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

DEPT./BOARD: School Committee
DATE: June 26, 2018
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: School Committee Room, 123 Cambridge Street, Burlington, MA

AGENDA*

1. Approval of Minutes 6/12/18
2. Approval of Warrant
3. Public Participation
4. Information/Reports (7:00 – 7:10 estimated time)
   a). Subcommittee Reports
   b). Ways/Means
5. Communication (7:10 – 7:20 estimated time)
   a). BHS Solar Panels
   b). Summer Projects & Schedule
6. Instruction/Technology (7:20 – 7:30 estimated time)
   a). IDEAS Update
   b). Professional Development on June 27
7. Old Business (7:35 – 7:45 estimated time)
   a). Mandatory Trainings – Approval
8. New Business (7:45 – 9:00 estimated time)
   a). Out-of-Country Student Travel – Approval
   b). Naming of Middle School Library, Auditorium, and Loop Road – Approval
   c). School Resource Officer Memorandum of Understanding - Approval
   d). Superintendent’s Evaluation
9. Public Participation
10. Executive Session
    a). 6/12/18 Executive Minutes
    b). Contract Negotiations
11. 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 (7:30 p.m. arrival), Mrs. Christine Monaco, Mr. Thomas F. Murphy, Jr. and Ms. Martha Simon. Superintendent Eric Conti, Asst. Superintendent Patrick Larkin and Director of Operations Bob Cunha also present.

Chairman Russo thanked retiring faculty for their work and commitment to Burlington students. She wished families, students, and staff a good summer. The Committee congratulated and looks forward to working with the future new town administrator Paul Sagarino.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mrs. Monaco to approve minutes of 6/12/18; motion carried 4-0-0.

APPROVAL OF WARRANT

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Ms. Simon to approve the warrant; motion carried 3-0-1; Mr. Murphy abstained.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

INFORMATION/REPORT

Subcommittee Reports

Ms. Simon commented she’s joined the District Capacity Committee this year.

Ways & Means

No one in attendance.

COMMUNICATION

BHS Solar Panels

Dr. Conti thanked Ms. Simon for composing the letter to Senator Friedman and Representative Gordon requesting their assistance on energizing the solar panels on the BHS roof and included Girl Scout letters requesting better energy efficiency. Mr. Cunha stated that Eversource came and energized the solar panels at the high school. Mr. Cunha also reported on the two faulty solar units on the middle school roof that caught fire; the solar provider replaced the panels and repaired the roof. The solar company also completed an extra inspection of the BHS panels. The middle school will begin generating energy credits in July and the high school will begin generating credits in approximately three months. Ms. Simon thanked Senator Friedman and her staff for their assistance.

Summer Projects & Schedule

Mr. Cunha reported on some of the planned summer projects including: BHS sign repair, additional new parking spaces & water/runoff garden in the circle in front of BHS, partial renovation of BHS library with in-house employees, refurbishment and new tenant in the former BayPath space, and completion of the food serving line at Fox Hill. The nine approved warrant article projects are on target; however, the Francis Wyman fire alarm replacement will be a long term project and the design phase has begun. In addition, custodial staff will deep clean all 6 school buildings. Dr. Conti explained that the former BayPath space will be leased as LABB administrative offices for three years with a move in date of August 1; the lease is being negotiated by a LABB board member as Dr. Conti is the Chairman of the LABB Board. The lease will be shared with the School Committee when it’s completed. In response to Mrs. Monaco’s concern about the new parking spaces at BHS being wide enough; Mr. Cunha explained standard spaces are 8’ x 17’, which would be 11 new spaces; larger spaces would only allow for 9 new spaces. Mr. Cunha has also conferred with Conservation with concerns of additional runoff from hard surfaces and is making plans to catch/slow down the water runoff.

INSTRUCTION/TECHNOLOGY

IDEAS Update

Mr. Larkin showed a picture of Mr. Wong, Ms. Tyrell, and student Gati Aher as presenters of an AI Chatbot project today at the International Society for Technology in Education conference in Chicago, an educational conference attended by over 30,000 educators.

Professional Development 6/27

Mr. Larkin stated that 15 educators recently attended a building bridges to facilitate difficult conversations regarding race session, which included a video, exercises and conversations.

The Superintendent informed the Committee of the professional development session offered to staff today, which was building based in the morning and an afternoon component held in the BHS auditorium focused on local cultural competence. Mr. Larkin thanked Rabbi Abrahamson and the interfaith group who participated in giving an overview of their different religions to faculty. Mr. Nelson arrived at 7:30 p.m.
OLD BUSINESS

Mandatory Trainings – Approval

The School Committee reviewed the revised Mandatory Health Education and Training Requirements from the June 12 meeting. The Quick Choke Saver and Stop the Bleed requirements will need to be eliminated as the district cannot mandate staff training for medical procedures. Dr. Conti commented that in August he will inform the Committee on the logistics of providing these trainings. Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Mr. Nelson to accept the Mandatory Health Education and Training Requirements as discussed; motion carried 5-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Out-of-Country Student & Staff Travel – Approval

Moved by Mrs. Monaco and seconded by Ms. Simon to approve out-of-country travel to Spain for BHS students and chaperones on February 8 – 22, 2019; motion carried 5-0-0.

Naming of Middle School Spaces

Dr. Conti requested in recognition of their many years of service, that areas at the middle school be named for the three retiring middle school administrators. Moved by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Murphy to support naming the Richard J. Connors Learning Common, the Noreen Abati Auditorium, and Lucas Loop; motion carried 5-0-0. The School Committee wished the three administrators for all they did for the community and students and wished them a long healthy retirement.

School Resource Officer MOU - Approval

Dr. Conti explained with the recently passed state crime bill, it requires each community’s Superintendent and Police Chief to enter into a written memorandum of understanding regarding the School Resource Officer Program and the agreement needs to be in place by July 13. He provided the Committee with a standardized template Memorandum of Understanding from Assistant Attorney General Angela Brooks¹, which other school districts will also be using. A draft of the agreement has also been provided to Chief Kent. The Committee discussed: concerns about mandatory staff reporting requirements and the education of staff around the reporting requirements, if the current MOU between the police and schools would suffice, and noted that it’s at the discretion of parents if the school resource officer attends team or 504 meetings. In response to Ms. Simon, Dr. Conti answered that town counsel has not reviewed the MOU, Burlington Public Schools will be inserted into the template document and we have two school resource officers; one for the elementary and middle schools and one for the high school. At the Committee’s request, Dr. Conti will follow up with the Asst. Attorney General’s office regarding required reporting language and to ascertain if the current MOU is sufficient. Moved by Mr. Murphy and seconded by Mr. Nelson to report to the Attorney General that we have a Memorandum of Understanding currently in place that we’d prefer to have as the Memorandum of Understanding of record, however we authorize the Superintendent to report to the Attorney General that the School Committee has adopted the Attorney General’s Memorandum of Understanding if the current MOU is not acceptable; motion carried 5-0-0.

Superintendent’s Evaluation

Chairman Russo explained that each School Committee member completed an individual summative evaluation of Dr. Conti for the 2017-18 school year. The Chairman then completes an overall cumulative evaluation, which is the compilation of the individual summative evaluations submitted by each School Committee member to the Chairman.

Chairman Russo read some of the observations from the overall summative evaluation: Dr. Conti is a strong superintendent, has grown in many areas in his ever changing role, and he was commended for improvements in curriculum, student learning, collaboration with area school districts, and community involvement. They also recognized the Superintendent for implementation of the new science curriculum and expansion of the bridge program. Several Committee members mentioned fiscal responsibility as an area that shows a need for improvement but the overall consensus was Dr. Conti is committed to rectifying this area. Overall, Dr. Conti was rated as proficient.

In response to the Chairman’s request for comments from each School Committee member some of the remarks were: Dr. Conti is the best Superintendent Burlington has had, his overall rating was very close to exemplary, he has one of the most difficult jobs, they were pleased with his performance and stated that there are areas he’ll continue to work on as he is the one with overall responsibility for the schools.

Dr. Conti recognized and thanked the Burlington’s exceptional staff members and

¹MOU Burlington Schools & Police Department
administrators. He commented: any shortcomings are his responsibility, he’ll continue to
give people opportunities for success, will focus on what’s best for children, three major
administrative searches were completed this year, the Business Office has two new
administrators who have begun significant changes, is listening to constructive
comments/criticism, and he looks forward to cleaner audits and reporting going forward.
Finally, Dr. Conti thanked the School Committee for their support.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chairman Russo announced that the Committee had a need for executive session to discuss
contract negotiations and approval of executive minutes 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 8:40 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: 7/24/18
Date approved: 7/24/18