

## MINUTES

BANGOR SCHOOL COMMITTEE  
REGULAR MEETING via ZOOM  
7:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 22, 2020

School Committee members present: Chair Warren Caruso, Vice Chair Tim Surette, John Hiatt, Marwa Hassanien, Marlene Susi, Sue Sorg, and Carin Sychterz.

A. 1 & 2. The meeting was called to order by Chair Caruso at 7:00 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

C. Clare Mundell, of 79 Norfolk Street, shared her appreciation for the planning being put into the reopening of school plans. She wondered about an alternate hybrid model based on cohorts of students with the greatest need to be in-person. She also asked about the social-emotional supports to be offered to students.

Marcella Kenny, of 251 Silver Road, expressed her concerns about how the high school is going to keep students safe given all that has been mishandled.

Karen Pendleton, of 29 Madison Street, shared her opinion that hybrid and remote options would be the safest.

Lynn Hempen expressed that she encouraged the Committee to use an evidence-based approach and not base decisions on parents' choices.

Landon Michaud, of 77 Stillwater Avenue, shared he has collected comments from high school students who expressed their experiences with discrimination.

Gerry Gross, of 41 Glencove Avenue, shared that a full page ad will be running in the Bangor Daily News on Saturday from many interfaith groups who wish to share their support for the students who have shared their experiences with racial inequities.

Terri Lewis read the statement to run in the Bangor Daily, which is supported by citizens, businesses, and organizations who wish to support students and advance the safety and inclusivity of all in the greater-Bangor area.

Amara Ifeji, of 110 Rolling Meadow Drive, expressed her gratitude to Dr. Webb, Members Hassanien and Sychterz, and Councilor Okafur for the efforts to rectify the issues she spoke of in the Bangor Daily News article. She further articulated the desire for accountability and a signed statement by Committee members and administration.

Ijeoma Obi, of Bangor, thanked Dr. Webb and School Committee members for their commitment and action, which demonstrates obligation to BIPOC students. She also expressed the need for accountability in a signed statement by Committee members and Administration.

- D. 1. a. Superintendent Webb recommended conceptual approval of the reopening plan. Given the changing conditions related to COVID-19 and expected revised guidance from the Maine Department of Education and Maine CDC, it must be understood that the reopening plan will need constant review and revision. Dr. Webb gave a full presentation of the plan and answered numerous questions.

By roll call vote, VOTED (7-0) to conceptually approve the plan.

- b. Superintendent Webb recommended approval of a new position at Bangor High School for a Title IX and Affirmative Action Officer and to use the funds originally planned for a Literacy Coach at the middle and high schools. Superintendent Webb shared this position is a top priority and needed more than the literacy coach at this time.

By roll call vote, VOTED (7-0) to approve the position.

- c. Superintendent Webb recommended Committee approval to join the national class action suit regarding costs associated with opioids.

Members asked questions.

By roll call vote, VOTED (7-0) to approve joining the suit and to authorize the Superintendent to complete the agreement.

- D. 2. a. Superintendent Webb reported the following resignation(s):

|               |                   |                    |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Garth Berenyi | Boys Soccer Coach | Bangor High School |
|---------------|-------------------|--------------------|

- b. Superintendent Webb reported the following reassignment(s):

April Miller from Grade 2 Teacher at Abraham Lincoln School to Grade 1 Teacher at Abraham Lincoln School.

- E. 1. a. 1. By roll call vote, VOTED (7-0) to approve the Minutes of the June 24, 2020 Regular School Committee Meeting.

- b. 1. Superintendent Webb recommended approval of the May 2020 Financial Report.

By roll call vote, VOTED (7-0) to approve the report as presented.

- c. 1. a. Superintendent Webb recommended the following teacher nomination(s) for the 2020-2021 school year, with a one-year Probationary Contract:

|                    |                            |                         |
|--------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Robert Estey       | Physical Education Teacher | James F. Doughty School |
| Picabo-Siera Mower | Social Worker              | Bangor Regional Program |

By roll call vote, VOTED (7-0) to approve the nominations as presented.

- c. 2. Superintendent Webb recommended Committee approval of the following Extra-Duty Assignments for school year 2020-2021:

|                    |                              |                         |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Jay Kemble         | Governance Committee Chair   | Districtwide            |
| Marisue Schuilling | Governance Committee         | Districtwide            |
| Melissa Barthelemy | (.5) Student Council Advisor | James F. Doughty School |
| Stephen Riitano    | (.5) Student Council Advisor | James F. Doughty School |
| Jane Venturelli    | English Department Head      | Bangor High School      |
| Barbara Stewart    | Science Department Head      | Bangor High School      |
| Adam Leach         | Guidance Department Head     | Bangor High School      |
| Barbara Stewart    | STEM Research Coordinator    | Bangor High School      |

By roll call vote, VOTED (7-0) to approve the nominations as presented.

- E. 2. a. 1-3. Superintendent Webb recommended first reading of new and revised policies.

By roll call vote, VOTED (7-0) to receive revised Policy AC Nondiscrimination & Affirmative Action as presented.

By roll call vote, VOTED (7-0) to receive new Policy JICA Student Dress as presented.

By roll call vote, VOTED (7-0) to receive new Policy JICAA Student Self-Expression as presented.

- F. 1. Member Hassanien thanked Dr. Webb and the Planning Committee for the excellent work on the reopening plans. She also thanked Dr. Webb for the work and communication with students on the racial equity and justice issues.

- F.2. a. Chair Caruso appointed Members Hassanien and Sychterz to the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

- b. Chair Caruso appointed Members Sorg and Surette to the Suicide Prevention Committee.

- H.1. Chair Caruso reviewed the informational items.

- I. Member Hassanien asked for clarification on committee assignments.

Member Susi asked about scheduled meetings on ZOOM.

Member Surette expressed his pleasure to serve on the Suicide Prevention Committee.

Member Hiatt asked about in-person meetings in a gymnasium.

Chair Caruso thanked the Planning Committee and administration for the plans for the school year.

J. By roll call vote, VOTED (7-0) to enter executive session at 9:53 p.m. for the purpose of the superintendent evaluation according to 1 MRSA §405(6)(A).

Returned to public session at 10:21 p.m.

K. Meeting adjourned at 10:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betsy M. Webb". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Betsy M. Webb, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools