Chairman Thomas F. Murphy, Jr. called this meeting of the School Committee to order at 7:00 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Administration Offices, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, Massachusetts. Present: Mrs. Kristin Russo, Mr. Stephen Nelson, Mrs. Christine Monaco, and Ms. Martha Simon. Superintendent Eric Conti, Assistant Superintendent Patrick Larkin, Director of Operations Bob Cunha and Finance Manager Nichole Coscia also present.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mrs. Russo to approve the warrant; motion carried 3-0-2; Mr. Nelson and Mr. Murphy abstained.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mrs. Russo to approve minutes of 3/13/18; motion carried 4-0-1 Mr. Nelson abstained.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

COMMUNICATION

PACE MOU

Dr. Conti distributed and reviewed terms of the PACE Memorandum of Understanding. He commented that Burlington schools have been selected as one of the school districts to participate in the Programming the Acceleration of Computing and Equity (PACE) Lab program, an initiative with the Mass. Association of School Superintendents, and Education Development Center, Inc./MassCAN. The PACE initiative seeks to make K-12 computer science an integral part of every student’s education. The School Committee expressed support for Burlington schools taking part in this initiative.

OLD BUSINESS

BECC Planning for Success – Second Reading

At the March 13 meeting, BECC Director Deborah Clark was in attendance to review the preschools Planning for Success document. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mrs. Russo to approve the BECC school improvement plan; motion carried 5-0-0.

Summer School Literacy Program, Science & Writing Tuition Increase - Approval

This item was reviewed at the March 6 & 13 meetings, at which time the Committee requested further information. Dr. Conti again reviewed with the Committee details of the requested tuition increase including: reduction of $41,000 in title 1 funding, extended year services are provided free of charge to students who require the services, an increase has not been done in 5 years, and financial aid is available for families who need it. Mrs. Monaco commented it was a large tuition increase and Ms. Simon noted that due to the decrease in title 1 funds and other priorities in the operating budget, she’d support an increase. Mrs. Russo requested that families be informed that financial aid is available if needed. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Ms. Simon to approve a tuition increase for the summer program with a 2-week tuition increase from $250 to $300 and a 4-week tuition increase from $425 to $525; motion carried 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Elementary Planning for Success First Reading

The four elementary principals were in attendance to review their updated Planning for Success document and highlighted their progress in the four main goal areas:

- Engaged learning: inclusion & social/emotional learning
- Relationships: cultural competence & teacher capacity
- Communication: collaboration, communication & partnerships
- Facilities & Operations: student safety

As this is a first reading, the Committee will take this under advisement and vote on it at the March 27 meeting.

FY19 Draft Budgets Elementary

Dr. Conti provided a summary of requested budget totals for the four elementary schools including: salaries, contracted services, supplies, equipment, and textbooks. Seven new positions are being requested at the elementary level. Requested new staff: a kindergarten teacher, guidance counselor, and math specialist at Fox Hill and a special education teacher and three assistants at Pine Glen to open a new Developmental Skills classroom. The Superintendent distributed and reviewed with the Committee a Projected Enrollment Breakdown: a 5th section of kindergarten is needed at Fox Hill, a 6th section of grade 2 will

1 PACE Memorandum of Understanding
2 Projected Enrollment Breakdown
need to be continued at Francis Wyman, there is continued pressure on class size and the idea of modular classrooms are a temporary fix. The high school needs to be renovated but the greater need in coming years may be a shift to the elementary level due to increased student enrollment. The Superintendent commented that the BHS Statement of Interest due date is April 6 for submission to the Mass. School Building Authority.

In response to Mr. Nelson, each principal spoke to a wish list:

- Pine Glen Principal Lyons – parking lot renovation, a lift for the stage (which is the music room), another classroom for additional Developmental Skills students
- Memorial Principal Dressler – revised/improved traffic flow for buses/parents to improve safety and drive times
- Francis Wyman Principal McDonald – maintain 6 sections of grade 2 & bathroom renovations
- Fox Hill Principal Johnson – additional kindergarten teacher, additional guidance counselor, and either a math or reading specialist, construction of a wall, better airflow in gymnasium

Dr. Conti and the School Committee thanked Principal Johnson for her 10 years of service to Burlington students and wished her well on her retirement.

Music

Dr. Conti explained that all music teachers are now in the budget of the school where they teach and no additional staff is requested, but in the future a strings teacher will be needed at BHS for students currently at the middle school level. He further explained the district is committing to extra-curricular programming at BHS in the operating budget and will run two events: a fall play and a spring musical with oversights from BHS administration. The music revolving account will be utilized for equipment needs (i.e. instruments). Purchase requests will be submitted to Nichole/Bob in the Business Office for approval, and then go on the warrant for School Committee approval (where it will be identified if the expense is revolving or operating). In response to Mr. Nelson, Mr. Middleton replied that at the elementary level students rent to own instruments but at the middle and high school level certain instruments such as French horn and tuba are bought and maintained by the school department. In response to Ways/Means member Diane Creedon, it was explained that a spreadsheet was created by Nichole to track play/musical expenses. Ms. Coscia will provide licensing expenses currently not listed. Dr. Conti stated that income from the play/musical goes into the revolving account.

Performing Arts Director John Middleton read a statement addressing people’s concerns regarding the Music Revolving account.

Computers

IT Manager Jose DeSousa was in attendance for this budget presentation. Director of Operations Bob Cunha explained that students in grades 1-12 have a digital device. Three project areas for next year are: creating a new website (which is being negotiated), replacing school projectors with a five-year rotation plan, and purchasing 300 chromebooks for $105,000. In response to an inquiry, Dr. Conti explained that iPads at the elementary and middle school levels are assigned to a classroom (stay on a cart and don’t go home with students). iPads at the high school are issued to individual students for four years, however, they are in the middle of switching students over to chromebooks. In response to Mr. Nelson, Mr. Cunha replied that the switch to chromebooks for BHS teachers is in its first year and BHS teachers were surveyed on which device they’d prefer iPads or chromebooks. He noted that there have been 8,000 parental visits to SeeSaw in one year by elementary parents.

Nurses

Assistant Superintendent Larkin reviewed the Nursing Department Budget that was in the Committee’s meeting packet. He explained that to be in compliance with state regulations for nurse to student ratios, as well as meet the requirements to renew Administration of Epinephrine by Unlicensed School Personnel and Delegation of Medication Administration, the district needs two additional nurses - one for BHS and one district wide. The district will also be required to administer mandated SBIRT screening (Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment) for students in grades 7 and 10. In response to Ms. Creedon, Dr. Conti replied the cost of $22,000 in epi-pens is because we have to have some available (field trips & recess) and they have an expiration date.

Inservice

The Superintendent reviewed the Inservice budget request of $386,817 which includes
Buildings & Grounds

Mr. Cunha commented there is minimal change from last year's budget. Custodial salaries have been moved to the buildings where they work, and the school buildings are well maintained. The total request is for $750,288. In response to Mr. Nelson, Mr. Cunha noted that there is a short lag time in when credits are applied to electric bills. They have underfunded energy costs this year anticipating credits and next year will further reduce it with a record of actual bills. Mr. Cunha stated the solar is currently functioning at the middle school but they are waiting for the electrical company in order to activate the high school solar.

Superintendent’s Office & School Committee

Dr. Conti stated that the budget request for these two areas is $299,870. In response to Mrs. Monaco, Dr. Conti noted that $45,000 is budgeted for legal expenses for next year as it's not a contract negotiation year.

The Superintendent summarized the budget conversation, noting that the current request needs to be reduced by over $4 million, options to reduce the budget will be provided to the Committee by the end of the week, the accommodated budget will not meet guideline, and the School Committee will vote on the total budget request at next week's meeting.

Warrant Articles Update

Mr. Cunha distributed an updated prioritized list of proposed warrant articles and reviewed with the Committee the details and costs of the 10 proposed projects. Dr. Conti noted that due to the town government warrant article needs, the schools allocation of approximately $1,245,000 for projects may need to be reduced. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the submission of warrant article 19-01 Francis Wyman Fire Alarm for $362,000 for May town meeting; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the submission of warrant article 19-02 Francis Wyman Bathrooms for $136,000 for May town meeting; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the submission of warrant article 19-03 Francis Wyman Air Conditioning for $370,000 for May town meeting; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the submission of warrant article 19-04 Technology Projector Installation for $149,000 for May town meeting; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the submission of warrant article 19-05 Pine Glen Playground Surface for $42,000 for May town meeting; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the submission of warrant article 19-06 Pine Glen Walk-In Refrigerator Freezer for $66,000 for May town meeting; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the submission of warrant article 19-07 BHS Roof Penthouse Repair for $25,000 for May town meeting; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the submission of warrant article 19-08 BHS Rubber Gym Divider Wall for $35,000 for May town meeting; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the submission of warrant article 19-09 BHS Front Parking Spaces for $60,000 for May town meeting; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve the submission of non-capital warrant article 19-10 Community Custodial Services for $43,001.80 for May town meeting; motion carried 5-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Russo at 10:25 p.m. to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

[Signature]

Sharon Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 3/27/18
Date approved: 3/27/18

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Note: The document contains a reference to FY19 Capital Warrant Articles.