

## A PUBLIC MEETING OF THE BRISTOL COUNTY ADVISORY BOARD

Saturday, January 6, 2018

Keith Hall, Bristol County Agricultural High School

135 Center Street, Dighton, Massachusetts

A Public Meeting of the Bristol County Advisory Board commenced at 11:27 A.M. on Saturday, January 6, 2018 in Keith Hall at the Bristol County Agricultural High School in Dighton Massachusetts.

Notice of this meeting was issued to all members of the Advisory Board, posted on the County website, in the County Courthouses, sent to the City and Town Halls in Bristol County and legally advertised in the Taunton Daily Gazette and the Herald News.

Prior to the commencement of the meeting Selectman Joseph Pacheco, as Acting Chairperson of the Executive Board, asked all to stand for the pledge of allegiance.

Roll call was taken by Maria V. Gomes, County Administrator, and Twelve out of Twenty communities were present for a total of 51.56 percent of the votes out of a total of 100.00.

<b>City or Town</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Berkley	Gilbert Pontes	1.34
Dighton	Nancy Goulart	1.55
Easton	Dottie Fulginiti	5.77
Fairhaven	David Freitas	3.48
Freetown	David DeManche (TA)	2.21
Mansfield	Jess Aptowitz	6.07
No. Attleborough	Patrick Reynolds	6.61
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	3.48
Somerset	Holly McNamara	3.63
Swansea	Christopher Carreiro	3.65
Taunton	Thomas C. Hoye	8.33
Westport	Craig Dutra	5.44
<b>TOTAL:</b>		<b>51.56</b>

Reorganization of the Executive Board was the next item on the agenda due to the recent defeat of Mayor Kevin Dumas in Attleboro who served as the Chairman of the Bristol County Executive Board for several years.

Upon motion of Berkley Selectman Gilbert J. Pontes III, seconded by Westport Selectman Craig Dutra, it was unanimously voted to appoint Raynham Selectman Joseph Pacheco as Chairman and Dighton Selectwoman Nancy Goulart as Clerk of the Bristol County Executive Board.

With those appointments, there was a vacancy in the Executive Member position on the Board.

Upon motion of Dighton Selectwoman Goulart, seconded by Westport Selectman Dutra, it was unanimously voted to appoint Berkley Selectman Gilbert J. Pontes III as the Executive Member of the Bristol County Advisory Board.

Chairman Pacheco introduced the following:

County Commissioners Chairman Paul Kitchen and John Mitchell

County Administrator Maria Gomes

Bristol County Board of Trustees Ken Raymond, Darrin Mendes and Arthur Lopes, along with the school's new superintendent, Adele Sands.

Also in attendance, Representative Patricia Haddad and Senator Mike Rodrigues.

Chairman Pacheco turned the meeting over to Board of Trustee and County Commissioner Chairman Kitchen to describe the Bristol County Agricultural School and the proposal to expand and renovate the school. County Commissioner Kitchen reviewed the project history which he stated was primarily based on overcrowding and the condition of the school.

Commissioner Kitchen introduced Adele Sands the Superintendent of Bristol County Agricultural High School. She reviewed some of the accomplishments of the students that graduate from BCAS. One of the school's students took top honors at the National FFA Convention (third largest convention in the nation) two years ago out of 65,000 students competing, the BCAHS students in the pre-veterinary competition, placed first. The school has recently received a \$500,000 Capital Skills Grant, central to an environmental science program. The school is poised to be an exceptional school, with students training adults in environmental science. Currently, the school has temporary accreditation due to the conditions at the school. There are 78 areas that need to be addressed that primarily have to do with the current conditions. Superintendent Sands spoke about the uniqueness of the school and its programs and she asked for the communities support for the expansion and renovation project.

Commissioner Kitchen reviewed the Massachusetts School Building Authority process that had taken place as of this date. The Statement of Interest was submitted to the MSBA and the school's project was accepted. Based on the school's needs as determined by the architects working with administration, staff and students, Option C was chosen in the amount of \$103,750,000.00. The purpose of this meeting was to seek approval from the Advisory Board members for the project, bonding up to \$103,750,000.00 for a period up to 30 years based on a formula for payment of a per pupil enrollment. Time frame would be a BAN in spring of 2019.

Commissioner Mitchell offered some comments regarding the school and how well on MCAS and vocationally these student are performing. The hope is to bring-on up to 200-250 students once the renovations and buildout is completed.

Mayor Hoye of Taunton asked about the new reimbursement rate and whether it was factored into the numbers. Mel Overmoyer, the Owners Project Manager from Colliers answered Mayor Hoye's question and explained that the numbers presented had factored in the annual increase in costs. The Mayor's second question asked about how it works at the local level. Commissioner Kitchen explained how the County of Norfolk process had worked a few years earlier with a similar project in its county. Special Legislation would be filed to allow Bristol County to bond for the project and each community would be assessed tuition based on their enrollment at the school. Selectwoman Goulart explained that in each town it would show up as an education assessment and be voted on as part of that budget.

Selectman Aptowitz asked about the communities that were not present at the meeting and how the vote would impact those communities. Chairman Pacheco explained that the County had done its due diligence in posting and notifying all communities of the meeting. Those communities made the informed choice whether or not to attend the meeting. Selectwoman Goulart said the impact on those communities who were not in attendance

would be based on their student enrollment not the usual calculation for regional schools that is based on equalized valuation in each community.

Speaker Haddad briefly spoke on her support for the project and a recent \$30 million dollar Bond Bill that had been submitted by her and Representative Cabral. She is hoping to work with the Senate to put something similar together as a Bond Bill. Although nothing was guaranteed, she wanted the communities to know that they had her support.

Board of Trustees Chairman Raymond talked briefly on a Bill that had been submitted by Senator Pacheco called the Stockbridge East (Satellite of UMASS-Stockbridge School of Agriculture) Bill for \$4 million, which focused on the possibility of setting up a campus here in Bristol County.

A motion was made by Selectman Dutra and seconded by Selectman Aptowitz to approve the Bristol County Agricultural High School Project with a focus on Option C, to be bonded up to an amount of \$103,750,000.00 for a term of up to 30 years.

Taunton Councilman Pottier asked about what constituted a majority for the vote. County Administrator Gomes indicated that it was a majority of those present (quorum) and voting.

On the motion, by Roll Call Vote:

Berkley	Gilbert Pontes	yes	1.34
Dighton	Nancy Goulart	yes	1.55
Easton	Dottie Fulginiti	yes	5.77
Fairhaven	David Freitas	yes	3.48
Freetown	David DeManche (TA)	abstain	<del>2.21</del>
Mansfield	Jess Aptowitz	yes	6.07
No. Attleborough	Patrick Reynolds	no	<del>6.61</del>
Raynham	Joseph Pacheco	yes	3.48
Somerset	Holly McNamara	yes	3.63
Swansea	Christopher Carreiro	yes	3.65
Taunton	Thomas C. Hoye	yes	8.33
Westport	Craig Dutra	yes	5.44
<b>TOTAL:</b>			<b>42.74 %</b>

**Motion carried with 42.74 % voting in favor.**

#### Unanticipated Items

Selectwoman Goulart of Dighton announced that the Dighton Conservation Commission and the Board of Selectmen each voted to spend money to acquire the Council Oak Two farmland, approximately 8.5+ acres. Dighton would be advertising to lease the property for agricultural use.

Upon motion of Selectman Pontes and second by Selectwoman Goulart the meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm.