Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by G.L. c. 30A, c §18-25)

DEPT./BOARD: School Committee
DATE: June 12, 2018
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: School Committee Room, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA

AGENDA*

1. Approval of Minutes 4/24/18 and 5/22/18
2. Public Participation
3. Information/Reports (7:00 – 7:10 estimated time)
   a). Subcommittee Reports
   b). Ways/Means
4. Communication (7:10 – 7:20 estimated time)
   a). Girl Scouts – Improved Energy Efficiency at Pine Glen
5. Instruction/Technology (7:20 – 7:40 estimated time)
   a). ELL Curriculum Update
6. Old Business (7:45 – 7:55 estimated time)
   a). Mandatory Trainings – Second Reading
7. New Business (7:55 – 8:15 estimated time)
   a). Revision of 2018-19 School Calendar & New Start Times
   b). Unit D Contract – Approval
   c). Out-of-State Student & Staff Travel – Approval
8. Public Participation
9. Executive Session
   a). 5/22/18 Executive Minutes
   b). Contract Negotiations
   c). Potential Litigation
10. Adjournment

*Agenda subject to change
Chairman Russo 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: Mr. Stephen Nelson, Mrs. Christine Monaco, Mr. Thomas F. Murphy, Jr. and Ms. Martha Simon. Superintendent Eric Conti and Director of Operations Bob Cunha also present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve minutes of 4/24/18; motion carried 4-0-1; Mr. Murphy abstained. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve minutes of 5/22/18; motion carried 5-0-0.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
BEA President Marcus read a prepared statement expressing her concern regarding the disposition of a BEA grievance filed and denied by the Superintendent on behalf of ELL teachers on the matter of curriculum materials for ELL students. The grievance may be elevated to the School Committee level. Chairman Russo stated she wouldn’t be commenting until she had a chance to review Ms. Marcus’ remarks and Mrs. Monaco requested supporting materials on the matter from both sides.

INFORMATION/REPORT
Subcommittee Reports
Ways & Means
Dr. Conti stated that feedback received on the fifth grade puberty unit has been positive and only 8 families opted out. Materials for the unit were available online for parents to review prior to the student training. Matt Jackling has prepared a survey for high school students to complete. Mr. Murphy stated that the grand opening of the dog park will take place Saturday at 10 a.m. Chairman Russo commended everyone for their efforts for a very successful high school graduation last week and thanked Ms. Simon for speaking to graduates at the ceremony.

COMMUNICATION
Girl Scout leaders Akiko Coram and Mrs. Cohen were in attendance with three of their troop members as well as Principal Lyons to advocate for better energy efficiency at Pine Glen School. Scouts Sunny, Anjoli, and Eiko read letters asking the School Committee to consider solar panels, new windows, insulation and air conditioning for their school. Principal Lyons and the School Committee thanked the girl scouts for bringing this to the Committee, noted that they are making a difference in our community and were proud of the students. At the Committee’s request Mr. Cunha will investigate the possibility of solar panels for other town buildings. Mr. Cunha noted that the high school and middle school have roof solar panels but the high school is not yet operational. Eversource has had to cancel four appointments to hook up the panels and a new request has been submitted. The Committee discussed: possible ways to facilitate the process including writing a letter to state officials requesting their assistance. In response to Mrs. Monaco, the students responded that a working water fountain and air conditioning would make Pine Glen better.

INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY
ELL Curriculum Update
ELL Coach Kerri Lamprey gave a detailed presentation on the ESL Curriculum Development & Co-Teaching Team Update2. Elementary teachers in attendance: Tina Sosnowski, Kerry Marsh, Karen Hoyt, Karen Kim, Lily Gutenplan, and Mary Felton. Each of the teachers spoke on their experience with the co-teaching model, their development of curriculum, and student projects. Ms. Lamprey reviewed how the plan aligns with the district plans and the development of additional middle school and elementary curriculum this summer. Next steps include identifying and purchasing curriculum materials for the entire EL staff. ELL presentations will be given during BPScon to staff in August and an ELL curriculum district pilot in the 2018-19 school year. The School Committee commented: the presentation shows what is needed for curriculum development and materials as well as the complexities of it and thanked them for their efforts. Dr. Conti explained that developing district based curriculum takes longer but is better, the collaborative work being done by teachers is great but he and Mr. Larkin need to communicate better and thanked the teachers for representing their colleagues. Ms. Marcus inquired if staff and support would be available to expand co-teaching; Dr. Conti replied that its resource intensive and it will need to be discussed.

OLD BUSINESS
Mandatory Trainings – Second Reading
Dr. Conti reviewed three additional mandatory trainings added at the Committee’s request: Quick Choke Saver, Stop the Bleed, and child abuse prevention. He further explained that a child abuse proposal is before the Senate for approval, which would require the training be completed every year instead of the proposed three years. After approval by the Senate, a child abuse prevention policy will need to be created for use by school districts. Mr. Nelson

1 Girl Scout Letters
2 ESL Curriculum Development & Co-Teaching Team Update
inquired about the head injury training and how it will be monitored that parents and
volunteers have taken the training; Dr. Conti replied it will be done online. At the request of
the Committee, the child abuse prevention training requirement will add the word awareness
and will be voted on at the June 26 meeting.

NEW BUSINESS
Revision of 2018-19 School
Calendar & New Start Times

Dr. Conti explained that due to the timing of Rosh Hashanah, he was requesting that the
School Committee move the start date for preschool and kindergarten to Thursday,
September 6th to allow students to observe the holiday with their families. This change would
start preschool and kindergarten two days earlier than planned. Principals and teachers have
been informed of the proposed change. In response to Mr. Murphy, Dr. Conti replied that
there will be no financial impact. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to
amend the previously approved calendar distributed 4/13/18 to reflect the preschool and
kindergarten start date to Thursday, September 6 from September 11; motion carried 5-0-0.

Unit D Contract - Approval

Dr. Conti commended Ms. Marcus and Unit D members for professionally conducting
negotiations on the Unit D contract. This contract includes team chairs, department
chairman, and assistant principals. The Nurse Leader position has been added to the contract
and financials are in line with other district union contracts. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and
seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve the Unit D contract as presented for 2017-2020; motion
carried 4-0-1 – Mr. Nelson abstained.

Out-of-State Student & Staff
Travel - Approval

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve out-of-state travel for
Coach Carr and BHS athletes to North Carolina on June 14-17; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by
Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve out-of-state travel for Mr. Wong,
Ms. Tyrell and Gati Aher to Chicago, IL on June 24-27; motion carried 5-0-0. Moved by Mr.
Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve out-of-state travel for the BHS Marching
Band and chaperones to Hampton, NH on August 24; motion carried 5-0-0. A travel request
was received today for teacher Kade Hill to travel to Drew University in New Jersey to
attend the AP Summer Institute for AP Language & Composition. BHS English department
funds will be used to pay for course registration and lodging. Moved by Mr. Nelson and
seconded by Mr. Murphy to approve out-of-state travel for Kade Hill to New Jersey in
August 2018.

MISCELLANEOUS

The Committee held a discussion on the option of sending a letter to Senator Friedman and
Representative Gordon requesting assistance with Eversource to energize the BHS solar
panels. The Committee decided that Ms. Simon, Dr. Conti, and Chairman Russo will send a
letter to the two politicians requesting assistance with Eversource and include the letters from
the girl scouts about energy efficiency and mail it prior to the next School Committee
meeting.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Russo announced that the Committee had a need for executive session to discuss
contract negotiations, approval of minutes, and potential litigation because holding it in an
open session would have a detrimental effect on the position of the public body. The School
Committee will only return to public session for the purpose of adjournment. Moved by Mrs.
Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson at 9:20 p.m. to enter executive session to discuss
contract negotiations and approve minutes. Mrs. Monaco, aye; Mrs. Russo, aye; Mr. Nelson,
aye; Mr. Murphy, aye; Ms. Simon, aye. Motion carried 5-0-0.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco at 10:00 p.m. to adjourn the meeting.
Motion carried 5-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Gilbert
Recording Secretary

Date submitted: 6/26/18
Date approved: 6/26/18

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3 2018-19 Students’ School Calendar
4 Staff Out-of-State Travel Request