** None
6. **New Business:**
 - a. **Positive Events**

Debra Kenney, BIS Principal, introduced Susan Dee from BIS and Deanna from McArthur Library who spoke about the "One Book, One School, One Library" event being held from 4/26 to 4/29. BIS won a \$4,000 national grant being used for this event. Author Cynthia Lord will be attending to discuss her book "Touch Blue". The PTA sponsored the purchase of the book for all the schools' students, teachers, staff, and the school members.

Mayor Twomey thanked all those who helped with the Art Show held at BMS last week, which as amazing. She feels the arts are very important to student education.
 - b. **Recognition: Dennis Walton, Assistant Principal/Athletic Director, BHS**

Mr. Wolfe recognized and congratulated Dennis Walton for being named SMAA Athletic Director of the Year and for having his article "Battling the Decline of the Three-Sport Athlete" published in the spring issue of the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrator Association (NIAAA).
 - c. **Presentation: Report by Center for Preventing Hate (CPH), Britt Wolfe, Barrett Wilkinson**

Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Wilkinson, CPH representative, provided an overview on the project and the report that was published on BHS and BMS. CPH designed and implemented a research project involving focus groups with students to evaluate the frequency, form and impact of bias and harassment at the school.
 - d. **Discussion/Action: Possible Revenue Sources**

Miss Poli and Terry Gauvin, Business Manager, provided information requested by the school committee on stipends funded in the school budget (see attached). The documents provided included information on stipend fees, pay-to-play fees, and parking fees.

Mr. Michaud moved to table this to the next school committee meeting. No second. Motion fails.

Mrs. Seaver moved and Mrs. Bernier seconded, unanimous vote, that the school committee not act on the presented revenue sources.

e. Discussion: Impact of Budget Cuts - \$1.4M

Miss Poli indicated the budget cuts would include 23 teaching positions and 9 co-curricular/athletic stipend positions. There will be larger class sizes and some extra-curricular activities will be eliminated. There will be an impact to students if you charge them a fee. Mayor Twomey will postpone next Wednesday's budget meeting with the City Council.

Mrs. Bernier moved and Mrs. Seaver seconded, unanimous vote, to hold a special workshop on Wednesday, 3/30, at 5:30 p.m. to discuss the budget.

7. Resignations-Nominations-Appointments-Transfers:

Resignations: Accepted by the Superintendent.

- Jennifer Wessner, Grade 7 Teacher, BMS

Appointments:

- Volunteers: see memo in packet

Mrs. Seaver moved and Mrs. Bernier seconded, unanimous vote, to approve the list of volunteers.

8. Reports of Standing Committees:

Policy – Mr. Michaud reported the Policy Committee will meet on 4/4 at 6:00 p.m. in the BIS Library. The 1st item on the agenda will be this school committee agenda and the 2nd item will be administrative organization and organizational chart. The next item will be 5 policies on student educational records and information and 2 policies on timeout rooms and therapeutic restraint. Three other policies for review are Student Wellness, Student Health Services and Requirements and Physical Examination of Students. Mr. Michaud invited the public to attend the meeting.

Finance, Negotiations/Personnel – No report.

9. REPORTS OF THE FOLLOWING SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Curriculum – Mr. Mills indicated the Curriculum Committee met this evening to discuss course grading and leveling. There was action by the Curriculum Committee to include a unit on solid waste management in the universal science curriculum.

CIP, Transportation – No report.

Student Representatives:

Mr. Drew congratulated the BHS Jazz Band. There are lots of student fund raisers going on. Student volunteers from Interact helped out at the Rotary Auction on Sunday.

10. Superintendent's Report:

Miss Poli reported on the following (see attached documents):

- AP Achievement List; District Art Show; Collective Bargaining Contracts on web site; Turner Group Update; Graduation Date 6/12/11; Restriction on activities at BHS due to construction; BHS Jazz Combo and Jazz Ensemble; SRO's in budget; Kelsie Bernier recognition.

11. Communications:

Mr. Michaud has a concern about scheduling regarding band and chorus students being moved to after school. He asked parents to advocate for the band program. Mrs. Bernier announced this Friday the special needs kids will be competing at Cape Elizabeth High School in aquatics. This Saturday is the 5th annual Swing into Spring fundraiser at the Rochambeau Club. Miss Poli reminded everyone the Friday is an early release day for students.

12. Executive Session: None

13. Adjournment: Mrs. Seaver moved and Mrs. Bernier seconded, unanimous vote, to adjourn at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sarah-Jane Poli, School Committee Secretary

Minutes Recorded: Karen Moody

Minutes Transcribed: Diane Perro